



**REGIONAL**  
SPORTS  
INFRASTRUCTURE

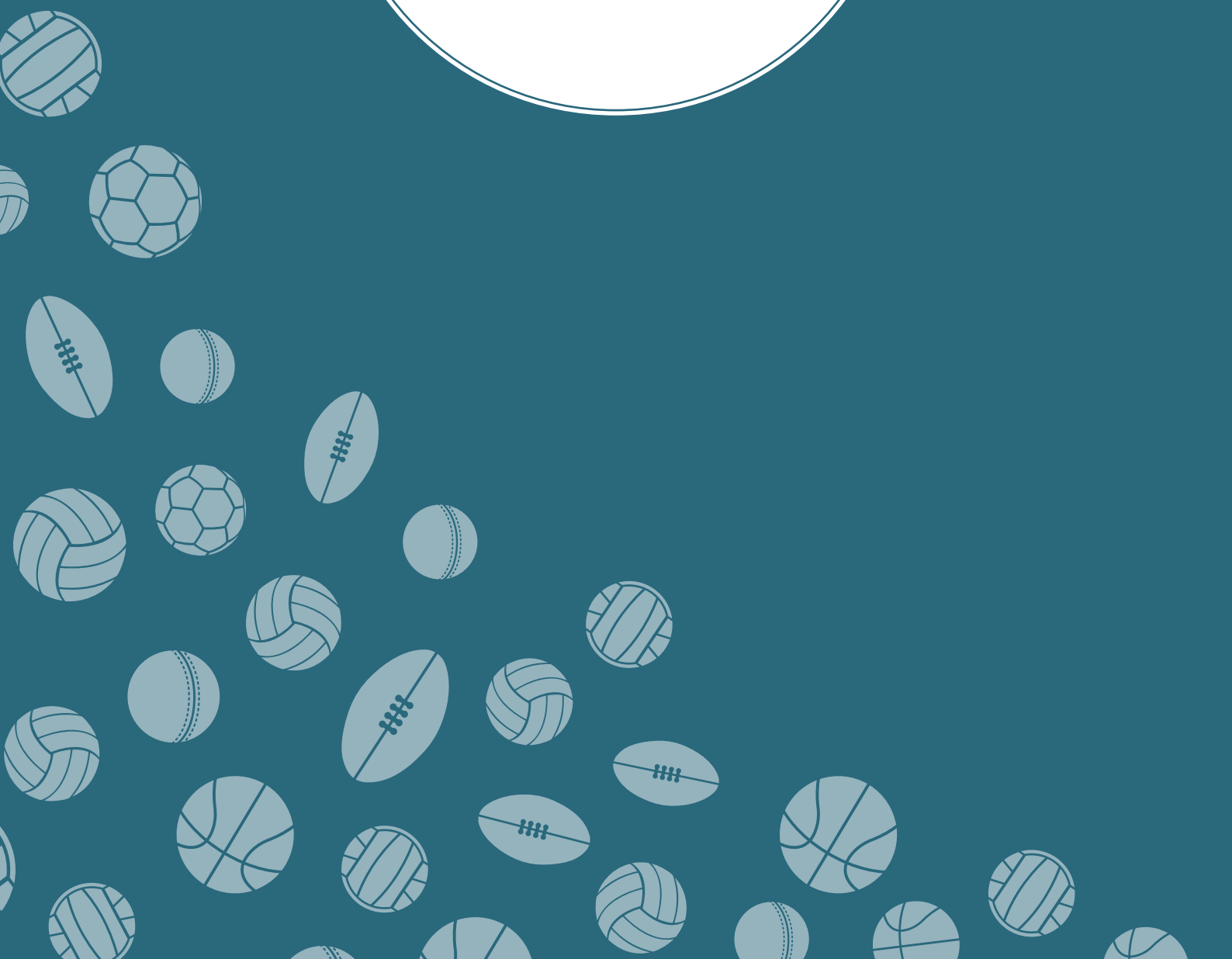
**Fund guidelines  
2018**

# WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Have questions about this fund?  
Get in touch with the Office of Sport.

Email: [grantsunit@sport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:grantsunit@sport.nsw.gov.au)

Phone: 13 13 02







## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER

After six years of sound economic management, NSW is the nation's strongest economy. Our regions played 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 \$80.1 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 has been made available to the regions, through the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund to support regional sport hubs and regionally significant sport facilities. The NSW Government has also made an additional \$100 million available for smaller, local sports and active recreation projects through Round 2 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund. This funding will build and improve regional 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, livable 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 and the additional \$100 million available through the Stronger Country Communities Fund will assist regional communities to develop facilities for sports to thrive.

**The Hon Stuart Ayres**  
Minister for Western Sydney  
Minister for WestConnex  
Minister for Sport

# GUIDELINES

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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 Fund

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 larger sporting facilities that deliver the best regional 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.

Smaller sport and active recreation projects may be eligible for the **Stronger Country Communities Fund**. \$100 million has been made available for these types of projects in Round 2 (which opens in March and closes in May 2018).

## Eligible applicants

Funding for the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund 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 those 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.

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 and substantiated with evidence e.g. 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 recreation.

## Available funding

**Funds allocated with the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund will be provided in two categories:**

- regional sport hubs
- regionally significant sport facilities.

The Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund provides grants between \$1 million and \$10 million for regional sport hubs or regionally significant sport facilities.

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 favorably.

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

## Funding for smaller projects

Projects seeking funds of less than \$1 million and/or projects that are not the focus of the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund will be encouraged to consider an application under the Stronger Country Communities Fund or other relevant grant programs. Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 2 has \$100 million of funding available for smaller sport and active recreation projects. Round 2 opens in March and closes in May 2018. The Office of Regional Development and the Office of Sport can provide guidance to applicants on suitable funding programs.

Projects that are more suitable for other NSW Government programs may be referred to those programs.

Applications that agree to be referred will be subject to the full assessment criteria of the program to which they are referred. Applicants may need to update their application for the referred program.

There are a range of funding programs that support local sport and active recreation projects

**Find out more at these websites:**

[Local Sport Grant Program](#)

[Public Recreation Reserves Management Fund](#)

[Stronger Country Communities Fund](#)

[Community Building Partnership Program](#)

[Liquor and Gaming NSW Infrastructure Grants](#)

The referred application will not be given preferential treatment over any other application but will be considered on merit in accordance with the guidelines for that particular program.

## Important dates for 2018

**Expressions of interest due:** 4 May 2018

**Detailed applications or business cases from previous applicants opting to proceed to step two due:** 4 May 2018

**Shortlisted projects notified:** June 2018

**Detailed applications or business cases due:** End of August 2018



## Focus on regional sport hubs and regionally significant sport facilities

The Office of Sport is proposing a sustainable network of regional-level sport and recreation facilities that meet the needs of stakeholders and communities.

This includes regional sport hubs and/or regionally significant sport facilities.

The planning for sport hubs supports local councils and the sport sector to align their objectives and priorities for a common purpose and vision.

The planning also encourages stakeholders to identify priorities that focus on increasing participation, make a contribution to regional and economic growth, deliver sustainable assets that are well used and the design of 'facilities for all'.

### 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
- the location 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.

### 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 and high-quality amenity, management and service levels.

## Regional sport hub model





## Priority for funding

Priority for funding under the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund will be given to proposals which:

- establish regional sport hubs
- enhance or establish regionally significant sporting facilities
- enable multi-use (i.e. can be used by more than one sporting code)
- are aligned with the facility plans of state and/or national sporting organisations
- are financially sustainable and provide infrastructure that enables economic growth
- increase participation opportunities in sport.



# 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 ongoing participation opportunities.

### The strongest proposals will:

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

### Types of projects that could be funded include:

- regional sport hubs
- 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, dressing rooms and grandstands
- facilities classified as Tier 3 stadia under the **NSW Stadia Strategy** (typically facilities with a maximum capacity of 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
- multi-sport, multipurpose facilities
- significant single-sport facilities, which provide benefits to other sports and/or the community.

## 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 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) or through alternative funding sources (such as the Stronger Country Communities Fund, Community Building Partnership Program, or Liquor and Gaming NSW Infrastructure Grants)
- 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
- which 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.



## Two-step process

The Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund is administered by the NSW Office of Sport in collaboration with the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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

### STEP ONE

#### Submit an Expression of Interest by 4 May 2018

Applicants must supply high-level technical and administrative information about the project by 4 May 2018. The proposal must include a realistic budget and identify other funding partners.

Depending on the sports that are proposed to utilise the facility, a letter of support from the relevant state/national sporting organisation or organisations must be included with the Expression of Interest.

To submit an Expression of Interest, go to [sport.nsw.gov.au/clubs/grants/regional-sports-infrastructure](http://sport.nsw.gov.au/clubs/grants/regional-sports-infrastructure).

The NSW Government will review Expressions of Interest against the fund objectives and eligibility criteria outlined in this document, and assessment criteria contained in the fact sheet.

Applicants can seek advice and assistance from the Office of Sport on eligibility criteria, fund objectives, definition of regional sport hubs and regionally significant sport facilities.

### STEP TWO

#### Submit further information

If an Expression of Interest is successful, the applicant will be requested to formally submit a detailed application (project plan and budget) or a business case, based on the scope of the project.

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.

Applicants who submitted Expressions of Interest under the previous Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund program guidelines (published in 2017) can opt to proceed directly to step two. Detailed applications or business cases for these projects must be submitted by 4 May 2018. The project scope is expected to remain the same, but applicants may alter the funding requested and the project co-contribution to meet the requirements in the current program guidelines.

The NSW Government can provide guidance on completing a detailed application. You can contact the Office of Sport at [grantsunit@sport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:grantsunit@sport.nsw.gov.au) or on **13 13 02** for assistance.

The Office of Sport may supply detailed applications to other organisations for eligibility assessment and proposal appraisal. The Office of Sport may consult relevant stakeholders (such as other NSW and federal government agencies, local councils, Members of Parliament, Regional Development Australia, independent experts and external parties).

The information submitted will be assessed against the assessment criteria.

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 funds that have not been spent in accordance with the funding agreement.

Requests for variations or changes to the project may be considered in limited circumstances, and 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, and key performance indicators.

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



## MORE INFORMATION

[nsw.gov.au/regional-sports-infrastructure](https://nsw.gov.au/regional-sports-infrastructure)

### Contact us

**Email:** [grantsunit@sport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:grantsunit@sport.nsw.gov.au)

**Phone:** 13 13 02

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