

Regional Growth — Environment and Tourism Fund **Guidelines**

Round Two | Stream Four

Indigenous projects

February 2019



Image: Aboriginal artwork painted near the
Macquarie Regional Library in Dubbo
Photo | Destination NSW



Overview

The NSW Government's \$300 million Regional Growth — Environment and Tourism Fund aims to increase tourist visitation in regional NSW by investing in environment and tourism infrastructure. The objective of the program is to grow and diversify NSW regional economies.

Round One of the program saw \$110 million committed to 32 projects around regional NSW. Round Two has five targeted streams of funding; these guidelines refer to Stream Four, which has up to \$20 million reserved for Indigenous projects.

Indigenous tourism projects

Aboriginal cultural tourism is playing an increasingly significant role in motivating visitors to travel to destinations across NSW. It is important to continually develop Aboriginal cultural tourism experiences in NSW to support the growth of the visitor economy and engage visitors with ancient and contemporary Aboriginal culture, as well as to support the ongoing economic development of the communities of NSW.

NSW is home to Australia's largest Aboriginal population, represented by more than 80 different Tribal Groups – each with a unique story to tell. With such cultural diversity on offer, NSW provides visitors with some of the most vibrant and accessible Aboriginal cultural tourism experiences in the country. Aboriginal tourism is an important feature of NSW's diverse tourism offering, becoming increasingly popular with domestic and international visitors of all ages.

Objective

The objective of Stream Four of the fund is to invest in local infrastructure projects with Indigenous tourism benefits. The program's outcomes are expected to support increased tourism to regional NSW and create social, economic or cultural benefits for Aboriginal communities in regional NSW.

In these guidelines, you will find the program objectives, eligibility criteria, application process and assessment criteria. Please also refer to the FAQs, at www.nsw.gov.au/rgetf/indigenousfaqs

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

Applications are open to eligible Indigenous projects submitted in Round One of the Regional Growth – Environment and Tourism fund. Eligible applicants must be invited to apply.

Eligible locations

Eligible projects must be located in a NSW regional local government area (LGA). A list of eligible LGAs can be found at nsw.gov.au/rgetf

Eligible projects

Projects must:

- be for the construction of new infrastructure and/or the refurbishment or improvement of an existing facility or site
- be focused on Indigenous tourism and drive growth in the NSW tourism visitor economy by increasing overnight visitor expenditure or extending overnight stays
- have the same or similar scope of works to the project submitted under Round One of the Regional Growth – Environment and Tourism Fund, or be for a stage of those works
- have a clear public benefit
- have written consent from the landowner for the project
- show that the project can be operated and maintained once construction is complete, without the need for additional funding from the NSW Government
- show training and employment and/or other benefits to the local Indigenous community.

Ineligible projects

Projects must not:

- deliver exclusively private benefits to a single organisation or individual

- seek funding to purchase or upgrade non-fixed items (e.g. equipment or vehicles)
- seek funding for marketing, advertising or event promotion
- seek funding to cover operational costs (such as employee salaries, repairs or maintenance)
- require any recurrent uncommitted funding from the NSW or Commonwealth governments to support the project post-construction.

Funding

Up to \$20 million is available.

Projects must request a minimum funding amount of \$500,000.

Applicants may be offered partial or staged funding for their project if appropriate. Applicants are encouraged to present options for how their project could be staged. Each stage must be a standalone project and must not be reliant on future funding.

Applicants are encouraged to leverage this funding with funding from other sources, however there is no minimum financial co-contribution required.

Submitting an application

Applicants need to complete a business case, data sheet, and other supporting documents where relevant.

It is preferred that the NSW Government business case template is used but this is not mandatory. The business case template and guidance on how to write a business case can be found at nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/regional-nsw/regional-growth-fund/writing-a-business-case/

Businesses cases, relevant data sheets and other supporting documents should be submitted via email to regionalnsw.business@dpc.nsw.gov.au no later than midnight on 19 April 2019. Late applications will not be accepted.

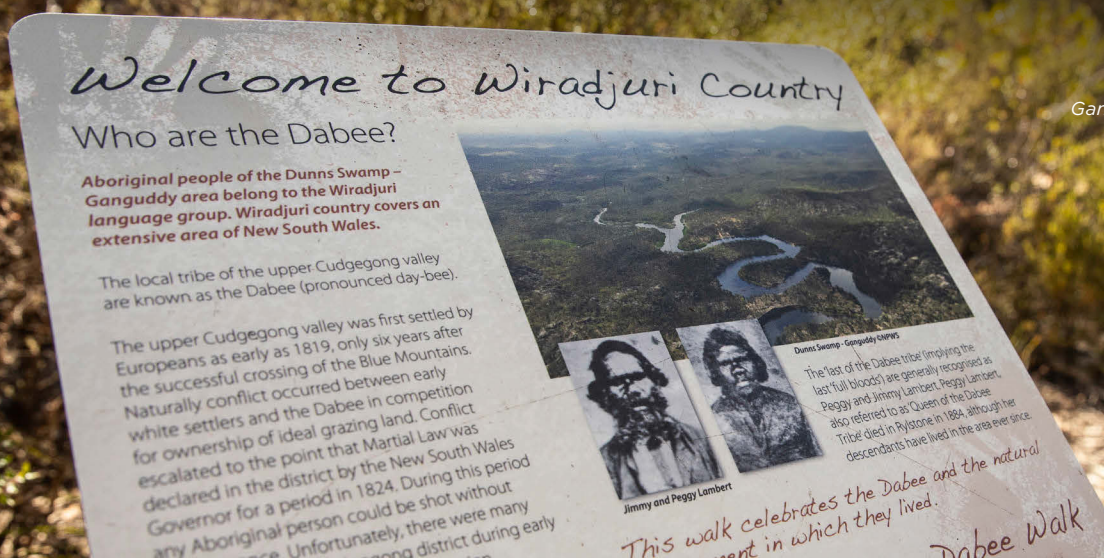


Image: Welcome to Wiradjuri Country sign at Dunns Swamp - Ganguddy in Wollemi National Park
Photo | Destination NSW



Image: Mutawintji National Park, Mutawintji
Mother and daughter enjoying the views at the
waterhole along the Mutawintji Gorge Walk
Photo | Destination NSW

Assessment criteria

Projects will be assessed against five program criteria. In a unique approach, applicants may be invited to present in-person/on-country to the assessment panel on how their project meets the assessment criteria – particularly criteria 1, 2 and 4.

Applicants should define, quantify and provide evidence to support their claims.

Criterion 1: Social, cultural or other positive impact on the Indigenous community (ranked)

Applicants should clearly articulate the social, cultural or other outcomes for the local Indigenous community that the project intends to achieve.

Examples include:

- preservation of cultural heritage and/or connections
- increased participation in Aboriginal cultural activities
- increased local cultural and/or linguistic diversity
- promotion, awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal culture.

Criterion 2: Strategic assessment (ranked)

All applicants need to demonstrate that the project would meet the overall purpose of the fund, which is to provide new or improved environment and tourism infrastructure to grow and further diversify NSW regional economies and increase visitor numbers and tourism spending in regional areas.

Applicants will need to demonstrate how the project would:

- align with the economic, social, cultural or other aspirations of the local Indigenous community
- develop and strengthen partnerships with existing community groups, service providers, businesses, government and other stakeholders
- align with the *NSW Government Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2017-2020*, the *Visitor Economy Industry Action Plan 2030*, and/or local Destination Management Plan.

The geographic location of projects may be taken into consideration to ensure distribution of projects throughout regional NSW.



Image: Macquarie Regional Library, Dubbo
Photo | Destination NSW

Criterion 3: Economic assessment (ranked)

A business case must demonstrate how the project will have a positive impact on productivity, job creation and economic growth in regional NSW. Applications should demonstrate how the project would:

- have the capacity to assist in delivering jobs, training opportunities and/or economic growth
- contribute to increasing visitation and visitor spend in regional NSW
- contribute to increased Indigenous training, employment and/or business outcomes in the visitor economy.

Applicants will need to define, quantify and provide evidence to support their claims. The data sheet to accompany the business case is important to support this.

Criterion 4: Affordability

All applications will need to demonstrate that the project is financially viable by providing:

- an appropriately costed budget to cover the construction
- evidence the applicant organisation can cover ongoing operational and maintenance costs once construction is complete.

Evidence to support project affordability should include:

- construction cost estimates supported by estimation or quotes, and include all margins and overheads, project and construction management costs, and an appropriate amount of contingency for the project stage and risks
- a detailed operating model including any ongoing governance arrangements for the infrastructure
- projected maintenance costs and evidence that the asset owner has the capability and resources to meet these costs over the life of the asset.

Grant funding will not be provided for operating and maintenance costs.

Criterion 5: Project deliverability

All applicants will need to demonstrate that they have the capacity and capability to deliver the project by providing:

- robust strategies for procurement, project management and risk management
- previous project management record and experience/credentials of key personnel
- a detailed and realistic project management plan including risk assessment
- information that demonstrates all appropriate planning, construction, zoning, environmental and other approvals can be in place within 16 weeks of the executed Funding Deed.

Timeline

Applicants should submit their completed business case, data sheet and other supporting documents no later than midnight on 19 April 2019.



Image: Unkya Cultural Eco Tours, Scotts Head
Food sources and medicinal plants shown on an Unkya Cultural Eco
Tour at Gaagal Wanggaan (South Beach) National Park, Scotts Head
Photo | Destination NSW



*Image: Cultural knowledge being shared by a
Bourke Aboriginal Tours guide*
Photo | Destination NSW

More information

www.nsw.gov.au/rgetf

Contact us

For further information, contact the DPC regional team:

regionalsw.business@dpc.nsw.gov.au or **1300 679 673**

The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) is the lead agency for administering the program. Funding will be distributed through a grant. Each application will be checked for eligibility by DPC program staff. Applications with uncertain eligibility assessments will be referred to the assessment panel for a final determination.

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