

# Stronger Country Communities Fund

## Criteria and Submission Deadline

The New South Wales Government has opened the Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF). The fund will invest \$200 million into regional and rural communities over the next two years. Narrandera Shire has been allocated \$1,558,558 from the fund, 50% \$779,279 is available in the 2017-2018 financial year as round 1. While Council has a defined allocation in round one, funds must be obtained through an application and approval process. For round 1 Council must lodge its application between 20 September and 18 October 2017. For an application to be approved it must adequately address the guidelines mandated for the fund.

The Government defines the purpose of the fund as:-

*To provide the kind of infrastructure that improves the lives of local residents – from park-lands to health centres and community halls. The fund will also help regional communities across NSW continue to attract new residents and visitors.*

*To help support and create jobs in local areas, projects will be delivered using local providers wherever possible, based on competitive quotes.*

The guidelines provide the following as examples of suitable projects:-

- **Building new community facilities** (such as parks, playgrounds, walking and cycle pathways)
- **Refurbishing existing local facilities** (such as community centres and libraries)
- **Enhancing local parks and the supporting facilities** (such as landscaping, BBQ's, lighting, disability access, kitchens & toilet blocks)

The SCCF is seeking projects of at least \$100,000 but typically in the range of \$250,000 to \$1,000,000.

Applications must come from Councils. State government organisations and non-government organisations can partner with Councils with a limit of one partner to a project.

Priority will be given to projects which provide local jobs and support local businesses.

### Assessment Criteria

- Project is within an eligible local government area
- Clear definition of the project, purpose, scope, costs, who the project will benefit. Evidence or data on how it will help boost the liveability of the local community
- Alignment to the Council Community Strategic Plan
- Project cost of at least \$100,000 and typically in the range of \$250,000 to \$1,000,000
- Must be commenced within twelve months of approval and completed within two years

- Cost effective – a clearly defined budget with at least two quotes should be supplied
- Details the use of local suppliers and how the project will contribute to local employment and local skills development
- Demonstrate the project is sustainable and able to be operated and maintained beyond the funding period
- Councils must make a co-contribution financially if a proposed project is a planned upgrade of existing infrastructure in a forward program of capital works
- Councils are responsible for consulting with their communities and local MPs to identify projects that best meet the community's needs and aspirations. Evidence of consultation and findings need to be provided.

### Excluded Proposals

- Maintenance that local governments already propose to fund
- Retrospective funding for work undertaken
- Ongoing staff or operational costs
- Marketing, branding, advertising, or product promotion
- Projects less than \$100,000
- Projects with exclusive private benefits
- Maintenance of roads, bridges, water or sewerage
- Projects previously funded under other government programs

### Proposed Projects

SCCF round 1 provides little time to prepare project proposals for submission prior to the deadline on 18 October. Round 2 will open in 2018 - 2019.

To be ready for submission a project needs to be assessed against the criteria, scoped, designed, costed, quoted and consultation take place with the community.

Council has adopted the following projects for exhibition subsequent to consideration for submission at its September meeting. Council will be conducting a series of listening posts to consult on the proposed projects and project assessment criteria.

Submissions on the proposed or alternate projects are to be submitted to council prior to close of business on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September to provide for consideration at Council's September meeting.

Project	Name	Value	NSC	Partner	SCCF
<b>Marie Bashir Park</b>					
1	performance stage	\$ 180,000	\$ 25,000	-	\$ 155,000
2	oval fence and running track	\$ 130,000	\$ 13,000	-	\$ 117,000
3	skate park	\$ 160,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 100,000
4	lights	\$ 53,000	\$ 5,300		\$ 47,700
5	BBQ shelters	\$ 40,000	\$ 4,000		\$ 36,000

6	playground swing	liberty	\$ 40,000	\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000
7	basketball pit		\$ 30,000	-	\$ 5,000	\$ 25,000
<b>Barellan</b>						
8	Sportsground rooms	change	\$ 410,000	\$ 41,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 269,000
<b>Grong Grong</b>						
9	Commemorative Hall improvements (ceiling fans & electrical circuit)		\$ 10,000	\$ 421	-	\$ 9,579
	<b>TOTAL</b>		\$1,053,000	\$ 148,721	\$ 125,000	\$ 779,279

For further details please go to the Stronger Country Communities Fund Program Guidelines at:

[www.nsw.gov.au/strongercountrycommunities](http://www.nsw.gov.au/strongercountrycommunities)