

## 8.4 Acceptance of NSW Government Grants

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT  
TO 19 OCTOBER 2022 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400098, GRA600058

### RECOMMENDATION

**That Council:**

1. **receive the report by the Director Development on the Acceptance of NSW Government Grants;**
2. **if successful, accept the following grant funding from the below NSW Government grant funding bodies:**

Grant Fund	Project Applied For	Grant Amount Requested
Fixing Local Roads Program Round 4	Coricudgy Rd seal extension 4.65km	\$1,890,900
Fixing Local Roads Program Round 4	Bocoble Rd seal extension 6.4km	\$2,213,200
Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) - Round 5	Kandos Inclusive Adventure Playspace	\$450,000
Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) - Round 5	Victoria Park Gulgong Amenities Upgrade	\$446,599
Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) - Round 5	Glen Willow Netball Precinct Upgrade	\$280,000
Regional Tourism Activation Fund - Round 2	Glen Willow Stadium lighting upgrade	\$2,257,500
Regional Tourism Activation Fund - Round 2	Gulgong Natural History Museum	\$3,000,000
Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund	Master Planning of Urban Release Areas	\$80,000
Resources For Regions - Round 9	MWRC Solar Array	\$4,500,000
Resources For Regions - Round 9	Glen Willow Centre of Excellence	\$5,500,000
Resources For Regions - Round 9	Glen Willow Stadium lighting upgrade	\$3,010,000

3. **amend the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Budgets in accordance with the adjustments listed in the Financial Implications section of this report; and**
4. **if successful, authorise the General Manager to finalise and sign the funding agreements with the NSW Government.**

### Executive summary

Council has applied to a number of funding bodies for a range of projects identified in the Operational Plan and those that will support the overall goals of the Community Plan.

The NSW Government funding bodies identified in this report are:

- Fixing Local Roads Program – Round 4
- Stronger Country Communities – Round 5
- Regional Tourism Activation Fund – Round 2

- Resources for Regions – Round 9
- Regional Housing Strategic Planning

It is recommended, if successful in any of the above applications for funding, that Council accepts the grant funding, and authorises the General Manager to sign the funding agreements and amend Council's Budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

## Disclosure of Interest

Nil

## Detailed report

### Stronger Country Communities

The total funding available for projects allocated to Mid-Western Regional Council is \$1,176,599. Funding will be allocated to projects that meet the program assessment criteria which includes community support, and viability and alignment to the program objectives. The following projects were identified as relevant and meeting the criteria of the grant fund:

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| • Kandos Inclusive Adventure Playspace    | \$450,000 |
| • Victoria Park Gulgong Amenities Upgrade | \$446,599 |
| • Glen Willow Netball Precinct Upgrade    | \$280,000 |

### Resources for Regions (Round 9)

The total funding available for projects in the Mid-Western Regional Local Government Area (LGA) is \$6,824,206. The Resources for Regions program has run since 2012, providing support to communities across regional NSW impacted by mining. The program will fund infrastructure projects and community programs that help address unique and diverse needs. Projects must be for infrastructure or community programs that support the ongoing prosperity of mining communities by providing economic opportunities, improved amenity and positive social outcomes. The following projects were identified as relevant and meeting the criteria of the grant fund:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • MWRC Solar Array                     | \$4,500,000 |
| • Glen Willow Centre of Excellence     | \$5,500,000 |
| • Glen Willow Stadium lighting upgrade | \$3,010,000 |

The value of the identified projects are above the allocated funding to ensure Council receives full amount of funding should any projects be declined.

### Regional Tourism Activation Fund (Round 2)

The total funding available for projects in NSW is \$150,000,000. Funding will be allocated to projects that meet the program assessment criteria and viability, accelerate the development of unique and high impact tourism and events infrastructure, boost the visitor economy in regional NSW by creating desirable experiences that encourage people to plan and book holidays to regional areas, improve the visitor experience and accessibility and inclusion for people with disability and accessibility requirements, and increase expenditure and create new jobs in the tourism sector across regional NSW. The following projects were identified as relevant and meeting the criteria of the grant fund:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • Glen Willow Stadium lighting upgrade | \$2,257,500 |
| • Gulgong Natural History Museum       | \$3,000,000 |

### Fixing Local Roads Program

The Fixing Local Roads Program aims to fund improvements to local roads that will deliver smoother, safer and more reliable journeys. Councils were invited to submit applications for the next round of

the Program to further support investment in local road improvements. The following projects were identified as relevant and meeting the criteria of the grant fund:

- Coricudgy Rd seal extension 4.65km \$1,890,900
- Bocoble Rd seal extension 6.4km \$2,213,200

### Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund

The Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund aims to support regional councils plan for the delivery of new housing to meet community needs. The following project was applied for as it met the relevant criteria of the grant fund and will assist Council in providing masterplans for Urban Release areas:

- Master Planning of Urban Release Areas \$80,000

## Community Plan implications

Theme	Looking After Our Community
Goal	Effective and efficient delivery of infrastructure
Strategy	Provide infrastructure and services to cater for the current and future needs of our community

## Strategic implications

### Council Strategies

The identified projects support a number of Council strategies as identified in the Community Plan including the effective and efficient delivery of infrastructure. Further, projects above support Council's strategy to enhance walking and cycling networks across the Region. In receiving grant funding for these projects, the goal of an effective and efficient organisation is also supported.

### Council Policies

Nil

### Legislation

Nil

## Financial implications

**Coricudgy Rd Seal Extension 4.65km** In 23/24, set an expenditure budget of \$2,363,625 with \$1,890,900 to be funded by grants and \$472,725 to be funded from the Seal Extension Reserve.

**Bocoble Rd Seal Extension 6.4km** In 23/24, set an expenditure budget of \$2,766,500 with \$2,213,200 to be funded by grants and \$553,300 to be funded from the Seal Extension Reserve.

**Kandos Inclusive Adventure Playspace** In 23/24 set an expenditure budget of \$450,000 to be fully funded by grants.

**Victoria Park Gulgong Amenities Upgrade** In 23/24 set an expenditure budget of \$446,599 to be fully funded by grants.

**Glen Willow Netball Precinct Upgrade** In 23/24 set an expenditure budget of \$280,000 to be fully funded by grants.

**Glen Willow Stadium Lighting Upgrade** In 23/24 set an expenditure budget of \$3,010,000 to be fully funded by grants.

**Gulgong Natural History Museum** In 23/24 set an expenditure budget of \$500,000 to be fully funded

by grants. In 24/25 set an expenditure budget of \$3,500,000 with \$2,500,000 to be funded by grants and \$1,000,000 to be funded from the Capital Program Reserve.

**Master Planning of Urban Release Areas** In 23/24 set an expenditure budget of \$80,000 to be fully funded by grants.

**MWRC Solar Array** The project is currently funded approximately 50% from proposed loan borrowings and 50% from the Capital Reserve. It is not recommended to amend the budget until we are successful in securing the grant funding, at which point the recommended funding mix would be reviewed and amended.

**Glen Willow Centre of Excellence** In 23/24 increase expenditure by \$7,257,848 with \$5,500,000 to be funded by grants and \$1,757,848 to be funded from the Capital Program Reserve.

Budget Year	Operating Performance Ratio	Own Source Revenue	Building & Infrastructure Renewal
2022/23	—	×	—
Future Years	×	×	✓

### Operating Performance Ratio

Increased expenditure on new capital infrastructure does not impact operating performance ratios in the current budget year, but will increase depreciation expenditure in future years, which has a negative impact on the Operating Performance Ratio. Any anticipated income will offset this impact, but at this stage, no income budget variations are recommended.

### Own Source Revenue

Acceptance of external funding such as grants will cause this ratio to decline

### Building and Infrastructure Renewals

Introducing new budgets to construct new infrastructure will increase asset depreciation in future years causing this ratio to decline

## Associated Risks

Should Council not accept the grant funding (if successful) then the above mentioned projects may not be able to proceed or may be delayed as Council will require to source appropriate funding. Project delivery risks exist for each of the identified projects, however these will be managed through the implementation of Council's policies, procedures and project management processes.

ALINA AZAR  
DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT  
11 October 2022

*Attachments:* Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER