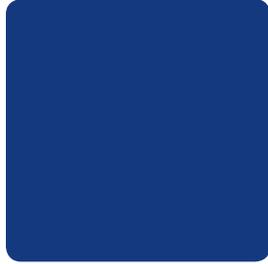




Wine Region Roads upgrade



Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility



Newcastle Airport expansion
Photo supplied by Newcastle Airport

Restart NSW Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund

Expressions of Interest Guidelines

Foreword



The successful growth of the Hunter is a key priority for the NSW Government.

The region has the largest regional population and accounts for the most jobs outside of Sydney. The Hunter is well placed to build on its existing strengths and to capitalise on emerging opportunities.

The NSW Government established the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund (HIIF) in 2011 to enhance the Hunter's infrastructure including transport, education, water and health infrastructure to support economic growth and enhance the liveability of the region.

Since its establishment, the HIIF has provided almost \$400 million in funding to enable more than 30 separate projects across the Hunter to be brought forward. The NSW Government has been able to unlock economic capacity in the Hunter and improve amenity for communities across the region.

The fund also provides the investment tool for the Government's commitment of \$340 million from the proceeds of the lease of the Port of Newcastle towards the revitalisation of Newcastle.

The 2014 State Budget allocated a further \$100 million to the fund. Of this investment, the Government recently committed \$18 million to stages two and three of the expansion of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the John Hunter Hospital Newcastle, \$7 million for Singleton Hospital improvements and \$25 million to start early works on the new Lower Hunter hospital.

We are now opening an Expressions of Interest from the HIIF, where eligible groups from across the eleven local government areas of the Hunter can nominate to share in the \$50 million available for infrastructure projects that meet the criteria for consideration of funding.

Through this initiative the NSW Government will make further investment in infrastructure in the Hunter and continue to drive the economic, social and environmental health of the region.

Rob Stokes MP
Minister for Planning

Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund

Expressions of Interest Guidelines

INVITATION

The Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund is inviting applications through this Expressions of Interest process to fund projects for priority infrastructure that will drive economic growth in the Hunter region. A total of \$50 million is available through the NSW Government's Restart NSW fund.

This initiative will provide

\$50m

for further investments in infrastructure in the Hunter.

This document provides guidelines for applicants and criteria for the allocation of the \$50 million in funding to eligible projects as well as an outline of the process for assessment.

RESTART NSW FUND

The Restart NSW Fund was set up to improve economic growth and productivity in the State and, for that purpose, to fund infrastructure projects that will improve the economic competitiveness of the State.

The objective of the Hunter Infrastructure Investment Fund (HIIF) program is to identify and support regionally or sub-regionally significant infrastructure projects in the Hunter region that relieve infrastructure constraints, open new economic opportunities and drive economic growth making the Hunter a better place to work, live and do business.

IMPORTANT MILESTONE

11 September 2015
Expressions of Interest close.

WHO MAY APPLY

To be eligible, projects must be located in the local government areas of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Port Stephens, Cessnock, Singleton, Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook, Great Lakes, Dungog and Gloucester.

Project nominations are invited from eligible local councils, community groups, not-for-profit industry and business groups, educational institutions and government agencies. Project nominations involving partnerships of these groups or organisations will also be eligible. Projects which demonstrate collaboration across a number of organisations are encouraged.



Neonatal Intensive Care Unit expansion — John Hunter Hospital



Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility

Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund

Expressions of Interest Guidelines

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What projects are eligible?

For a project to be eligible to be recommended and allocated funds, it must be a regional or sub-regional economic or social infrastructure project within the following categories:

1. transport, including public roads, airports and the movement of freight;
2. water and waste water facilities;
3. telecommunication installations;
4. innovation and research establishments;
5. education facilities;
6. hospital and other health facilities and services;
7. emergency services, including law and order facilities; or
8. recreational and sporting facilities as well as major cultural and entertainment venues.

All proposals will also need to demonstrate how they meet the statutory purpose of the Restart NSW Fund, which is to improve economic growth and productivity in the state.

Funding is available for the capital costs of projects and not the recurrent funding requirements. Project funding will not be for planning, feasibility, option analysis, administration, or other general expenses relating to the project. Applicants must demonstrate that other funding is available to operate, maintain and renew the infrastructure.

How are projects assessed and selected?

Projects will be recommended to the NSW Government following assessment of responses against the Program Criteria by Infrastructure NSW and the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund Board. The assessment will occur over two stages.

The first stage will identify a short list of projects after assessment of the Expression of Interest applications.

Projects shortlisted through the first stage will be required to consider and submit more detailed information in relation to an economic assessment of the project and second stage submission.

This second stage will include a business case which will elaborate on the potential economic returns of the project through a cost benefit analysis and demonstrate the proponent's capability and capacity to manage and deliver the project. The second stage submission will need to comply with NSW Government guidelines for economic appraisal and business cases.

Assistance and further information and advice will be provided by the Hunter Development Corporation and Infrastructure NSW to applicants that advance to this second stage.

The Hunter Development Corporation will manage the assessment process on behalf of the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund and Infrastructure NSW. Hunter Development Corporation will have the ability to seek additional information from applicants and may refer projects for specific advice where warranted.

What are the Program Criteria?

The Program Criteria reflect the Restart NSW and Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund objectives and seek to determine:

1. Strategic Assessment

- the degree to which the project delivers regional or sub-regional growth in the Hunter. A regional project can demonstrate a service catchment covering the entire Hunter region whereas a sub-regional project covers two or more local government areas with the Hunter region;
- the degree to which the infrastructure project will improve services or outcomes for the most residents and/or businesses within the region or sub-region;

- the degree to which the project addresses infrastructure that is under stress, not keeping up with demand or is deteriorating;
- alignment with NSW Government priorities including the NSW 2021 Regional Action Plan goals, the NSW Government State Infrastructure Strategy, the Hunter Region Transport Plan, the NSW Freight and Ports Strategy, the Hunter Strategic Infrastructure Plan and the Hunter Economic Infrastructure Plan.

2. Economic Assessment

Demonstrated capacity of investment in this project to improve economic growth and productivity in the Hunter region and the NSW economy.

Examples are:

- **projects that contribute to the Hunter region's growth potential** by increasing the competitiveness of industries such as port related activity, tourism, education, manufacturing, mining, information and communication technology, health services or other growing industries and housing availability and affordability;
- **projects that contribute to transformation and innovation** – the degree to which this project diversifies or creates innovation in the Hunter's employment opportunities;
- **projects that improve transport connectivity** – the degree to which this project increases connectivity between communities within the Hunter, between people and industry and the freight or services they need, or between the Hunter and other markets;
- **projects that achieve a benefit cost ratio of greater than one** – this will be considered in greater detail in the second stage of the assessment.

Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund

Expressions of Interest Guidelines

3. Affordability

- Affordability of the project, taking into account the life-cycle cost impacts, the impact for users and allowing for on-going operating and maintenance requirements.
- The extent of co-funding for the project. Projects which are leveraged with other funding sources will be given preference.

4. Project Delivery

Demonstrated capacity to deliver the project through robust strategies for procurement, project management and risk management.

- Capacity to be delivered by 30 June 2018; estimated project risks and proposed risk management approaches, including the controls to be implemented to ensure the project is deliverable and capable of being completed.
- The proponent response should also detail the current status of the project; an outline of a project program including key milestones; identify key project risks; sufficient level of detail to confirm the costs of the project preferably with independent costing advice; clearly identify the party responsible for the delivery of the project and their capacity to deliver on time and budget.

Expressions of Interest will comprise of two documents.

Firstly, the applicants submission addressing the Program Criteria and secondly the completed application form. The pro-forma application form is attached to this Guideline document or can be downloaded from www.hunterinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au

How will applications progress?

Following an initial assessment, a shortlist of projects will be announced. Shortlisted proponents will then progress to stage 2 and be asked to submit detailed applications which particularly address the economic and business case elements of the project. During the assessment process, the Hunter Development Corporation will also manage initial enquiries regarding projects from eligible organisations.

If you have any questions please email hdc@hdc.nsw.gov.au and note **'HIIF Expressions of Interest'** in the subject line.

Hunter Development Corporation may make available to all applicants questions and answers provided during the application period via the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund website.

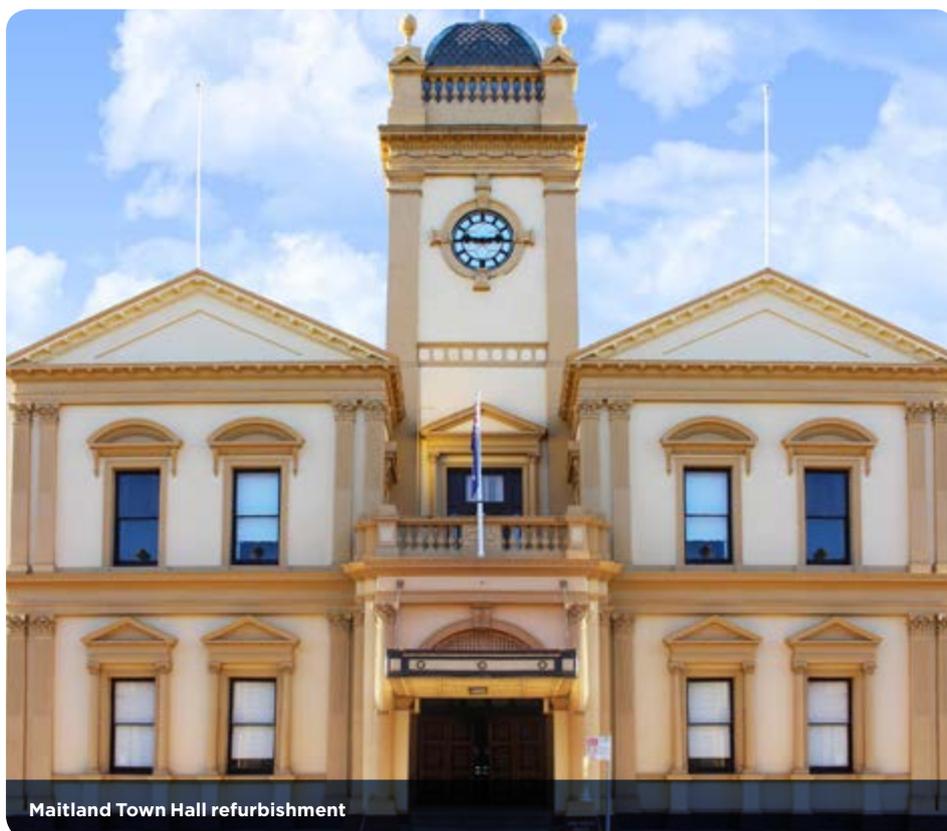
Completed forms and all necessary material must be submitted via the NSW government's eTender system <https://www.tenders.nsw.gov.au>

It is at Hunter Development Corporation and Infrastructure NSW's absolute discretion as to whether any late Expressions of Interest will be accepted.

How will successful projects be funded?

If an application is selected to receive funding, the proponent will be required to enter into a Funding Deed within a fixed timeframe. The Deed will address matters including:

- project scope;
- project delivery;
- financial reporting and payment framework;
- project milestones;
- publicity and public relations protocols; and
- project documentation concerning delivery and completion.



Maitland Town Hall refurbishment

Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund

Expressions of Interest Guidelines

Confidentiality and disclosure

Applicants are advised that any information contained in the application which is considered confidential must be notified to Hunter Development Corporation and Infrastructure NSW with an explanation.

Summary information about the project application, including whether or not the application is successful, will be posted on Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund and Infrastructure NSW's web site and will be used in media announcements unless you advise Hunter Development Corporation and Infrastructure NSW that you do not agree to its publication.

All information provided in the applications may be distributed to other government agencies to assist in the assessment. Except as disclosed, Hunter Development Corporation and Infrastructure NSW will keep all information confidential and secure.

Any request made under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* for access to an application, including information marked confidential, will be determined in accordance with the Act.

Assistance and further information and advice will be provided by the Hunter Development Corporation and Infrastructure NSW to applicants that advance to this second stage.

Hunter Development Corporation and Infrastructure NSW reserve the rights to not accept an application or refuse to evaluate it because the application is lacking in providing responses to the program criteria.

Rights to change, suspend, terminate or otherwise not to proceed with the process and nomination of projects at Hunter Development Corporation and Infrastructure NSW's absolute discretion are reserved.

Proposed process timeline

Expressions of Interest – opening of the process	31 July 2015
Close Expressions of Interest	11 September 2015
Stage 1 assessment and shortlisting	2 October 2015
Stage 2 advice and detailed submissions due	13 November 2015
Stage 2 assessment and referral to Government	December 2015





Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund and Infrastructure NSW Expressions of Interest

Application Form

Where an application is being made by more than one party, each must complete and sign this Form and Declaration in respect of the relevant project.

Lead Applicant Details

Name of Applicant		ABN/ACN
Registered Office Address		
Contact Name	Title	
Telephone No.	Email Address	

Joint Applicant Details

Name of Applicant	ABN/ACN

Project Summary Details

Project Name	Project Location
Project Summary	
Project Cost	Funding Sought



Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund and Infrastructure NSW Expressions of Interest

Declaration

The Lead Applicant/Joint Applicant (strike out inapplicable option and insert applicant name):

- warrants that the information in the application has been prepared on the basis of its own due diligence and advice and is true and accurate;
- acknowledges that neither submitting an application nor being invited to participate further in the Expressions of Interest process results in a binding agreement with any person and does also not deem that any or all elements in an application as submitted are acceptable; and
- acknowledges the Expressions of Interest Guideline document issued in relation to the process.

Executed by its Authorised Person

Name of Authorised Person	
Signature of Authorised Person	
Position of Authorised Person	Date