

Transport
for NSW

Regional and Local Roads Repair Program

Program Guideline

January 2023



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Message from the Ministers

In 2022, repeated flood events wreaked havoc across NSW and caused unimaginable devastation in our communities. Persistent rainfall and unprecedented wet weather conditions have significantly impacted the road network in both regional and metropolitan NSW.

The NSW Government's \$500 million Regional and Local Roads Repair Program (RLRRP) has been established so all local councils across NSW have access to funding to repair damaged Local and Regional roads under their care and responsibility.

We want to ensure our road network is efficient, safe, and reliable, so people can get around town, go to work, visit their family and friends, and keep our supply chains moving.

We understand local councils in NSW are feeling overwhelmed by the amount of paperwork they have had to complete recently as they recover and rebuild. Please be reassured we have simplified the application process so funding can be released quickly so your council can undertake urgent works on the Local and Regional road network.

We encourage local councils to review the RLRRP Guidelines and work closely with Transport for NSW to apply for the funding needed to repair their road networks to keep communities, families, and businesses connected.



The Hon. Natalie Ward MLC
Minister for Metropolitan Roads



The Hon. Sam Faraway MLC
Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

1. Context

Overview of the Program

The NSW road network is over 185,000 kilometres in length. Recent weather events and floods have increased the number and severity of potholes across the Local and Regional road network.

The Regional and Local Roads Repair Program (RLRRP) is a \$500 million Transport for NSW (TfNSW) grant program. 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 for further information):

- Local Roads
- Regional Roads
- State Roads

The grant funding is to be made available to eligible councils and authorities to undertake priority maintenance works and immediate repair of potholes on their Local and Regional roads. The funding envelope provided will be based on kilometres of road network managed in their Local Government Area (\$/km).

This initiative aligns and delivers upon the recently released [Future Transport Strategy](#). By connecting customers and communities with a safe, reliable, and sustainable integrated transport system.

What does the funding cover and not cover in this Program?

This program guideline adopts three descriptions for outlining what is covered and not covered by the funding:

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

Corrective maintenance works covered under the Program

Corrective maintenance includes unplanned maintenance activities that are necessary to ensure continued access and the safe operation of the road network. Corrective maintenance works are focused on restoring an appropriate level of service and ensuring the road asset fulfils its current design life by stop deterioration further. Priority corrective maintenance works, may include:

- **Patching:** This involves filling holes that have developed in a sealed road with a mixture of bitumen and stone. Pothole patching methods may be either temporary or semi-permanent with a focus on quick repairs to help control further deterioration and expensive repair of the road pavement later.
- **Heavy Patching or In-situ Modified:** required when the failed material must be either removed/replaced or a stabilization treatment implemented. The intention is to repair the defect(s) to a life commensurate with the remaining life of the carriageway pavement. See

[TfNSW Quality Assurance Specification M250 – ‘Heavy Patching \(Flexible Pavement\)’](#) for further information.

- **Smoothing or Reshaping** (unsealed roads): Smoothing of the unsealed surface may be required to fix minor damage or potholes that can be fixed relatively easily through this method. Reshaping may be required where the road surface is too damaged to be smoothed or potholes easily filled.
- **Drainage and Culverts**: Where the existing road drainage has been impacted by recent events and is no longer able to effectively remove and dispose of water from the road surface. Works may also include rehabilitation or clearing of culverts that have been impacted by recent events.
- Renewal works covered
- **Rehabilitation**: It is acknowledged limited rehabilitation may be required. In situations where the road pavement has failed beyond practical heavy patching repairs, and that a small section of the carriageway may need to be rehabilitated by:
 - Applying a partial asphalt overlay on top of the deteriorated road surface;
 - Improving the existing pavement with the addition of new material; or
 - Removal of the old pavement and replacement with new pavement.

Renewal and Upgrade Works not covered

The RLRRP was established in response to the wet weather and flooding impacts on the Regional and Local Road network—it therefore 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 road corridor (see above).

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.

How funding is determined for each council

The funding envelope provided will be based on kilometres of road network 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
- Metropolitan and regional road networks.

Please see **Appendix B** for eligible Councils and local authorities.

2. Application Process

Criteria to be met

Every council and local authority in NSW (excluding State Government Agencies) responsible for managing the Local and Regional road network is entitled to apply for funding, provided that the following minimum criteria is met.

- Works must meet one of the following:
 - Implemented within 12 months of signing the funding deed; or
 - Completed and open to traffic before 29 February 2024.
- Work must be completed on Local Roads and Regional Roads only.
- Council must be able to provide details of length of road network to Transport for NSW.
- 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 Transport for NSW.

**It is expected reporting will only need to be on a quarterly basis via the same processes in place for other Transport for NSW programs, see 'Reporting Requirements'.*

Submission requirements

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.

***The [NSW Local Grants Commission](#) maintains an up-to-date table for all [Local Road length data](#) for NSW Councils. For Regional road lengths Councils can simply reference the data submitted in their most recent Regional Road Block Grant reporting schedule(s).*

3. Successful Applicants

Notification of successful funding allocations

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 Transport for NSW.

Payment details

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

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

Reporting requirements

Reporting will be aligned with the same processes already in place for other Transport for NSW programs, such as Fixing Local Roads and the Regional Road - Block Grants. For reference see the reporting schedules used for the Regional Road Block Grants [here](#).

From time-to-time Transport for NSW 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 Council provide this in a timely and efficient manner when requested to do so. Noting TfNSW will undertake a progress review with councils at the end of the financial year with councils expected to report and present evidence of expenditure and work progressed by 31 August 2023.

An auditor will be appointed by TfNSW to review a sample of council works and evidence that funding provided has been used for the intended purpose with audits to take place in the last quarter of 2023.

4. Further information

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

Appendix A - Road Administrative Classification

The NSW road network uses three administrative categories: State, Regional and Local. They are assigned to indicate who is responsible for the management of a road and reflect the funding arrangements for that road. However, the categories are also broadly applied to describe the role the road plays in the network. The image below – provides further explanation on the three administrative classifications. A map of the road network classified can be accessed [here](#):



State Roads

State Roads are major arterial links throughout the State and within major urban areas which are the responsibility of the State government to fund and prioritise, due to their significance in the network.

State Roads include roads classified under the *Roads Act 1993* as Freeways, State Highways and Important Main Roads.

Regional Roads

Regional Roads are routes of secondary importance between State Roads and Local Roads. Some Regional-classified roads are located within metropolitan areas. They are designated Regional based on their significance rather than their geographical location.

Regional Roads include roads classified under the Act as Secondary Roads and the less significant Main Roads. They also include some roads not classified under the Act.

It is the responsibility of councils to fund, prioritise and carry out works on Regional Roads. They are eligible for funding assistance from the State government in recognition of their importance to the network.

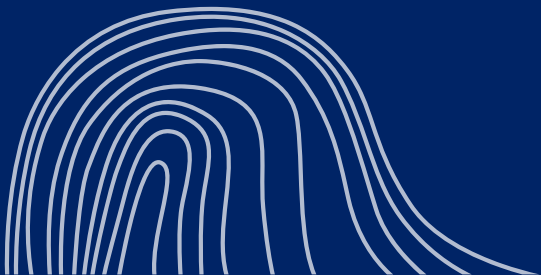
Local Roads

Local Roads are the remaining council-controlled roads which provide for local circulation and access. It is the responsibility of councils to fund, prioritise and carry out works on Local Roads.

Local Roads are eligible for State government grant funding to support maintenance through the \$500m Fixing Local Roads program as well as Financial Assistance Grant funding through the Federal Government.

Appendix B – 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	



Transport for New South Wales

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