

### FAQs

11 March 2021

#### [Registration of Interest Eligibility](#)

**1. Will projects that have benefits to supply chains across state or territory borders be considered in this Registration of Interest (ROI)?**

Yes. Projects that have economic and supply chain benefits across state or territory borders are still eligible under the ROI. However, projects must be located in regional NSW and deliver regional supply chain and economic benefits for regional NSW.

**2. If I have already submitted a project through a different grant/funding program, can I still submit an ROI?**

Yes. For a project to be considered, it will need to satisfy all of the [ROI eligibility criteria](#).

**3. Can I fund a road, bridge upgrade or level crossing removal?**

No. A project is ineligible if it involves the delivery of major upgrades to airports, railway lines, roads or seaports. There are existing Government regional transport infrastructure programs that could cover those types of projects.

**4. What if my consortia has members outside NSW or are located in metropolitan Sydney? Can I still submit an ROI?**

Yes, providing that the lead respondent is an eligible entity and the project must be delivered and become operational within regional NSW.

**5. My project is located in the Greater Sydney catchment, can I still submit an ROI?**

No. Projects must be located in one of the 93 regional NSW LGAs or Unincorporated Far West, to be eligible as part of the ROI.

**6. Are projects that have other NSW Government funding committed still eligible?**

Yes. Respondents are encouraged to consider how financial and/or non-financial partnerships between government, industry and/or the private sector can be leveraged to deliver a project that meets the objectives of the ROI.

**7. Would the evaluation criteria consider an electricity services upgrade?**

Yes. The upgrade of utilities is an eligible project in the ROI.

**8. Will projects that address rail freight impediments in non-regional areas that are impacting regional freight be considered as part of the ROI?**

No. Projects must be located in one of the 93 regional NSW LGAs or Unincorporated Far West, to be eligible. In addition, projects that involve major upgrades to roads, rail, seaports or airports are ineligible projects.

### **9. Are state managed assets eligible?**

State managed assets can be eligible providing that the project being put forward is an eligible project as defined under Section 4 of the [ROI Guidelines](#).

### **10. Can submissions be made to support regional utility infrastructure if they relate to improvements in freight?**

Yes. The upgrade of utilities is an eligible project in the ROI. However, projects will still need to satisfy all of the eligibility criteria to be considered, including facilitating supply chain improvements to enable products from regional NSW to be exported to domestic and/or international markets more efficiently.

### **11. Are only small and medium businesses eligible to submit?**

The following entities are eligible to submit a ROI Submission:

- Regional NSW councils, regional Joint Organisations of Councils and the Unincorporated Far West groups
- Private sector businesses
- Cooperatives
- Incorporated, not-for-profit organisations or other organisations that have a public purpose and carry out activities in NSW, including Indigenous Corporations
- Consortia with a lead respondent who is an eligible entity as per the list above.

### **12. Would a proposal to create a centralised transport hub to facilitate freight in and out of a region be considered?**

Yes. A transport hub that facilitates supply chain improvements and enables products to reach domestic and/or export markets can be eligible providing it meets all the project [eligibility requirements](#) under the ROI.

### **[Registration of Interest Administration](#)**

### **13. Can I submit more than one project through this ROI?**

Yes. Each project requires a separate ROI submission and will need to address all eligibility criteria and respond to all questions in the submission form.

### **14. How will the information in the ROI submission form be used?**

All of the information contained in all submissions is strictly confidential and will be treated as Commercial-In-Confidence by the NSW Government. The information will be used to assess projects against the eligibility and assessment criteria to determine whether the proposal can proceed to the detailed proposal stage.

### **15. Will the NSW Government provide support with helping me fill out the ROI?**

The ROI Submission Form is a high-level questionnaire. All the details and instructions on how to complete the ROI are provided in the ROI Conditions and ROI Guidelines documents which can be downloaded from the [eTender website](#). If you would like to discuss these documents with the project team, email [snowyhydrofund@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:snowyhydrofund@regional.nsw.gov.au). Only general information and advice will be provided to maintain fairness and integrity.

**16. Why is this ROI looking at regional supply chain solutions rather than regional airport infrastructure that was explored in the pre-feasibility study?**

The pre-feasibility report looked at 60 regional airport locations, and spoke to producers, industry and other key stakeholders. It brought attention to some gaps in the supply chain that may require Government funding and intervention before a list of regional airports need upgrades.

**17. Will the ROI be prioritising projects that are at an advanced stage of project delivery?**

The ROI will not be prioritising projects that are more developed or are in an advanced stage of the project lifecycle. Eligible projects include those that are both in planning and delivery stages.

**18. What is the value of the projects you are interested in?**

There is no limit on the value of the project that you can submit as part of this ROI or the size of the funding gap. However, projects that have a material proportion of its costs funded through existing means such as private investment or grant funding will be treated with a higher priority for further consideration by Government.

**19. What happens if I miss the ROI submission deadline can I still submit a proposal?**

All submissions must be submitted by 10am Wednesday 24 March in order to be eligible.

**20. Is there any guarantee that the NSW Government will fund my project?**

No. The ROI is seeking to identify the key constraints regional freight and supply chains face and how these could be improved through enabling infrastructure. The ROI provides a pathway for eligible entities to have their projects considered by Government.

**21. When will funding be available to meet the operational deadline of June 2023?**

There is no specific funding attached to the ROI. Projects considered for Government support, will be invited to submit a detailed proposal from April which will inform the design and development of a business case to be put forward for Government consideration.

**22. Are there any limits on project size (or requests for funding assistance)?**

No. There are no limits on the size of the project, or the level of funding assistance requested. Projects that have a material proportion of the cost funded through existing means will be treated with a higher priority for consideration by Government.

**23. How do you submit the ROI for a consortia response?**

A consortia must nominate a lead respondent to submit the ROI Submission Form. The lead respondent must be an eligible entity and is the primary contact for the ROI.

**24. How do you complete an ROI that involves 2 parties such as a Council and a local business?**

A consortia must nominate a lead respondent to submit the ROI Submission Form. The lead respondent must be an eligible entity and is the primary contact for the ROI.

**[Assessment Process](#)**

**25. Are all assessment criteria equally weighted?**

The Department of Regional NSW will not disclose the weightings that are used to assess eligible projects.

**26. How many projects will proceed to the Detailed Proposal stage?**

Each project will be assessed on its individual merit. There is no set number of how many ROI submissions will proceed to the detailed proposal stage.

**27. If my project makes it past the assessment stage, what does the detailed proposal stage involve?**

Further details on the requirements for the Detailed Proposal Stage will be provided to respondents from April 2021. However, it is expected that further details will be sought from respondents including:

- A detailed overview of the project scope
- Sufficient detail on the project need and planning to inform an engineering assessment
- A detailed breakdown of the total project costs and budget
- Quantifiable project benefits to inform a cost-benefit analysis
- Financial statements to determine the entity's financial sustainability.

**28. Considering a project completion date of June 2023, what is the timeframe for assessment of this ROI stage?**

The eligibility check and preliminary assessment will be undertaken in April 2021. All respondents will be notified of the outcome of their ROI after this date via email.