

What is the Fixing Country Roads Program?

Fixing Country Roads is a NSW Government program that funds the delivery of freight projects that improve the capacity, access, efficiency, and reliability of the local and regional road network. Projects can include road and bridge construction, bridge and route load assessments, and truck washes.

The Fixing Country Roads Program is designed to make it easier to move freight across the state and the program supports jobs, growth, and economic productivity of regional NSW by reducing the cost of getting goods to market.

As costs come down, consumers benefit at the till of their local supermarket and exporters become more competitive.

How does the Program work?

Fixing Country Roads is a key NSW Government program providing targeted infrastructure funding from Restart NSW for projects that unlock the economic potential of Regional NSW.

Fixing Country Roads provides targeted funding to councils for construction of roads and bridges, bridge and route load assessments, and truck washes they manage.

Fixing Country Roads Round 6 ran as a single Full Application Phase without an initial Expression of Interest Phase. This meant applicants needed to provide all information about the project in the application form, economic appraisal Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) model, and other mandatory forms.

What were the Round 6 funding streams?

Fixing Country Roads is divided into three streams – roads and bridges construction, bridge and route load assessments and truck washes. Application forms, mandatory documents and assessment criteria vary across each of the streams.

There was no set minimum or maximum funding amount for a single project, nor were there specific allocations for each stream. Applicants could apply for up to 100 per cent of the value of the project, but co-contributions from council, industry and Australian Government programs were permitted.

Examples of programs include the Bridges Renewal Program (BRP) and the Heavy Vehicle Safety

and Productivity Program (HVSP). The NSW Government continually seeks to align assessment criteria and timing of Fixing Country Roads with these programs. Co-contributions must have been confirmed, and projects must have been able to commence construction within 18 months from receipt of a successful project letter and delivered within 24 months of starting construction.

There was no limit to how many applications each applicant could submit; however, applicants were advised to prioritise and put forward their most well-developed projects as Fixing Country Roads is a competitive program.

For large projects requiring significant funding, applicants were advised to consider submitting multiple applications if greater benefits could be realised from staging the delivery of work through funding smaller priority sections as individual projects.

Which councils have previously been successful under Fixing Country Roads?

A list of successful projects for each round of the program can be viewed on the Transport for NSW Fixing Country Roads Website at nswroads.work/fixingcountryroads. A successful project list for Round 6 will be published online once local project funding is announced.

When was Round 6 open for applications?

Round 6 of the Fixing Country Roads Program was open for submission from Monday 22 August 2022 to 5pm Australian Eastern Standard Daylight Time on Friday 14 October 2022.

How will approved project funding be released to successful applicants?

Successful applicants will receive a successful project letter, upon receipt of the letter applicants should contact Infrastructure NSW to discuss establishing the funding deed and how to finalise funding arrangements.

Successful applicants should contact Infrastructure NSW within two weeks from receipt of the successful letter at restartpmo@infrastructure.nsw.gov.au to arrange a suitable time for a virtual meeting. The applicant signed Funding Deed must be returned within two months of receiving the successful letter this or funding may be withdrawn.

What are the delivery timeframes for successful projects under Fixing Country Roads Round 6?

For the roads and bridges construction and truck washes construction funding streams, successful projects should start within 18 months of receipt of the successful project letter and be completed within 24 months of starting construction.

For the bridge and route load assessments funding stream successful projects should start within 12 months of receipt of the successful project letter.

What happens if the total project cost is less than the funding that has been granted?

Infrastructure NSW require a final project completion report following the finalisation of a project. Any project savings will be deducted from the balance of final payment and returned to the Program.

Why weren't more projects successful in Fixing Country Roads Round 6?

Round 6 of the Fixing Country Roads Program was highly competitive with a total of 125 submissions. Projects underwent a rigorous assessment process and were prioritised in

accordance with the program criteria and eligibility requirements.

Transport for NSW acknowledges the high demand for grant funding to improve freight access and efficiency on roads across regional NSW and recognises the high calibre of projects put forward during the application period. Transport for NSW would like to thank all applicants for the time and effort involved in preparing the applications for the Fixing Country Roads Program and will continue to work with councils on any future opportunities which may arise for freight-related project funding.

Why is a project application deemed unsuccessful?

The assessment process involved an assessment panel of subject matter experts from across Transport for NSW, which assessed and scored each submitted project in line with the Fixing Country Roads Program guidelines and assessment methodology.

The highest scoring projects were recommended to be shortlisted and assessed by a Regional Independent Assessment Panel (RIAP). Due to the competitive nature of the Program and Restart NSW legislation only projects with a validated Benefit Cost Ratio of Greater than 1.0 were included for consideration and recommendation by the RIAP.

As a Restart NSW program the recommendations for project funding made by the RIAP are submitted by Infrastructure NSW to NSW Treasury for approval.

Will there be future funding rounds for this grant program?

At this time, no decisions to allocate further funding have been made for this program under the Restart NSW Fund. You may like to check the Transport for NSW website at transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/programs for other grant opportunities.

More questions?

For further questions about Fixing Country Roads, including eligibility and the application process please email fixingcountryroads@transport.nsw.gov.au.