

Media Release

Expressions of interest called for fixing country roads

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner, Minister for Roads and Freight Duncan Gay and Minister for Local Government Paul Toole today encouraged local councils to submit funding applications for the NSW Government's \$37.5 million Fixing Country Roads program.

"I encourage regional councils to submit Expressions of Interest for the Fixing Country Roads program, a critical State Government funding initiative aimed to help fix local roads and bridges.

"Fixing Country Roads will help address road freight pinch-points or 'last mile' problems and better connect freight facilities such as rail sidings, saleyards, silos, abattoirs, fuel depots and distribution centres to local road networks," the Deputy Premier said.

Minister Gay said the volume of freight was forecast to nearly double over the next twenty years and Fixing Country Roads allowed local councils and industry to prioritise funding for projects to improve local road connections to key intermodal freight sites and hubs.

"Fixing Country Roads will remove 35 million vehicle-kilometres from freight road transport each year allowing more direct connections to move freight from paddock to port more efficiently," Minister Gay said.

Minister Toole said Fixing Country Roads would save NSW taxpayers about \$170 million over the next 20 years by helping to move freight more efficiently not to mention reducing 'wear and tear' on country roads.

"We want regional councils to work closely with local industry to identify projects to help solve transport access issues and increase the State's freight productivity," Minister Toole said.

Fixing Country Road applications must clearly demonstrate how a project will benefit productivity and economic growth by getting goods to their markets faster.

The NSW Government is also looking for well-developed local projects with planning and environmental approvals well advanced so construction can begin in the 2014-15 financial year.

"As freight places significant pressure on local infrastructure the NSW Government has reserved \$37.5 million in the 2014-15 State Budget for the Local Roads and Bridges aspect of the Fixing Country Roads initiative," the Deputy Premier said.

Projects already announced under the Fixing Country Roads program include:

- \$1.5 million to Forbes Shire Council to improve road train access to Red Bend grain silos, a major intermodal terminal for grain in the Central West;
- \$850,000 to Narromine Shire Council to upgrade local intersections to allow higher productivity vehicles to easily travel through the Central West;
- \$458,000 to Walgett Shire Council to help construct a new culvert on Main Road 329 (Burren Junction to Collarenebri Road) to help provide all weather access to the cotton gin and grain silos at Merrywinebone;
- \$450,000 to Bombala Council to upgrade select roads that have deteriorated due to the heavy use of logging trucks; and
- \$550,000 to Junee Shire Council to realign Byrnes Road and give higher productivity vehicles direct access to Harefield Terminal.

Expressions of Interest close 4 August, 2014. Shortlisted proposals will be invited to submit a full application and successful projects will be announced in late 2014.

More information on the [Fixing Country Roads program](#) .

[Expressions of Interest called for Fixing Country Roads \(pdf 173KB\)](#)

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WEBSITE with LINKS

Expressions of Interest from eligible NSW regional councils are now open for funding under the Fixing Country Roads – Local Roads and Bridges initiative.

As part of the 2014-15 Budget, the NSW Government reserved \$37.5 million from Restart NSW to Fixing Country Roads - Local Roads and Bridges, an important initiative to improve our local roads, connect our towns and unlock our economic potential.

With the volume of freight forecast to nearly double over the next 20 years, Fixing Country Roads - Local Roads and Bridges allows local councils and industry to prioritise funding for projects with the aim of improving freight productivity.

Expressions of Interest for funding under Fixing Country Roads - Local Roads and Bridges close 5pm on Monday, 4 August 2014. Shortlisted proposals will be invited to submit a full application and successful projects will be announced later this year.

The Expressions of Interest Guidelines below can be downloaded below.

Councils are required to [apply online](#)

For more information, email freight@transport.nsw.gov.au.