Regional and Local
Roads Repair
Program

Frequently
Asked Questions

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Q. Which councils are eligible to apply for the Program?

The Regional and Local Roads Repair Program is available to all 128 NSW councils and the two eligible entities - the Unincorporated Far West and the Lord Howe Island Board.

Funding under the $500 million RLRRP is available to Local Government areas in both Greater Sydney and Regional NSW.

Further information is available in the Program Guidelines, including a full list of eligible councils/authorities in Appendix B.

Q. Why is the Program being implemented?

The Program will provide funding to assist local councils across NSW with urgent road repairs, priority corrective maintenance and repair of potholes on their Local and Regional Roads.

Local and Regional Roads are council managed roads and are two of the three administrative classifications used in NSW (refer to Appendix A in the Program Guidelines for further information):

- Local Roads
- Regional Roads
- State Roads

The grant funding is to be made available for priority maintenance works and immediate repair of potholes on Local and Regional Roads.

Q. What is covered under the Program?

The Program Guidelines adopt three descriptions for outlining what is covered and not covered by the funding:

- Corrective Maintenance (Covered)
- Renewals (Partially Covered)
- Upgrades (Not Covered)

Councils should review the information contained in the Program Guidelines for more details and definitions.

Q. What is not covered under the Program?

The RLRRP was established in response to the wet weather and flooding impacts on the Regional and Local Road network. It does not cover planned or scheduled asset renewals.

Asset renewals are defined as those works which return the road asset to its "as-new" condition and in doing so extend the design life of the asset. Renewals include resealing and wider scale rehabilitation of the roads within the road corridor.

Asset upgrades go beyond renewals by creating new assets or significantly enhancing the asset in place, such as widening of the carriageway, drainage system upgrades, sealing un-sealed shoulders, sealing gravel roads, building kerb and gutter, and footpaths.

Any repairs or maintenance work to bridges are not covered under the RLRRP, except for culvert rehabilitation and clearing.

Councils should review the information contained in the Program Guidelines for more details and definitions.

Q. How is funding determined?

The funding envelope provided will be 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
- Program funding availability

Q. How much funding will be allocated to regional councils, and how much to metropolitan councils?

A total of $500 million is available for both metropolitan and regional councils. This funding boost will help both regional and metropolitan councils continue to repair damaged roads across the state.

Funding allocations will then be determined based on the number of applications received, total Local and Regional Road network within each Local Government Area (LGA) and the program funding availability.

Q. What criteria needs to be met under RLRRP?

Works must meet one of the following:

- Implemented within 12 months of signing the funding deed; or
- Works underway on or after 1 January 2023 if completed and open to traffic by 29 February 2024.

Other criteria include:

- Work must be completed on Local Roads and Regional Roads only.
- Council must be able to provide details of length of road network to TfNSW.
- Council must be able to report on expenditure and ability to deliver 'value for money'.
- Council must be able to measure and report on tangible deliverables and outcomes for the community to TfNSW.

Councils should review the information contained in the Program Guidelines for more details and definitions.

Q. What are the delivery timeframes under RLRRP?

Repair work must be carried out by 29 February 2024.

Q. How do councils make a submission?

Councils can apply for funding by making a submission through the SmartyGrants portal. The submission will be a simple form to capture key details including:

- Total length (in kilometres) of the Local and Regional Road network within the LGA
- The benefits the funding will realise for the community and road users.

Councils only need to submit one application for all proposed work. Submissions are to be lodged via the SmartyGrants portal at the following link www.transport.nsw.gov.au/RLRRP

Submissions will be open between 11 January 2023 and 20 January 2023.

Q. Does my application need to detail all the locations within the council area where we intend to use program funding?

No, councils are only required to submit one application for all proposed work.

Q. When are applications due? Can the closing date be extended?

Applications are due by 5pm, Friday 20 January 2023. We acknowledge the time of year and the impacts the events of 2022 have had on councils. If you anticipate that your council will have difficulty in meeting this deadline, please contact your TfNSW representative as soon as possible.

Q. When will councils be notified?

Once the submission period has closed, each submission will be assessed to ensure the minimum criteria is met. Funding allocations will then be determined based on the number of applications received, total Local and Regional Road network within each Local Government Area (LGA) and the program funding availability.

Councils will receive notification of successful funding via a letter and funding deed that will need to be signed and returned to TfNSW.

Q. When will councils receive payment?

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

Any funding that is not expended by 29 February 2024 will be forfeited and recovered by TfNSW.

Q. What are the reporting requirements?

Reporting will be aligned with the same processes already in place for other TfNSW programs, such as Fixing Local Roads and the Regional Road - Block Grants.

From time-to-time TfNSW 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.

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

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

Q. What other support does TfNSW provide for local councils to assist with road maintenance and repair?

The NSW Government provides Block Grant funding to councils across NSW as a contribution towards the cost of maintenance and renewal works on Regional Roads.

Block Grants may be spent on preservation, restoration and enhancement works.

The NSW Government provides funding through regional programs such as Fixing Local Roads, Fixing Country Bridges and Fixing Country Roads to help councils with their asset renewal and upgrade backlog. To address gaps in corrective maintenance, targeted funding has been provided through programs like the regional Fixing Local Roads‑Pothole Repair Round to ease the pressure on local councils to address these gaps.

In addition to grant programs and funding, TfNSW engages with NSW communities and stakeholders to champion their needs and achieve integrated community outcomes.

TfNSW staff work with the community, industry, other agencies, and local council stakeholders to gain insight into local needs, manage relationships and deliver safety and transport outcomes which suit those communities now and into the future.

Q. Can the RLRRP funding be used for retrospective projects?

Works underway on or after 1 January 2023 are eligible if completed and open to traffic by 29 February 2024.

Q. If council chooses to better the road, will the RLRRP cover the like-for-like rehabilitation component? What extent of pavement stabilisation is covered under renewal?

RLRRP does not cover planned or scheduled asset renewals.

Asset renewals are defined as those works which return the road asset to its "as-new" condition and in doing so extend the design life of the asset. Renewals include resealing and wider scale rehabilitation of the roads within the road corridor.

Q. For rehabilitation works‑what defines a "small section of carriageway" as per the Guidelines?

Generally, less than 1,000sqm. Council is required to contact their TfNSW representative where larger sections are proposed.

Q. Can you save and then return to your application in SmartyGrants before submission?

Yes, you can save and return to your application at any time prior to the closing date.

Q. Define what is covered under RLRRP in relation to drainage, swales, sink holes? Is damaged kerb and gutter covered?

Assets beyond the road width are generally not covered by this funding (eg: kerb and gutter/paths). Essential drainage works to protect the road pavement are covered under the funding.

Q. Are works in progress eligible for this funding?

Works underway on or after 1 January 2023 are eligible, if completed and open to traffic by 29 February 2024.

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

Reporting will be aligned with the same processes already in place for other TfNSW programs, such as Fixing Local Roads and the Regional Road - Block Grants.

From time-to-time TfNSW 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.

Q. Can TfNSW explain how funding can be used by councils, including project management costs, external and internal staff costs and overtime?

Project management costs (up to 2%) from within council's grant allocation can be associated administration and/or management costs of delivering works under the Program. Councils determine how the works are delivered whilst ensuring value for money.

Q. What is the amount each council is eligible for/will be allocated?

A total of $500 million is available for both metropolitan and regional councils. This funding boost will help both regional and metropolitan councils continue to repair damaged roads across the state.

Funding allocations will then be determined based on the number of applications received, total Local and Regional Road network within each Local Government Area (LGA) and the program funding availability.

Q. How does the funding relate to heavy patching and potholing?

Please refer to the Program Guidelines or contact your TfNSW representative to discuss.

Q. If longer lengths of stabilisation can be undertaken and shown to be cheaper than multiple isolated heavy patches on a road could this be justified as repairs (rather than improving the asset)?

Please contact your TfNSW representative to discuss on a case-by-case basis.

Q. Can more than one person from a council access the SmartyGrants application?

It is suggested that if multiple council staff require access to a council's SmartyGrants

application, the application should be commenced or lodged using a generic Council email address. This will ensure all staff have access via the one set of log-in details.

Q. Can a council use their day labour if they are an opt-out council under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)?

Each council can determine the method by which it delivers the works funded under the grant. There is no restriction on the use of day labour.

Q. Do we need to provide the total number of kilometres for the length of repair required or the total kilometres of all of the network? Is the supporting evidence for the application only a list of roads and kilometres, or are maps required?

The submission will be a simple form to capture key details including:

- Total length (in kilometres) of the Local and Regional Road network within the LGA
- The benefits the funding will realise for the community and road users.

Councils only need to submit one application for all proposed work. Supporting evidence may include a list of roads on your road network, a map or any other documentation (e.g. annual report) which supports the number of kilometres reported in your application.

Q. This is a large expenditure amount. Can asphalt contractors deliver?

It is anticipated that the market will respond to guaranteed work.

Q. How do you determine if your council will be considered as regional or Greater Sydney and outer metropolitan?

Council will have received a letter directly from their relevant Minister inviting councils to apply for funding. This letter will provide an indication of how Council will be considered.

Q. Does the grant application require a detailed program of works to be provided by the 20 January close-off date?

No.

Q. Do rehabilitation projects need to be approved by TfNSW before starting?

TfNSW do not need to approve rehabilitation works under 1,000sqm.

Please contact your TfNSW representative if larger sections of road rehabilitation are proposed.

Q. Is joint funding applicable under this grant (e.g. some repairs to be funded under RLRRP and Council's own funding to bring the road to as new condition)?

Please refer to Program Guidelines or contact your TfNSW representative to discuss specific road locations.

Q. How specific do the benefits need to be? are you looking for specific projects or examples like safer access?

Examples of benefit categories are available with the application for council's selection.

Q. Is maintenance grading covered per Guidelines: gravel roads?

Yes – covered under corrective maintenance works.

Q. What will the external audit progress involve?

TfNSW will advise councils of audit requirements as part of the funding deed.

Q. How do we show road length for shared assets (i.e. roads adjoining two LGAs)?

Council is to submit the appropriate kilometres of road specific to their LGA boundary/or road lengths council owns and also maintains as the asset owner.

Q. What are the implications if only a few councils are able to apply within the given timeframe?

All councils are being supported to meet the timeframe for the submission of grant applications.

Q. Is it a new grant opportunity besides REPAIR and BLOCK Grant from TfNSW? How does this interact with the DRFA funding?

This is a new grant opportunity. Refer to Program Guidelines for further information.

Q. Can unsealed roads that have lost gravel during multiple storm events be re-sheeted?

Please contact your local TfNSW representative if non-localised works are proposed.

More questions?

Questions about the Regional and Local Roads Repair Program, including eligibility and the application process, can be emailed to RLRRP@transport.nsw.gov.au

Appendix A – Eligible Councils/Authorities

Albury City Council	Gilgandra Shire Council	Oberon Council
Armidale Regional Council	Glen Innes Severn Council	Orange City Council
Ballina Shire Council	Goulburn Mulwaree Council	Parkes Shire Council
Balranald Shire Council	Greater Hume Shire Council	City of Parramatta
Bathurst Regional Council	Griffith City Council	Penrith City Council
Bayside Council	Gunnedah Shire Council	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Bega Valley Shire Council	Gwydir Shire Council	Port Stephens Council
Bellingen Shire Council	Hawkesbury City Council	Queanbeyan-Palerang Council
Berrigan Shire Council	Hay Shire Council	Randwick City Council
Blacktown City Council	Hilltops Council	Richmond Valley Council
Bland Shire Council	Shire of Hornsby	Council of the City of Ryde
Blayney Shire Council	Municipality of Hunters Hill	Shellharbour City Council
Blue Mountains City Council	Inner West Council	Shoalhaven City Council
Bogan Shire Council	Inverell Shire Council	Singleton Council
Bourke Shire Council	Junee Shire Council	Snowy Monaro Council
Brewarrina Shire Council	Kempsey Shire Council	Snowy Valleys Council
Broken Hill City Council	Municipality of Kiama	Strathfield Municipal Council
Burwood Council	Ku-ring-gai Council	Sutherland Shire Council
Byron Shire Council	Kyogle Council	Council of the City of Sydney
Cabonne Council	Lachlan Shire Council	Tamworth Regional Council
Camden Council	Lake Macquarie City Council	Temora Shire Council
Campbelltown City Council	Lane Cove Municipal Council	Tenterfield Shire Council
City of Canada Bay Council	Leeton Shire Council	The Hills Shire Council
Canterbury Bankstown Council	Lismore City Council	Tweed Shire Council
Carrathool Shire Council	Lord Howe Island Board	Unincorporated Far West
Central Coast Council	City of Lithgow Council	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Central Darling Shire Council	Liverpool City Council	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Cessnock City Council	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Uralla Shire Council
Clarence Valley Council	Lockhart Shire Council	Wagga Wagga City Council
Cobar Shire Council	Maitland City Council	Walcha Council
Coffs Harbour City Council	Mid-Coast Council	Walgett Shire Council
Coolamon Shire Council	Mid-Western Regional Council	Warren Shire Council
Coonamble Shire Council	Moree Plains Shire Council	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Cootamundra-Gundagai Council	Mosman Municipal Council	Waverley Council
Cowra Shire Council	Murray River Council	Weddin Shire Council
Cumberland Council	Murrumbidgee Council	Wentworth Shire Council
Dubbo Regional Council	Muswellbrook Shire Council	Willoughby City Council

Dungog Shire Council	Nambucca Valley Council	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Edward River Council	Narrabri Shire Council	Wollondilly Shire Council
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Narrandera Shire Council	Wollongong City Council
Fairfield City Council	Narromine Shire Council	Woollahra Municipal Council
Federation Council	Newcastle City Council	Yass Valley Council
Forbes Shire Council	North Sydney Council	
Georges River Council	Northern Beaches Council	