

Updated September 2021

When was the grant program launched?

The grant program was launched in May 2020, as a pilot to enable improvements across NSW during COVID-19 and into the future.

How much funding was made available for this program?

The total funding available for this program is \$15 million.

How many Councils in total have been funded?

51 projects across 43 councils received funding (27 regional councils and 16 Greater Sydney councils). There are 23 Category 1 projects and 28 Category 2 projects.

What is the difference between Category 1 and Category 2 proposals?

Category 1: Quick Response Demonstration Projects are short-term, quick response projects or programs that test, pilot or incubate changes to streets in line with the objectives of the program.

Category 2: Pilot Projects are Medium-term pilot projects that improve or activate streets as shared public spaces.

Who determined the winning applications?

Eligible applications were assessed by an independent expert assessment panel of NSW Government representatives as well as a representative from the Committee for Sydney against assessment criteria in the grant guidelines. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment endorsed a final recommendation.

What are temporary interventions?

A temporary intervention is an approach to neighbourhood building and activation, using short term tactical methods to test projects quickly. These projects use techniques such as pilots, pop-ups, short term treatments and semi-permanent changes to try ideas. These temporary projects respond to an immediate need and test the case for longer-term change. Typically, tactical demonstration projects are short term and run for up to one month or on regular days, and pilots can be semi-permanent up to a year.

Why is government investing in projects that are only temporary?

This program is designed to promote pilot demonstration projects to support the community now during COVID-19. If successful, local councils can consider adopting the projects permanently.

Using pilot demonstration projects to test ideas before making permanent changes has been used successfully in Australia and overseas. It is also a way to get the community involved in shaping the future of their public places.



Why is the department championing streets and delivering a grant program for improving streets?

Quality public space is essential for quality of life and to support economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits.

The NSW Government wants to increase the amount of quality public space through projects that allow pedestrians to maintain physical distancing and support jobs and boost business confidence.

One-off grant funding through the Streets as Shared Spaces will support local councils to test and pilot new and innovative ideas that temporarily adapt streets as safe, shared public spaces to support healthier, safe and resilient communities.

This program supports the Premier's Priority of increasing the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public space by 10 per cent by 2023.

How will the community be consulted on the project?

Councils are encouraged to work with communities and businesses, or reflect previous work with local communities and business, to generate and implement ideas. It is acknowledged councils may need to take different forms of engagement in the current climate due to social distancing restrictions.

The proposals are generated by local councils that are best placed to know the local opportunities and constraints to respond to their specific COVID-19 recovery needs. The funding is for trial and demonstration projects with an expectation to engage the community and test possible long-term change.

Is there a way to provide feedback on the proposal?

Your local council will monitor usage and feedback to assess the viability of this, or similar projects. The projects are pilots to test ideas, and we acknowledge they may or may not work. They will be assessed along the way and changes made as needed in response to stakeholder feedback. That's why they are not permanent.

When are the projects expected to finish?

All Category 1 projects are now complete. Category 2 projects are currently underway and are scheduled to all be complete in the first quarter of 2022.

Who do we contact if we have questions?

Contact the public space team via email: publicspace@planning.nsw.gov.au

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