



SMART REGIONAL SPACES

Ready Set Go!



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



UNSW
SYDNEY

What's this project about?

The *Smart Regional Spaces: Ready Set Go!* project is a new partnership between the Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW), The University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales (UNSW). Together the Project Team has been awarded a Smart Places Acceleration Program grant from the NSW Digital Restart Fund. Our grant focuses on assisting regional NSW to successfully engage in the smart places race.

The Project Team is seeking to partner with three regional NSW councils. The project will run for 16-months and the aim is to assist the three councils to become 'smart-ready'. The project enables the partner councils to engage with the smart places movement for self-identified local benefits.

Beginning with education and awareness training, the program has been designed to: facilitate partner councils' interaction with smart cities projects; provide opportunities to develop networks and share knowledge with other councils; and to learn from national and international smart places experts. A Draft Smart Places Strategy will be created with input from the local stakeholders and community to help set each council up for smart places and practices in the future.

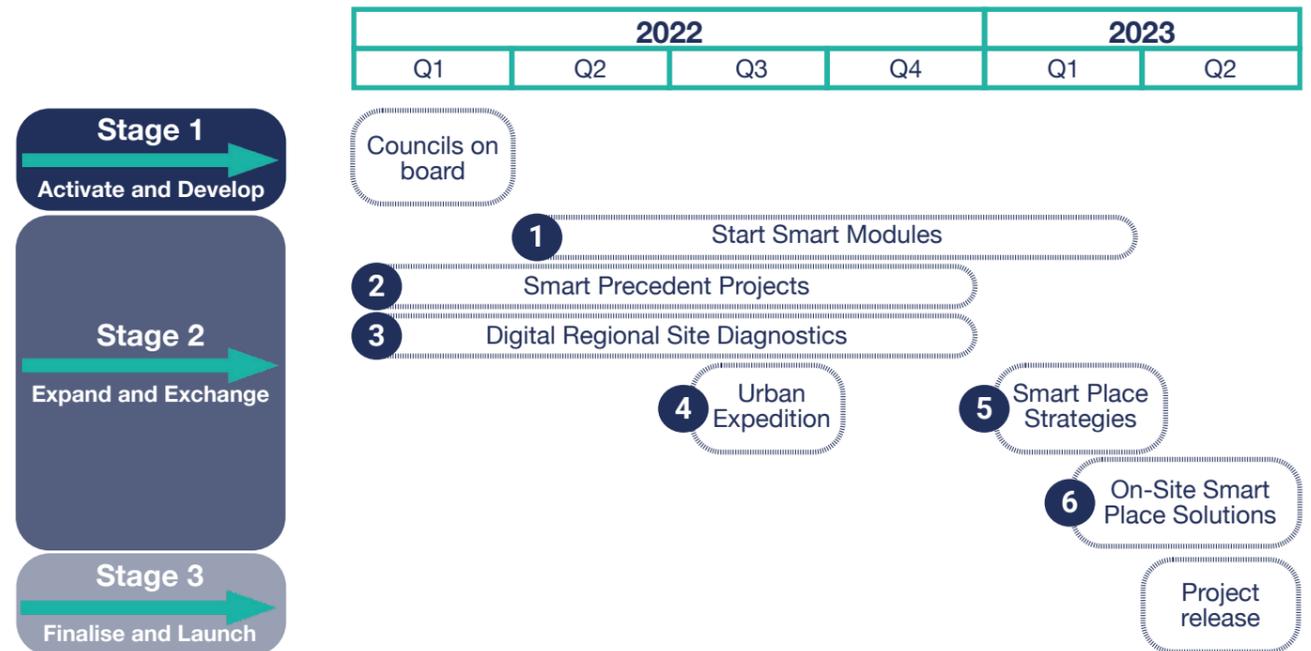
What are some of the benefits for the Council?

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Building digital capabilities Enables smart capacities and digital literacy in the regions. The partner councils have the opportunity to pilot a range of digital resources and emerge as smart place leaders in NSW.
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Exchanging knowledge Facilitates interaction and creates a knowledge network amongst smart regional and urban councils with global smart cities, planning, technology and governance experts.
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Accessing digital resources Provides early and free access to educational and training modules and digital resources giving the council a head start in the smart places race.
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Creating a Smart Places Strategy Allows for each partner council to be prepared for a smart future.
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Accessing Digital Toolkits Enables councils to use digital place audits and other resources in order to start or manage locally identified smart projects with expert help.
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Collaborating and connecting Creates effective and relevant associations that extends to DRNSW staff, UNSW + The University of Sydney researchers and other regional NSW smart initiatives.

What are the project outputs?

- 1 Start Smart Modules**
 The Project Team will design and develop a series of 12 digital smart places modules aimed to engage regional councils with smart technology and place management.
- 2 Smart Precedent Projects**
 Smart place initiatives with relevance and direct application will be collated from around the world.
- 3 Digital Regional Site Diagnostics**
 Smart place diagnostic tools will be designed and tested in regional NSW. Community consultation will be performed by the Project Team on key local public spaces to test potential sites for smart technology.
- 4 Urban Expedition**
 At the expense of the Project Team, partner councils will visit Greater Sydney to experience smart cities projects, precincts, programs and infrastructure in action.
- 5 Smart Place Strategies**
 A bespoke strategy will be developed with each partner council, shaped by local and state priorities.
- 6 On-Site Smart Place Solutions**
 These custom-designed training sessions will be conducted on-site with the partner council – adopting 'a see one, do one, teach one' – legacy model for technically solving local issues.

Project Timeline



What is the expected council contribution?

The partner councils will work with the Smart Regional Spaces Project Team to pilot a process and a suite of tools and modules that will be created as part of the project and that will be made available post project to all regional councils in NSW. Partner councils will be asked to make an in-kind contribution to the project. Details can be discussed with the Project Team.



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Get in touch

A/Prof Nancy Marshall
E: nancy.marshall@sydney.edu.au

A/Prof Kate Bishop
E: k.bishop@unsw.edu.au

About us



A/Prof Nancy Marshall
The University of Sydney



A/Prof Kate Bishop
UNSW Sydney



Dr Christine Steinmetz
UNSW Sydney



Phil Roy
Digital Connectivity, DRNSW



Prof Robyn Dowling
The University of Sydney



Dr Sophia Maalsen
The University of Sydney



Dr Yuan Wei
UNSW Sydney



Eshita Dutia
The University of Sydney

Our Team specialises in various aspects of the built environment, especially the relationship between people and place, + smart cities. We are a team of researchers and practitioners with multidisciplinary expertise in: planning, landscape architecture, geography, architecture, engineering, education and environmental psychology.

Three of the core team have successfully completed two Smart Cities and Suburbs grants (total value of \$1.5 million in 2017-2020) together with Georges River Council and Street Furniture Australia. To date our projects have received awards at both national and state levels and have been recognised by the Wall Street Journal (2018) and World Bank (2020) as industry best practice.

Our team believes in digital equity and accessibility. The ethos behind this project addresses the digital divide and wants to see the smart cities discussion pivot to rural and regional areas.