

Why is the Fund being implemented?

Ongoing severe weather and flooding across NSW in 2022 has devastated regional communities and caused significant damage to Regional and Local road networks. Some parts of the 185,000-kilometre NSW road network have not fully recovered and regional councils require support to address the additional maintenance and repair works needed after these severe weather events.

The Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) supports councils across regional NSW to fix damaged roads, providing an additional \$390 million to regional councils to start vital repair and maintenance work. This builds on the \$280 million allocated to regional NSW councils through the [Regional and Local Roads Repair Program \(RLRRP\)](#).

Together these initiatives are providing \$670 million in much needed funding to support regional areas of NSW to recover from natural disasters and maintain an efficient, safe and reliable road network.

The funding will be made available for priority maintenance works and immediate repair of potholes on Local and Regional Roads managed by councils.

Which councils are eligible to receive funding?

The RERRF is available to 95 regional Local Government Bodies, including the Unincorporated Far West and Lord Howe Island Board.

A full list of eligible Local Government Bodies is available on the RERRF webpage.

How much funding will be allocated to regional councils?

The RERRF provides an additional \$390 million for regional councils on top of the already allocated \$280 million for regional councils under RLRRP. This funding boost will help regional Local Government Areas (LGAs) continue to repair damaged roads across the state.

Eligible Local Government Bodies will receive a funding deed variation to top up their funding allocation provided through RLRRP based on kilometres of road network (including sealed and unsealed) managed in their LGA. Transport for NSW will publish funding allocation details via the RERRF webpage.

Why aren't Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Newcastle LGAs and metropolitan councils in Greater Sydney eligible for the RERRF funding?

The RERRF builds on the \$280 million allocated to regional LGAs through the RLRRP in January 2023.

The RLRRP was available for all councils in NSW, including LGAs in regional, metropolitan and Greater Sydney areas. Under RLRRP, metropolitan councils in Greater Sydney, and including Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Newcastle LGAs, received significantly higher allocations per kilometre compared to regional LGAs. This was due to the calculation applied for metropolitan and Greater Sydney LGAs being adjusted to account for the larger population, traffic and expected wear and tear on the Local and Regional road network for these metropolitan and Greater Sydney LGAs.

Considering the higher allocation received by Greater Sydney and Metropolitan LGAs under the RLRRP, the NSW Government developed the RERRF as a dedicated fund specific to regional LGAs to address the ongoing need in regional NSW for urgent road repairs following significant periods of severe weather and flooding experienced in 2022.

How is funding determined?

Funding allocations for the RERRF will not require an application and are determined based on the existing applications received under the RLRRP, total Local and Regional Road network within each Local Government Area (LGA) and the funding availability.

The method to determine the funding envelope provided to each council for the RERRF is consistent with the RLRRP and is based on kilometres of road network (including sealed and unsealed) managed in their Local Government Area (\$/km). The funding is determined by considering:

- The total number of kilometres of Local roads in each council area
- The total number of kilometres of Regional roads in each council area
- Funding availability

What are the delivery timeframes under the RERRF?

Eligible Local Government Bodies will have until 31 October 2027 for repair work to be delivered.

Will the RERRF extend the delivery timeframes for work funded through the RLRRP?

Yes, for regional Local Government Bodies who are eligible to receive funding under the RERRF, the delivery timeframes for RLRRP funded works have also been extended to 31 October 2027.

When will councils receive funding deeds?

Transport for NSW will execute funding deed variations throughout October 2023.

When will councils receive payment?

Councils will receive a 100% upfront payment of the calculated grant funding when the funding deed variation is signed and returned by council, and fully executed by Transport for NSW.

What are the reporting requirements?

Reporting for the RERRF will be aligned with the similar processes already in place for the RLRRP.

From time-to-time we may request specific or detailed information on a project or need to be notified when works are completed and open to traffic. It is a requirement for councils to provide this in a timely and efficient manner when requested to do so.

To reduce the administrative burden on councils, reporting will be aligned with existing programs, noting most councils provide monthly reports.

Can allocated funds be used for administrative or labour costs associated with the delivery of planned works?

Yes, a reasonable proportion (up to 2%) of the allocated funds may be used for associated administration and/or management costs of delivering works under the RERRF.

Examples of administration and/or management fees include:

- Project management fees
- Administration and/or preparation of a workplan (including asset inspection and damage identification)

What will be required for completed works documentation required as part of reporting?

Reporting for the RERRF will be aligned with the similar processes already in place for RLRRP.

From time-to-time we may request specific or detailed information on a project, it is a requirement council provide this in a timely and efficient manner when requested to do so.

What will the external audit process involve?

Transport for NSW will advise councils of audit requirements as part of the funding deed.

Is the RERRF replacing Regional Roads REPAIR funding for councils?

Following the State Budget announcement, the Regional Road REPAIR Grant will be paused across both Greater Sydney and Regional and Outer Metropolitan areas from 2023-24 until 2026-27.

To ensure regional councils continue to receive adequate funding for their Regional and Local road networks, the NSW Government has confirmed that the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) will be run as a four-year initiative to October 2027.

Some road repair and maintenance activities that were planned under the Regional Roads REPAIR grant would be eligible as part of the covered works under the RERRF to allow councils to continue these activities. More information will be available in the Fund Guidelines when published.

The RLRRP included a ‘small section limitation’ for the rehabilitation of pavement - does the RERRF include the same limitation?

No, we are proposing that the RERRF Guidelines will not include this limitation. The RERRF Guidelines are being finalised, further information will be available when Guidelines are published.

Is there a limit on the size of a ‘heavy patch’?

There is no limit on the size of a heavy patch within the RERRF guidelines.

Can RERRF funds be used for ‘partial reseal work’ and ‘resealing/resurfacing’?

The RERRF will fund 100% of the cost of rehabilitation works including applying a partial asphalt overlay on top of a deteriorated road surface, as well as resealing/resurfacing.

What works are eligible under the RERRF?

Eligible work type	Examples
Corrective maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patching • Heaving patching • Smoothing or reshaping (unsealed roads) • Drainage and culverts • Bridge maintenance • Kerb and gutter corrections and repairs
Upgrade works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealing shoulders • Widening shoulders/carriageway widening
Renewal works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation works including: • Applying a partial asphalt overlay on top of a deteriorated road surface • Improving the existing pavement and replacement with new pavement • Resealing/resurfacing • Gravel resheeting

Further information on eligible works under the RERRF will be available in the Fund Guidelines when published.

Are there any limitations on the length of the road treated for gravel resheeting, or the sealing of unsealed road shoulders?

No length limitations have been specified in the RERRF guidelines. Workplans will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Are kerb and gutter corrections and repairs eligible under the RERRF?

Kerb and gutter corrections and repairs are eligible under RERRF.

Note: Kerb and gutter capital *replacements* are not funded by RERRF.

Will gravel resheeting of unsealed roads be counted as 'resurfacing'?

Yes, we are proposing to update the RERRF guidelines to include resheeting of unsealed roads as a 'renewal works'. The RERRF Guidelines are being finalised, further information will be available when Guidelines are published.

Would an initial seal of a gravel road be eligible under the RERRF?

No, initial seals of gravel roads are not eligible under this fund.

We have already spent some money internally through the RLRRP program, can we adjust the amount with the RERRF?

This would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Generally speaking, if the spend is related to an activity or project which can be transferred across to the RERRF, then it may be possible to reassign the spend to RERRF.

Questions such as this should be sent to your Local Government representative at Transport for NSW or emailed to rerrf@transport.nsw.gov.au for a case-by-case response.

Does the purchase of plant align with the guidelines under RERRF, in particular potholing plant?

We generally wouldn't support the purchase of plant under RERRF as the Fund is only a four-year initiative and plant is a longer-term investment. However, we may support Councils to purchase the plant and then do a back-charge to the Fund for reasonable portions; we will assess these on a case-by-case basis.

Is everything that was eligible under RLRRP still eligible under RERRF?

Everything that was eligible under RLRRP remains eligible under RERRF. We've used the RLRRP guidelines as a foundation for the RERRF; we have also added additional scope to capture activities that were previously ineligible under RLRRP.

If our Council has already completed all works for RLRRP and has an underspend, can we reallocate the funds to the RERRF?

Any RLRRP funds will now be available for the next four years. If your council has an underspend, you can reallocate the funds within an updated RERRF workplan and submit that to your TfNSW representative.

Can our Council contribute additional funds to support related improvement work. i.e. widening a single-lane narrow seal, to a two-lane seal?

Yes, councils can contribute additional funds to support the completion of related works.

Note: RLRRP did not previously fund widening, however, the RERRF does fund widening works.

Will our existing RLRRP funding deed be cancelled, OR, will a variation be issued to incorporate the RERRF changes?

We will issue a Funding Deed Variation which incorporates some of the new RERRF elements (such as timing and deadlines).

We'd like to see other project types included in this new fund – can we request changes to the guidelines?

The intention of this Fund is to support councils across regional NSW recover from natural disasters and to fix damaged roads. Its target is priority maintenance works and immediate repair of potholes on Local and Regional Roads managed by councils.

It's not intended to fund other project types or asset upgrades generally, and the guidelines have been designed with that focus.

Can we finalise the current approved RLRRP projects first, and action the new projects in further reporting?

We still need to receive the revised workplans for RERRF by April 2024. If this is done – if you do complete your RLRRP prior to that date and we still have the reporting, then this should be fine.

Questions such as this should be emailed to rerrf@transport.nsw.gov.au for a case-by-case response.

Is the \$390 million allocation to Councils noted on the RERRF website, additional to the RLRRP allocation?

The RERRF provides an additional \$390 million for regional councils on top of the already allocated \$280 million for regional councils under RLRRP.

Do councils need to wait until their workplan is approved prior to commencing works?

In reference to new activities planned as part of the RERRF, councils will need approval before starting these.

In reference to activities that are already approved under RLRRP, councils should continue to work through those. We understand that across the state, councils are at varying levels of spending their initial RLRRP allocations.

Councils don't have to wait until April 2024 to submit a revised workplan, if your Council is progressing quite well with expenditure under the RLRRP component and you are ready to start spending your RERRF allocation, we recommend submitting your workplans to Transport for NSW as soon as possible, so that RERRF works can begin.

Are there any plans to provide training or support to small councils to enhance their capacity to manage road repair projects?

The intention of this Fund is to support councils across regional NSW complete priority maintenance works and immediate repair of potholes. It's not intended to support larger project work or supply training in project management.

Specific questions about the RERRF and requests for general support can be emailed to rerrf@transport.nsw.gov.au

More questions?

Questions about the RERRF, including eligibility and the application process, can be emailed to rerrf@transport.nsw.gov.au