



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

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$200 MILLION TO BUILD STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES

Regional NSW is set to embark on a local infrastructure boom with applications open for the first round of the \$200 million *Stronger Country Communities Fund* announced in the 2017-18 NSW Budget.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, John Barilaro, said the NSW Government is calling on regional communities to nominate infrastructure projects to rebuild and refurbish local facilities.

"This is an exciting opportunity to deliver local infrastructure projects that will improve the lives of people in regional communities and enhance the attractiveness of rural and regional NSW as place to live, work or visit," Mr Barilaro said.

"The *Stronger Country Communities Fund* will build new parks, playgrounds and cycle pathways and refurbish local schools, health facilities, libraries and community centres that grow our local communities.

Mr Barilaro said the fund will support projects between \$100,000 and \$1 million, or higher with financial co-contribution, across 92 local government areas (LGA) in regional NSW, as well as Lord Howe Island and the Unincorporated Far West.

"The 2017-18 NSW budget is about delivering for all communities. Every regional community will have access to these funds, and every regional community will have the opportunity to receive their fair share," Mr Barilaro said.

"The *Stronger Country Communities Fund* will use 'choice-modelling' driven by local communities to ensure investment in projects that support their aspirations."

The *Stronger Country Communities Fund* is part of new funding under the NSW Government's \$1.3 billion *Regional Growth Fund*, designed to improve economic growth and productivity with investment in regional communities.

Constituents and councils in Tranche A of the fund are encouraged to visit www.nsw.gov.au/strongercountrycommunities for more information.

MEDIA: James Jooste 0429 978 036 | Georgina Kentwell 0427 206 308