



REGIONAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

Frequently
asked questions
2018

Q What is the purpose of the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund?

A The Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund has been established by the NSW Government to create spaces and places that enable communities to enjoy quality sport and participate in physical activity at all levels. It will invest in new and existing venues to improve the quality and quantity of sports infrastructure across regional NSW.

The fund targets two types of investment: regional sport hubs and regionally significant sport facilities.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Q What types of projects will be funded?

A Organisations considering submitting projects should consider opportunities to deliver:

- sporting facilities capable of attracting and hosting regional, state and national championships and/or professional matches
- regional sport hubs
- regionally significant sport facilities
- multi-use facilities primarily intended to be used for sport, but which can also be used for other events that contribute to the local community or economy.

Q What is considered a regional sport hub?

A A regional sport hub may include the following features:

- a multi-sport facility, which may include a sport administration centre, that supports participation at the community and pre-elite level
- the capacity to host national, state and regional championships
- a location that may complement already-established regionally significant sport facilities
- a main site with a combination of core sporting facilities as well as supporting services such as:
 - health and fitness facilities/services
 - general health and fitness
 - sports science
 - other allied health services
 - education and training facilities/services
 - aquatic facilities
 - additional administration for all sport and other partners.

Q What is a regionally significant sport facility?

A A project is considered 'regionally significant' if it meets the following broad facility criteria:

- it is a sport or recreation facility of regional-level significance to a state sporting organisation
- it is a single-sport facility that meets the standards required to host major regional, state or national level competitions, events and/or training
- it provides a range of participation outcomes (community, competitions, events and talent development)
- it caters for a broad catchment across multiple local government boundaries
- it delivers flexibility of use, high quality amenity, management and service levels.

Q Where does the infrastructure need to be located?

A The land on which the facility will be developed must be one of the following and this must be substantiated with evidence (e.g. of land ownership and tenure, lease arrangements):

- 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
- land vested in NSW Aboriginal Land Councils under the *NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*
- private land that benefits the community's interests in sport and active recreation.

Q What kinds of projects will not be funded?

A The Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund will not fund projects:

- for facilities classified as Tier 1 or 2 under the NSW Stadia Strategy; smaller scale facilities, such as single-sport venues, that do not meet the standards required to host major regional, state or national level competitions, events and/or training; and community swimming pools or aquatic facilities not part of a regional sport hub that are funded by local government
- with alternative funding sources, such as the Stronger Country Communities Fund, Community Building Partnership program, or Liquor and Gaming NSW Infrastructure Grants
- for grants valued at less than \$1 million or more than \$10 million
- 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
- for the maintenance or construction of local roads or other core service infrastructure works that are the ordinary responsibility of council or other level of government
- related to engaging or paying permanent employees
- related to buying or upgrading non-fixed equipment
- for the purchase or lease of land
- related to administrative or running costs that are normally the responsibility of businesses, state or territory agencies, or local councils
- that 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.

Q Can projects be funded retrospectively?

A No. Successful applicants may only commence a project once funding approval has been confirmed.

Q Is applying for a Development Application or other approvals considered commencing a project?

A No. Development Applications or other approvals will help demonstrate that a project is likely to proceed. Construction that has started or been completed will be considered as having commenced a project.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Q Who can apply?

A Funding is available for projects in all 92 regional local government areas, Lord Howe Island and the Unincorporated Far West from eligible applicants.

Eligible applicants are:

- local government authorities
- NSW state sporting organisations
- incorporated, community-based, not-for-profit sporting organisations (clubs and associations whose primary purpose is to organise sporting activities/deliver sport programs) and organisations providing sport and recreation programs that benefit the community, such as PCYCs, YMCA and YWCA
- educational organisations (such as schools, TAFEs and universities) in conjunction with local councils and local or state sporting entities
- private enterprises.

Q Can organisations make a joint application?

A Yes. Project nominations involving partnerships of eligible groups are encouraged.

Q What is a regional local government area?

A All local government council areas outside of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, including Lord Howe Island and the Unincorporated Far West.

The list of eligible areas can be found on the Regional Growth Fund web page at nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/regional-growth-fund-eligibility.

Q Are Registered Training Organisations considered to be an educational organisation?

A Yes.

Q Who cannot apply?

A Individuals, groups of individuals and unincorporated organisations cannot apply. NSW Government departments and agencies, other than schools, universities and TAFEs making a submission in conjunction with an eligible entity, as described above, are also ineligible.

FINANCIAL CO-CONTRIBUTION

Q Do applicants need to make a co-contribution?

A Yes. Projects will only be considered where there is a minimum financial co-contribution towards the project of 25 per cent of the total grant amount, unless financial hardship can be demonstrated. Projects with greater financial co-contribution will be considered favourably.

Q What is a financial co-contribution?

A Financial co-contributions are cash or other committed funding sources. Financial co-contributions can come from council, partner organisations or other external funding sources. Co-contribution amounts must be confirmed before a detailed application or business case is submitted.

An exemption from the minimum 25 per cent co-contribution may be granted where a project is located in a disadvantaged area of NSW. Non-financial contributions, such as land, lease of land, or asset maintenance, may be considered as part of the exemption process

Q Can other government funding sources be used as a financial co-contribution?

A Yes. Funding awarded under other government funding programs can be used as committed funding for RSIF project applications. This funding must be for separate components of the project than requested under RSIF.

Q Can non-financial contributions be counted towards the co-contribution requirement?

A No. Projects will only be considered where there is a minimum financial co-contribution towards the project of 25 per cent of the total grant amount, unless financial hardship is demonstrated.

An exemption from the minimum 25 per cent co-contribution may be granted where a project is located in a disadvantaged area of NSW. Non-financial contributions, such as land, lease of land, or asset maintenance, may be considered as part of the exemption process

Q What if I am unable to confirm the 25 per cent financial co-contribution?

A Projects will only be considered where there is a minimum financial co-contribution towards the project of 25 per cent of the total grant amount, unless financial hardship can be demonstrated and an exemption is granted.

Applicants must submit a [request for exemption](#) as part of their EOI or detailed application.

Q What is considered 'financial hardship'?

A An exemption from the minimum 25 per cent co-contribution may be granted where a project is located in a disadvantaged area of NSW. The starting point for measuring disadvantage for this fund is the [Socio-Economic Index for Areas](#) (SEIFA), published by the ABS. Other considerations may be:

- impact of significant industry decline or business closure
- recovery from a significant natural disaster
- significant recent change in population or community demographics
- other exceptional circumstances.

Q What are the grounds for exemption from the 25 per cent financial co-contribution?

A An exemption from the minimum 25 per cent co-contribution may be granted where a project is located in a disadvantaged area of NSW. Applicants must make a [request for exemption](#) as part of their EOI or detailed application. The starting point for measuring disadvantage for this fund is the [Socio-Economic Index for Areas](#) (SEIFA), published by the ABS. Other considerations to demonstrate disadvantage or financial hardship may be:

- impact of significant industry decline or business closure
- recovery from a significant natural disaster
- significant recent change in population or community demographics
- other exceptional circumstances.

Q How do I seek an exemption from the 25 per cent financial co-contribution?

A Applicants, as part of their EOI or detailed application, need to complete the financial [hardship form](#). Applicants need to explain why they are unable to provide the minimum financial co-contribution of 25 per cent.

Applicants should attach evidence of the value of any non-financial contributions that they are providing towards the project such as land, lease of land, or asset maintenance.

APPLYING

Q How does an organisation lodge an application?

A There are two stages in the application process.

1. Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI).
2. If shortlisted, develop a detailed application (project plan and budget) or business case for assessment for final funding decisions.

Q Can applicants submit applications for more than one project?

A Yes.

Q Will applicants be required to identify their project as a sports hub or a regionally significant sporting facility when applying?

A Yes. New applicants submitting an EOI, and previous applicants proceeding to the detailed application/business case stage, will need to indicate if the project is a sports hub or a regionally significant sports facility.

Q Can the budget be amended during the application process?

A Yes. Updated quotes or costings may be provided, or budget line items added.

Q Will assistance be available to support the preparation of business cases?

A Applicants whose projects are shortlisted during the EOI stage will be invited to submit a detailed application (project plan and budget) or business case for consideration.

The Office of Sport may provide support for the preparation of a business case including advice on technical studies, concept plans, designs and initial approvals.

Q Can I use an existing business case on the project?

A Yes, however previous business cases need to cover all sections contained in the RSIF business case template. The template is available at nsw.gov.au/regionalssportsinfrastructure

Q What criteria apply to the assessment of applications?

A EOIs and detailed applications/business cases that are eligible and comply with the application requirements will be assessed against the fund's objectives, project types and three assessment criteria – strategic alignment, affordability, and deliverability.

Q What if my project doesn't meet the objective of the fund?

A Projects seeking funds of less than \$1 million, more than \$10 million and/or projects that are not the focus of the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund will be encouraged to consider an application under another program such as the Stronger Country Communities Fund, which has \$100 million of funding available for smaller sport and active recreation projects. The Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Office of Sport can provide guidance to applicants on suitable funding programs.

Q What criteria is used to determine whether a facility is equipped to hold regional, state or national competitions?

A State sporting organisations have facility standards for the hosting of competitions. There are different standards for competitions held at the regional, state and national championship levels. Applicants should contact their relevant state sporting organisations to find out the relevant facility standards.

Details of the NSW state sporting organisations can be found on the Office of Sport [website](#).

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS

Q Why have the guidelines and criteria changed from those in 2017?

A After the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund was launched in 2017, feedback indicated its criteria were too strongly focused on economic benefits, without fully recognising community benefits or other merits of regional sport infrastructure projects.

To ensure projects are assessed on the full range of benefits they bring to regional communities, the NSW Government revised the grant criteria for the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund. New program guidelines were released in March 2018 and EOIs under these guidelines will be accepted.

Q Can previous applicants submit an EOI and a detailed application or business case under the new guidelines?

A Previous applicants who wish to proceed with their original proposal can opt to proceed directly to the detailed application/business case phase. The applicant can amend the funding requested and the project co-contribution to meet the requirements in the current program guidelines. Detailed business cases for applications from previous applicants are required by 5pm on 4 May 2018.

Previous applicants wishing to revise the scope of their original project submission or to submit a new project for consideration should submit an EOI and proceed through the two-step process. EOIs under the new guidelines are required by 5pm on 4 May 2018.

Q Can previous applicants amend elements of their project from their EOI?

A Yes, but the project scope or intent of the project is expected to remain the same.

Q Do previous applicants need to get new or revised letters of support in addition to the letters supplied as part of their EOI?

A If the applicant's previous letters of support, supplied as part of their EOI, were from state sporting organisations these will be accepted as part of their detailed application or business case.

If the letters of support were from local clubs and/or associations, the applicants can use these as evidence of community support of the project. The applicant will also be required to include a new letter of support from the relevant state/national sporting organisation.

FUNDING

Q What is the total program funding?

A A total of \$100 million has been made available for eligible projects under the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund.

Successful projects under the 2017 guidelines will receive funding from this \$100 million.

Up to \$50 million will be available for projects from previous applicants who opt to resubmit projects and proceed directly to step two, the detailed application/business case phase.

The balance of \$100 million, less funding already committed to projects under the previous guidelines and up to \$50 million allocated for previous applicant resubmissions, will be available for new applications under the 2018 guidelines.

Q How much funding is available for projects?

A The fund provides grants of \$1 million to \$10 million for regional sport hubs and regionally significant sport facilities.

Q Will all applications receive funding?

A No. The application process is competitive. It is anticipated there will be multiple applications competing for the funding available.

Successful applications will be those that best meet the objectives of the program and the assessment criteria, provide a cost-effective budget, and can demonstrate the applicant has the capacity to deliver the project and maintain the infrastructure.

TIMING

Q When are applications due?

A EOIs are due at 5pm on 4 May 2018.

The detailed application/business case phase is expected to commence in mid-June 2018 and close at the end of August 2018.

Detailed applications/business cases from previous applicants opting to proceed to step two are due at 5pm on 4 May 2018.

Q How long do applicants have to start and complete a project?

A Funding should be expended and the project completed within three years of the date formal funding deeds are signed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Q How do successful applicants acknowledge the funding when projects are underway?

A All successful applicants will receive detailed information about how they must acknowledge NSW Government funding for infrastructure projects. Projects funded by the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund will typically require a statement of funding acknowledgment in the applicant's annual reports and media releases; and a statement and the NSW Government logo included on building signage, related websites and invitations, and other funding-related materials.

Successful applicants will receive full guidelines, logo and signage template files.

REPORTING

Q Do successful applicants need to report on the delivery of their project?

A All successful applicants will receive detailed information about requirements to report on the implementation and success of their project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

nsw.gov.au/regionalssportsinfrastructure