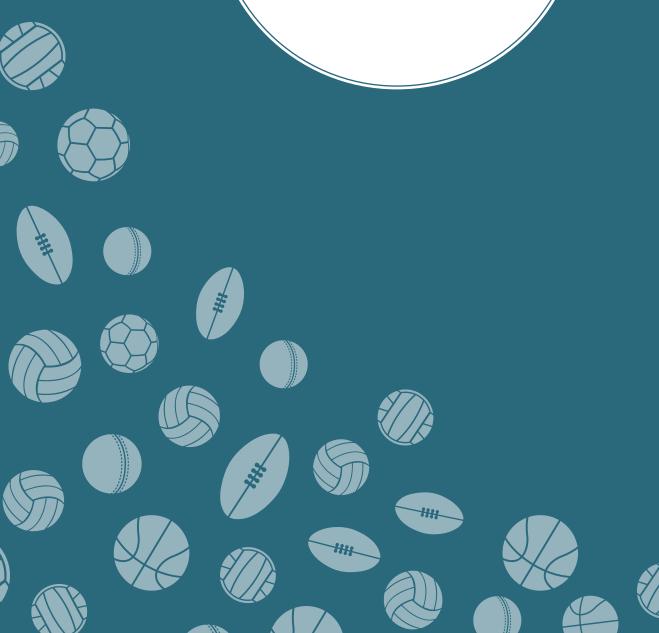




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MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER

After six years of sound economic management, NSW is the nation's strongest economy. Our regions play an important role in making this happen.

The NSW Government is ensuring that all residents in our regions see the benefits of our efforts. Our record \$73 billion infrastructure investment is building better roads, highways and bridges, providing more schools and classrooms and delivering more teachers, doctors, nurses and police across the state.

NSW is now well placed to create further opportunities to benefit our regional communities. Whether it is improving water security, 'switching on' vital infrastructure or fixing the mobile black spots that hold back business, we are making the changes needed to secure the future of our regional economies. The NSW Government is making sure every town and every community receives their fair share.

The Regional Sports Infrastructure fund is a key element of the NSW Government's \$1.3 billion investment program to build economies and develop communities across the state. Up to \$100 million will be made available to the regions over the next four years to build and improve sporting facilities — places that encourage good health, foster friendships and community and simply make life a little better.

I encourage communities and organisations across our regions to take advantage of this incredible opportunity.

The Hon John Barilaro

Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional NSW
Minister for Skills
Minister for Small Business

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR SPORT

Sport is an important contributor to the economy of regional communities. Whether it is through hosting national, state and regional championships, creating employment opportunities, or the sale of sporting goods and equipment, sport contributes to the success of local economies.

Sport provides people in regional communities with a range of invaluable skills such as coaching, umpiring or refereeing, event planning, team management, organising volunteers or being on the board of a local club or association.

Sport contributes to the development of cohesive, resilient, liveable and strong communities. Participation in sport also contributes to the health and wellbeing of individuals in regional communities.

To maintain and grow our current levels of sport participation in regional communities, we need quality places where people of all ages can participate in a wide range of sports.

The Regional Sports Infrastructure fund will assist regional communities to develop spaces for sports to thrive.

The Hon Stuart Ayres

Minister for Western Sydney Minister for WestConnex

Minister for Sport

In these guidelines, you will find the fund objectives, eligibility criteria and application process. Please refer to the fact sheet for the assessment criteria and check the frequently asked questions. Contact the Office of Sport if you have questions or require guidance.

Regional Sports Infrastructure

Established under the NSW Government's Restart NSW fund to improve economic growth and productivity, and part of the \$1.3 billion Regional Growth Fund, the Regional Sports Infrastructure fund will create spaces and facilities that enable communities to enjoy and take part in sport. The Fund will support new and existing venues to improve participation and performance in sports at all levels.

The Fund will focus on those sporting facilities that deliver the best outcomes for the community. It will ensure that the best possible value for money is achieved.

The Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund will:

- increase the number and type of regional sporting facilities
- improve the standard of existing regional sporting facilities
- increase participation in sport
- provide infrastructure that enables economic growth and boosts productivity.

Eligible applicants

Funding for the Regional Sports Infrastructure fund is available to:

• local government authorities in all 92 regional local government areas. Lord Howe Island and the Unincorporated Far West

- state sporting organisations
- incorporated, community-based, not-for-profit sporting organisations (clubs or district associations)
- educational organisations (such as schools, TAFEs and universities) in conjunction with local councils and local or state sporting entities
- private enterprises.

Project nominations involving partnerships between groups are encouraged.

For a proposal to be successful, the land on which the facility is to be developed must be one of the following:

- Crown reserve land
- land owned by a public authority (for example municipal property)
- land held for public purposes by trustees under a valid lease, title or trust deed that adequately protects the interests of the public
- private land that benefits the community's interests in sport and recreation.

Available funding

This fund targets investments over \$1 million.

Applicants are encouraged to make a significant financial or in-kind contribution towards the cost of the project.

Proposed projects will only receive funding if they can demonstrate an overall economic benefit.

It is expected that funding will be spent within three years of approval being granted.



Priority for funding

Priority for funding will be given to proposals which:

- provide an economic benefit such as increased tourism or the creation of jobs
- meet a demonstrable need in the community
- establish regional sports hubs
- enhance regionally significant sporting facilities
- can be used by more than one sporting code
- are aligned with the facility plans of state sporting organisations, regional sporting associations and local sporting clubs
- are identified in the Office of Sport's regional sport and active recreation plan
- are financially sustainable
- provide the highest net benefits
- increase participation opportunities in sport
- provide infrastructure that enables economic growth and boosts productivity.



ELIGIBILITY

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Eligible projects

The Regional Sports Infrastructure fund will increase the number of regional sporting facilities and the standard of existing sporting facilities, as well as increase regular and on going participation opportunities.

The strongest proposals will:

- create sporting facilities capable of attracting and hosting regional, state and national championships and/or professional matches
- improve safety at regional sport and recreation facilities such as by upgrading playing surfaces, providing access pathways for players
- remove barriers to promote inclusion in sport such as upgrading the provision of disability access, amenities for female participation and referee amenities
- develop environmentally sustainable sport and recreation facilities such as through installing drainage, rainwater tanks or upgrading lighting for environmental impact.

Types of projects that could be funded include:

- regionally significant sport facilities
- the development and construction of new sport facilities or the upgrade and/or expansion of existing sport facilities
- amenity buildings such as storage, kiosks, club rooms and dressing rooms
- facilities classified as Tier 3 stadia under the NSW Stadia Strategy (typically facilities with a maximum capacity 10,000 to 20,000 people with limited or no corporate facilities but capable of hosting state level competitions and exhibition or pre season matches for sporting teams playing in national competitions)
- high performance Centres of Excellence; regional Centres of Excellence; multi sport, multi purpose facilities; and significant single sport facilities.

Ineligible projects

Applicants must demonstrate that their projects meet the fund objectives as outlined in these guidelines.

Proposed projects will be assessed according to the criteria outlined in the fact sheet.

The Regional Sports Infrastructure fund will not fund projects:

- for facilities classified as Tier 1 or 2 under the NSW Stadia Strategy
- for smaller scale facilities (such as single sport venues and community swimming pools not part of a regional sporting centre that are funded by local government) or through alternative funding sources (such as the Stronger Country Communities Fund, Community Building Partnership Program or ClubGRANTS Category 3 Fund)
- not in eligible locations
- on private land where there is no benefit to the community's interests in sport and active recreation
- related primarily to operational expenditure, including but not limited to regular repairs and maintenance
- related to engaging or paying permanent employees
- related to buying or upgrading non fixed equipment
- related to administrative or running costs that are normally the responsibility of businesses, state or territory agencies or local councils
- would proceed without any NSW Government financial assistance
- with requests for additional funding for the same outcome and that have previously accessed other NSW Government funding
- related to marketing, advertising or product promotion
- requiring ongoing funding from the NSW Government or Commonwealth Government.

HOW TO APPLY

Two-step process

The Regional Sports Infrastructure fund is administered by the NSW Office of Sport with Infrastructure NSW.

Applying for the Regional Sports Infrastructure fund is a two-step process.

STEP ONE

Submit an Expression of Interest

Applicants must supply high-level technical and administrative information about the project. The NSW Government will review Expressions of Interest against the fund objectives and eligibility criteria outlined in this document.

Applicants can seek advice and assistance from the Office of Sport.

STEP TWO

Submit a business case

Based on the outcomes generated during the first assessment process, selected organisations will be requested to formally submit a business case for consideration. Relevant parties will be required to provide significantly more detail regarding their project, including information on their ability to carry out the project in the appropriate time frame and the competitiveness of the proposal against factors such as value for money, sustainability and the level of contingency/risk. Please refer to the fact sheet for the assessment criteria.

Proposed projects will only receive funding if they can demonstrate a Cost Benefit Ratio above 1.0.

As the fund is part of Restart NSW, projects will need to meet the requirements of the Restart NSW Fund Act, including being for the purpose of improving economic growth and productivity in the state.

The NSW Government can provide guidance on business case development.

Support may be provided for the preparation of a business case including advice on technical studies, concept plans, designs and initial approvals.

The Office of Sport may supply business cases to other organisations for eligibility assessment and proposal appraisal.

The Office of Sport will consult relevant stakeholders (such as other NSW and federal government agencies, local councils, Members of Parliament, Regional Development Australia, independent experts and external parties). Summary information about each proposed project will be published on NSW Government websites, unless the applicant objects.

If you are successful

Organisations must not make financial commitments for funded activities until agreements have been executed.

The funds must be spent on items or costs directly related to the project as specified in the application and funding agreement.

Payments will be made according to agreed project milestones. Organisations will be required to pay back unspent funds or those funds which have not been spent in accordance with the funding agreement.

Requests for variations or changes to the project may be considered in limited circumstances. Changes or variations may be rejected or accepted subject to certain conditions.

The information provided in the funding application will be used to create:

- a funding and reporting schedule based on key milestones
- key performance indicators.

Information about projects may be used for material prepared by the NSW Government.

