



**Victor Dominello**  
Minister for Customer Service

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **\$4 MILLION COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST**

Thirty-two community organisations in NSW have been awarded more than \$4 million, to fund local projects that build or upgrade facilities across sport and recreation, arts and culture, disaster readiness and essential community infrastructure.

Minister for Customer Service Victor Dominello said the NSW Government's Infrastructure Grants program funds important projects across the state to support community organisations that work tirelessly to create resilient, healthy and connected communities.

"The projects we're funding will boost equity, social inclusion and participation – making a real difference in people's lives across NSW," Mr Dominello said.

"Since 2015, the NSW Government has funded over 380 community projects worth \$58 million under the Infrastructure Grants program."

The program also targets projects that support drought-affected communities and youth, mental health and domestic violence services and, for the next round opening in March 2020, was expanded to accommodate bushfire impacted communities.

A significant number of grants in this round have been allocated to community organisations in bushfire impacted communities.

The grants are made possible by the Clubgrants Category 3 Fund which re-invests profits from registered clubs' gaming machines into community infrastructure projects across three key areas:

- Arts and Culture;
- Disaster Readiness and Community Infrastructure; and
- Sport and Recreation

A new round of applications for funding opens on 16 March 2020. Learn more at [responsiblegambling.nsw.gov.au/funding-opportunities/infrastructure-grants](https://responsiblegambling.nsw.gov.au/funding-opportunities/infrastructure-grants).

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## 2020 INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

### ARTS AND CULTURE GRANTS:

#### **Greater Sydney | Katoomba, construction of wheelchair-accessible studio - \$50,000**

Varuna is Australia's only artist residency devoted exclusively to literature. Once the home of the renowned writer, Eleanor Dark, the residence was gifted to the Australian writing community in 1989. The Eleanor Dark Foundation will use their grant to build a separate studio with wheelchair access so that more members of the community can participate in the writing programs run by the foundation.

#### **Hunter | Maitland, upgrade council gallery's climate control system - \$200,000**

Maitland City Council runs the Maitland Art Gallery, a feature in the cultural landscape and host to more than 25 exhibitions showcasing thousands of art instalments. The gallery welcomes upwards of 60,000 visitors each year who flock to see its free curations. The council will use its grant to contribute to a new humidity control system, an essential appliance to ensure artworks are preserved for future generations.

#### **Mid North Coast | Coffs Harbour, Key City Farm upgrade - \$83,100**

Key Employment Association Limited are using their funding to upgrade Key City Farm, a youth hub that supports young people through sport and health programs. In this interesting project to take the farm off-grid, solar power and harvested water will generate energy and create a unique, environmentally friendly space for young people to tend and enjoy.

#### **New England and North West | Armidale, upgrade heritage listed church - \$53,028**

Age and drought have taken their toll on the 236-year-old heritage Black Mountain Church but it is now set for a much-needed restoration to preserve its connection to local history and allow for expanded community use and enjoyment. The grant will be used for restoration works to ensure the church remains an asset to its community.

#### **Riverina – Murray | Wagga Wagga, fit out of museum exhibition hall - \$76,000**

The Museum of the Riverina is run in partnership with the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society and has more than 20,000 historic objects in its permanent collection. The museum will use its funding to construct a new exhibition hall with a more accessible layout, and build new educational display cases to communicate the region's significant history.

#### **South East and Tablelands | Harden, Country Women's Association hall upgrade - \$50,000**

The diversity of activities run in the Harden Country Women's Association hall is truly impressive, but the early 1960s hall is in dire need of an upgrade. This grant will be used to refurbish and modernise the facilities, with a new kitchen, bathroom and paintwork inside and out.

#### **Sydney | Camden, council auditorium upgrade - \$93,528**

This grant will contribute funding to upgrade audio visual equipment in Camden City Council's Civic Centre Macarthur Auditorium. The centre is the community's largest facility and hosts a variety of events that encourage participation in the community's cultural life. The upgrade will improve the venue's capacity to deliver new and improved events to the community and re-energise the council's programming schedule.

### DISASTER READINESS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS:

#### **Greater Sydney | Winmalee, fit out of disaster-ready community hall - \$12,100**

Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre is the largest provider of crisis support in the region and will use its grant to install new audio visual and communication equipment for use in emergencies when the centre becomes a disaster relief point for the community.

**Central West and Orana | Wurrinya, upgrade of community hall - \$60,160**

Wurrinya Progress and Sports Association provides an incredibly comprehensive suite of community activities and delivers significant social, educational and health benefits. The funding will be used to upgrade the hall, which is the central meeting place for these activities and a disaster relief point during floods. Renovations will include insulation, new flooring, electrical upgrades, a rain tank, air conditioning and a new kitchen.

**North Coast | Goonellabah, fit out disaster-ready community hub - \$65,156**

The not-for-profit Northern Rivers Community Gateway is using its funding to enhance its ability to provide disaster relief. Its project to fit-out a disaster-ready community hub will allow for better provision of vital community services such as food and medical supplies, laundry and shower facilities in the event of a natural disaster.

**Illawarra – Shoalhaven | Ulladulla, fit out of Marine Rescue base - \$23,000**

This project aims to ensure Marine Rescue Ulladulla can deliver the highest standard of emergency response to the local community when they are in trouble along the coastline and in high risk inland waters. The funding will be used to install a solar power system and smart meter to reduce the cost of Marine Rescue Ulladulla's power usage and carbon footprint.

**Illawarra – Shoalhaven | Batemans Bay, redevelopment of Marine Rescue base - \$200,000**

This project will allow Marine Rescue Batemans Bay to double its base space so that it can improve its search and rescue capabilities. The new space will be used for training and equipment storage and will be able to accommodate more volunteer staff, all of whom are dedicated to keeping the community safe on the water.

**Illawarra – Shoalhaven | Tathra, construction of training room for Rural Fire Brigade - \$166,400**

Tathra Rural Fire Brigade is using its funding to build a dedicated training room, so its volunteers are provided with up to date, fire-ready skills. The training room will allow the brigade to utilise digital technologies in its training programs and to set aside space to share new ideas and engage in ongoing skills development.

**Mid North Coast | Manning Point, purchase of bowling club generator - \$42,500**

In the recent fires Manning Point was cut off from the world with no power, no phone signal and no way to get on or off the island. In times of crisis the community gather at Manning Point Bowling Club which, until now, has not had an alternative power supply. This grant will be used to purchase a generator so the Bowling Club can provide relief to the community when needed.

**North Coast | Ballina, fit out of Harmony House - \$79,785**

The St Vincent De Paul Society is using their grant to contribute to the refurbishment of the Harmony House facility, enabling the society to help more people when they need it most. They are undertaking an upgrade that includes constructing two bathrooms, separate toilets, a laundry and equipment, a medical and triage suite, a staffroom, community space and a consulting room.

**Sydney | Manly, install fall-safe windows at Drummond House - \$82,775**

Since 1924 Royal Far West has made it their mission to ensure country children are not disadvantaged when it comes to access to health services. Royal Far West is using their grant to install fall-prevention windows screens on all windows in the three-storey Drummond House, improving safety and ventilation and providing a better experience for the families they accommodate.

**Sydney | Fairfield West, refurbishment of community hub kitchen - \$17,094**

In 2019, Fairfield West Public School served more than 21,200 breakfasts to some of the state's most disadvantaged children. Fairfield West Public School is using their grant to

renovate the existing kitchen so the school's 765 students can continue to be catered for and the more than 30 programs run from the premises can be delivered effectively.

### **SPORT AND RECREATION:**

#### **Central West and Orana | Cobar, construction of race club amenity building - \$253,000**

Cobar Miners Race Club has operated since the 1950s and is supported by dedicated volunteers. The club hosts two flagship events a year and smaller community events in between. With the grant, instead of portaloos, members and guests will now have access to a new amenities block, making visits a much more enjoyable and accessible experience.

#### **Central Coast | Holgate, replacement of equestrian arena - \$142,675**

Matcham Valley Pony Club is using their grant to build a new, competition-ready arena for the Central Coast's young riding enthusiasts. The new arena will replace the existing one that has deteriorated naturally due to age and frequent use.

#### **Central West and Orana | Narromine, construction of community sport facility at Cale Oval - \$130,000**

Narromine Shire, population 7,000, is building a new sports facility with a multipurpose court, outdoor exercise station, pathways, netball club amenities, outdoor furniture and night-time lighting. The grant will contribute to a facility that enables a close community to come together and participate in a range of physical and social activities.

#### **Central West and Orana | Ungarie, redevelopment of netball courts - \$219,380**

The Ungarie Sport and Recreation Co-Operative are using the grant to build two new netball courts, install lighting, and remove safety hazards around the existing single court. This update will not only extend play into the evening but allow for increased participation and a better playing experience.

#### **Greater Sydney | Bowral, construction of garden at Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens - \$236,523**

This project will involve the construction of a one-kilometre pathway through the garden, opening up the site and providing new perspectives among the flora and fauna. The path will allow for wheelchair access and include seating and educational signage so visitors can learn about the horticulture on display.

#### **Greater Sydney | Old Toongabbie, upgrade of Gallery Gardens Park - \$181,860**

This grant will be used to contribute to City of Parramatta Council's project to redevelop the Gallery Gardens Park. The upgrade aims to improve connectivity between areas and include refurbishment to the tennis courts and playground, increasing visitation, usage and overall community well-being.

#### **Hunter | Boolaroo, renovation of outdoor area at bowling club - \$105,202**

Boolaroo Sports Club is a community mainstay and at almost 100 years old, it has stood the test of time, bringing the community together across generations to participate in sports and social activities. The project to redevelop the outdoor area is aimed at creating a viewing space for spectators watching bowls, cricket and soccer as well as a playground for the younger guests.

#### **Hunter | Branxton, new community hub in Miller Park - \$100,000**

With this grant, Cessnock City Council is realising their vision of a cohesive and welcoming community supported by infrastructure and services that meet the community's needs. Their grant will contribute to a new community hub, designed with leisure and connectedness in mind and will include picnic and BBQ areas and accessible pathways to enhance and encourage social activities.

**Hunter | Gateshead, installation of lights on Hunter Sports High School field - \$150,000**

Hunter Sports High School depends on being able to provide good quality sporting facilities to accommodate their budding athletic students, but the community also benefits from the grounds. Hunter Sports High School is using their grant to install new lighting on the playing fields which will allow for extended use outside of school hours, providing the school and local community clubs with access in the evenings.

**Illawarra - South Coast | Eden, upgrade to Barclay Street Soccer Pavilion - \$144,645**

This project to redevelop Eden Soccer Club's Barclay Street pavilion will bring the building up to code and deliver a modern, safe and accessible facility for users of all ages and genders. Funding will be used to improve wheelchair access, refurbish the change rooms, club room and kitchen, and build new toilets and storage.

**North Coast | Casino, installation of netball field lighting - \$237,388**

Grant funding is being used to develop shared sporting activities for Casino's community, still recovering from last season's bushfires. Casino Netball Club using their funding for new lighting to allow for extended playing time and increase participation among the netball circuit.

**Northern Tablelands | Dorrigo, upgrade to field lighting at recreation reserve - \$232,056**

Dorrigo Highlanders Football Club will use their funding to upgrade the field lighting at Dorrigo Recreation Reserve which will allow competition level games to be played safely at night. The installation of new poles, a switchboard and a control system will also enable a wider variety of sports, expanding the capacity of the reserve.

**North Coast | Tweed Heads, refurbishment of inclusive playspace - \$300,000**

This grant will contribute funds to the creation of an inclusive playspace in Jack Evans Boat Harbour. The playspace will be an accessible area where local families and visitors can bring their children to play, picnic and BBQ regardless of age, ability or background. The playspace will also include a shared pathway and bike track along with landscaping, fencing and signage.

**Riverina – Murray | Eunanoreenya, accessible facilities build at equestrian centre - \$300,000**

Approved NDIS provider, Belisi Wellbeing and Equestrian Centre, is a unique facility created to facilitate the bond between animals and humans. This is no ordinary riding school – its programs are designed to create concrete physical and mental outcomes, particularly for children and people with a disability. The funding will be used to accommodate patrons with all types of ability, through the construction of accessible facilities that allow for horse riding as well as non-mounted interactions.

**Sydney | Ingleburn, construction of irrigation system at junior rugby league club - \$165,000**

This project to construct a new irrigation system at the Ingleburn RSL Tigers Junior Rugby League Football Club, will extend playing time by making it less likely games will be cancelled due to wet grounds. The funding will be used to provide a better, larger playing surface for rugby league, cricket and school sports events.