



Frequently Asked Questions

Regional Transport Resilience Fund

November 2024



Australian Government



Transport for NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past and present.

What is the RTRF?

The \$32 million Regional Transport Resilience Fund (RTRF) is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW governments to reinforce and upgrade priority transport networks in Central West NSW after recent catastrophic weather events.

Funding has been distributed to projects in the local government areas of Cabonne, Parkes, Forbes and Lachlan, which were badly impacted by the Australian Government Reference Number (AGRN) AGRN 1030 and AGRN 1034 floods in August and September 2022.

The RTRF aims to deliver betterment to essential public infrastructure assets by ensuring infrastructure damaged is not just reinstated, but rebuilt stronger, better, and more able to withstand the challenge posed by future natural disasters.

Betterment promotes rebuilding infrastructure in a way that will ensure it is more resilient during future disasters, making it more cost effective to maintain, with less time out of action when disasters strike.

The RTRF forms part of the \$100 million Central West Recovery and Resilience Package.

How is Transport for NSW working with councils on RTRF?

Transport for NSW has worked collaboratively with the four councils to identify opportunities for betterment projects and support councils to make their submissions for Category D funding (explained below) under this package.

Since December 2023 Transport for NSW and the NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSW RA) have engaged with the councils to keep them informed as the RTRF progresses.

How were successful projects identified?

Applications were recommended for funding following a rigorous assessment and evaluation process by Transport for NSW, which involved an assessment panel that included representatives from Transport for NSW and the NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSW RA).

Assessments involved two phases. The first phase was an eligibility assessment and ran in parallel with the current assessment for Category B (explained below) projects against the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) requirements. The second phase involved the assessment panel, which reviewed the submissions against five criteria:

Each criteria had an individual weighting, ranging from 10% to 30%.

- Strategic (30%) – a project’s alignment with the RTRF’s objective and outcomes, and relevant government strategies
- Resilience (30%) – the extent of current and future hazard (s) and risk mitigation expected with the addition of the betterment activity
- Viability (15%) – the deliverability and/or affordability of the project
- Economic (15%) – the quantification and or/qualification of the economic benefit/s
- Social (10%) – improving a community’s ability to function during and after a disruption to an asset.

This assessment process included the involvement of an independent Probity Officer to oversee the assessment and ensure the evaluation of applications was fair and equitable.

Further details on the assessment process is available in the [RTRF Guidelines](#).

Transport for NSW utilised valuable learnings from RTRF sister program, the [Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package](#) in the Northern Region, in rolling out the RTRF to the four eligible councils in the Central West.

How will this funding be used/what eligible works will be covered?

Projects were prioritised for funding based on their ability to deliver against:

- Strengthening the regional transport network’s capability to withstand natural disasters
- Improve the reliability of the regional transport network for regional communities during and after disaster events.
- Enhance the adaptability of the regional transport network during and after disaster events
- Improve the regional transport network’s ability to respond and recover when disasters occur
- Improve community safety through enabling a safer regional transport network
- Readiness and ability to deliver the nominated program.

A list of successful projects is available on the Program webpage transport.nsw.gov.au/rtrf.

What were the eligible grant amounts for RTRF?

Eligible grant amounts range from \$250,000 to \$8 million per project. Applicants were limited to three successful projects.

How many applications could be made by each council?

There was a maximum of five submissions per council, although similar-type projects such as culverts or causeways were able to be grouped into one submission.

Were Emergency Works (EW) eligible under RTRF?

Emergency Works were eligible under the RTRF. This followed extensive consultation with councils, NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSW RA) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). This change to the original eligibility requirements was supported by all stakeholders and was communicated to all councils via written correspondence.

To make a submission for betterment projects related to EW, Councils completed the modified Form 306 as per the submission process and the EW Claim tab. Councils also needed to complete the Category D tab as per the usual submission process under RTRF.

All submissions were assessed based on the published assessment criteria outlined in the RTRF Guidelines. Ranked submissions were presented to the assessment panel so they could make recommendations to the Minister for decision.

What is Category D?

This is RTRF's betterment component, in which reconstruction works on an Essential Public Asset directly damaged by AGRN 1030 and AGRN 1034 floods in August and September 2022, are made more resilient to future disasters. Betterment is about building better assets that are safer, more reliable and better equipped to deal with natural disasters.

What is Category B?

Category B is a Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements assistance measure that provides funding for like-for-like repairs on infrastructure directly damaged by an AGRN event. Most betterment projects will involve a combination of both Category B and Category D DRFA funding.

How did the assessment panel ensure equitable betterment outcomes across the four councils?

The panel looked to equitably distribute funding across the eligible Local Government Areas (LGAs) where there were sufficient meritorious projects in each LGA. The assessment panel also could defer assessment of an application until a later time in the assessment process to assist equitable decision making.

Will funding recipients be required to provide key benefits and outcomes during delivery and completion of their projects?

Applicants will be required to provide both the NSW and Australian governments with substantiating evidence both during delivery and on completion of projects. As well, both governments may choose certain projects for a comprehensive assessment of benefits during project delivery and when completed.

How is RTRF governed?

All decisions will be made in accordance with

- [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018](#)
- [NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines 2021](#)
- [RTRF Guidelines](#).

Is funding provided for the administration of RTRF?

Up to five percent of the total RTRF funds will be used to cover Transport for NSW administration for the delivery of RTRF. This includes providing support to applicants, assessment of projects, supporting delivery of successful projects and evaluating outcomes.

How is funding distributed?

Distribution of funds will follow an assessment process, with decisions on funding awarded based on the individual merit and geographical spread of projects directly impacted by AGRN 1030 and/or AGRN 1034 across the four Local Government Areas. Funding will be distributed based on project milestones.

Is funding equitable across all four councils?

The assessment panel considered the equitable distribution of projects and funding amounts across the four eligible councils. This was done in combination with the merit based scoring and technical assessments.

What happens if a successful project is withdrawn?

If a successful project is withdrawn, the next highest-scoring project for the relevant council will be considered for funding. Transport for NSW will ensure the project aligns with eligibility criteria. If the project surpasses available funding, attempts will be made to adjust its scope or select the next highest-scoring project that fits within the funding limits and eligibility criteria, with input from the council.

If no eligible projects are found, Transport for NSW will engage with the next highest-scoring council project. Confirmation from NSW RA will be sought prior to final approval from the NSW Minister of Regional Transport and Roads.

Additional information

[NSW Natural Disaster Essential Public Asset Restoration Guidelines](#)

[Natural Disaster Infrastructure Betterment in NSW – Vision 2022](#)

[National Emergency Management Agency](#)

[NSW Reconstruction Authority | NSW Government](#)