



Permit/Plug/Play Pilot Program FAQs

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1. What is the Permit/Plug/Play Pilot Program?

The Permit/Plug/Play Pilot Program (the Program) is an \$8.5 million partnership grant program with 17 pilot councils across NSW. The Program aims to reduce the cost and complexity of delivering street-based events through an innovative “local solutions” model. The Program is part of the NSW Government’s [Vibrant Streets Package](#), a \$39 million investment in transforming streets into thriving local places to support the community, businesses and the creative sector.

Partnering councils have been offered up to \$500,000 (excluding GST) in funding to be spent across two financial years (FY24/25-FY25/26) to deliver the Program. Funded pilot councils are delivering projects that aim to streamline approval processes for temporary road closure-enabled events and support enabling physical infrastructure.

2. What are the objectives of the Program?

The objectives of the Program are to:

- Improve council process efficiency and communication about temporary road closures and the street-based events that they enable,
- Reduce the cost of delivering street-based events and temporary road closures for event proponents,
- Focus investment on strategic locations for maximum impact,
- Support collaborative engagement and funding, and
- Deliver enhanced cultural, economic, and social benefits through street-based events.

3. Why does the Program focus on enabling street-based events?

While it may be cheaper to hold events in parks and open spaces, these spaces are not always located near high streets, which are often the heart of local social and economic life.

There is demonstrable evidence of the economic, social, cultural, and environmental value generated by street-based events in our neighbourhoods. However, event organisers (including councils) can face barriers due to the cost and complexity of planning and delivering street-based events that require temporary road closures.

The Permit/Plug/Play Pilot Program is a coordinated effort by Transport for NSW, state partners, and local councils to develop tailored, local solutions that address the complexity of approval processes, and the high costs associated with street-based events.

4. How are key stakeholders involved in the Program?

One of the aims of the Program is to ‘*empower local councils to deliver improved efficiency that supports event ready streets*’. Pilot councils are required to engage directly with stakeholders — including event organisers, local businesses, and community members — to identify and overcome barriers, and tap into opportunities for hosting street-based events and activations at selected pilot locations.

5. Why is the NSW Government leading the Program?

The Program has been developed to help deliver on the NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms, under the third key area of change — '*an activated outdoors*' — which aims to make it easier for creative workers and community groups to stage pop-up events and festivals, including through road closures and global pre-approvals for event sites.

The Program also delivers on Action P2.2b of the Future Transport Strategy (under Priority 2.2 manage street space as public space), which seeks to "reduce cost and complexity of reallocating road space for alternative public uses".

The program aims to:

- support the NSW Government's vision for a more vibrant NSW,
- deliver on the [Vibrancy Reforms](#) under the third key area of change - '*an activated outdoors*' to make it easier for creative workers and community groups to stage pop-up events and festivals, including through road closures and global pre-approvals for event sites,
- respond to council feedback as well as lessons learnt through the successful delivery of previous street-based event grant programs state-wide, and
- improve the experience for people in local, strategic, and metropolitan centres towards becoming more productive, liveable, and sustainable places.

6. What are pilot councils delivering as part of the Program?

Pilot councils are required to complete planning and consultation activities to identify challenges and potential solutions that aim to reduce the cost and complexity of delivering street-based events and activations in their Local Government Area (LGA).

Each pilot council will implement a combination of process improvements and enabling place infrastructure to address challenges identified, with a '*local problems, local solutions*' approach.

Interventions for delivery by pilot councils include (but are not limited to):

- pre-approved/Global Traffic Management Plans, Development Applications, Risk Assessments, Section 68 Certificates and amendment of Local Environmental Plans,
- Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) and establishment of HVM Plans,
- event application process improvements, e.g. establishment of event toolkits and guidelines, streamlined event application and approval processes, and standardised event templates and documentation, and
- enabling place infrastructure, e.g. Bollards/vehicle barriers, lighting, power supply/power infrastructure, furniture, marquees, event equipment storage, water infrastructure, public art, staging infrastructure and signage.

Following implementation, each pilot council will deliver a street-based activation to evaluate the impact of process improvements and enabling place infrastructure, delivered under the Program.

7. Which NSW councils are delivering a pilot as part of the Program?

Transport for NSW has partnered with 17 Councils across NSW, including 13 Greater Sydney councils and 4 Regional NSW councils. To find out more about the pilots, visit the [Permit/Plug/Play | NSW Grants and Funding Webpage](#).

8. When will the Program start and finish?

The Program commenced in August 2024 and is anticipated to be completed by June 2026.

Find out more

For enquires regarding the Permit/Plug/Play Pilot Program, email the team at revitalisation@transport.nsw.gov.au

To find out more about the Program and pilots, visit [Permit/Plug/Play | Transport for NSW](#) or the [Permit/Plug/Play | NSW Grants and Funding Webpage](#).