

3. RESTART NSW AND REBUILDING NSW

- In 2011, the New South Wales Government established the Restart NSW Fund (Restart NSW) to enable the funding and delivery of high-priority infrastructure projects.
- Of the \$32.9 billion of inflows into Restart NSW, a total of \$22.4 billion has now been committed for identified projects and programs, an increase of 28.0 per cent since the 2017-18 Budget, delivering a strong pipeline of infrastructure projects.
- Restart NSW commitments have been made to 475 local infrastructure projects being delivered by local governments and non-government organisations, of which 139 projects benefitting local communities have already been delivered.
- In June 2014, the Government announced its Rebuilding NSW plan to invest \$20 billion in new infrastructure over 10 years. The successful completion of the electricity network transactions will enable the Government to deliver in full the \$20 billion Rebuilding NSW plan through Restart NSW.
- The Government is investing \$6.0 billion of the \$20 billion Rebuilding NSW plan (30 per cent) in regional and rural projects to ensure benefits are spread across all of New South Wales.

The New South Wales Government established Restart NSW in 2011 to enable the funding and delivery of high-priority infrastructure projects through asset recycling and certain windfall tax revenues. The fund was established to improve the economic growth and productivity of the State. Restart NSW is supported by a record asset recycling program, which has enabled the Government to continue to commit to record levels of infrastructure investment while maintaining the State's triple-A credit rating.

Restart NSW is also the fund for delivering the Rebuilding NSW plan, the Government's plan to invest \$20 billion in new infrastructure funded by the proceeds from the electricity network transactions, Commonwealth Government Asset Recycling Initiative payments, and investment earnings.

This chapter summarises the Restart NSW and Rebuilding NSW projects that have either been committed to or are the subject of a reservation, including projects in regional areas. It also sets out the Restart NSW governance and project selection framework.

Table 3.1: Restart NSW Fund (expected position as at 30 June 2018)^(a)

	Restart NSW (excluding Rebuilding NSW) (\$ billion)	Rebuilding NSW (\$ billion)	Total (\$ billion)	Table reference
Total inflows			32.9	3.5
Commitments	6.7	15.7	22.4	3.2 & 3.4
Reservations	6.2	4.3	10.4	3.3 & 3.4

(a) Reflects inflows forecast to be received into Restart NSW as at 30 June 2018 but not future inflows.

3.1 Overview

Total receipts of \$32.9 billion are expected to be deposited into Restart NSW as at 30 June 2018, as further summarised in Table 3.5.

A total of \$22.4 billion has been committed for infrastructure projects from Restart NSW, including \$15.7 billion for the Rebuilding NSW plan. These projects, summarised in Tables 3.2 and 3.4, have undergone rigorous financial and economic selection processes, supported by robust business cases. Major infrastructure projects being delivered as part of the Rebuilding NSW plan include Sydney Metro City and Southwest and Parramatta Light Rail Stage 1.

As at 6 June 2018, a total of \$9.8 billion has been paid from Restart NSW across around 450 projects to deliver the Government's infrastructure commitments. Payments from Restart NSW are made in a transparent manner and are the subject of an annual independent audit by the State's Auditor-General.

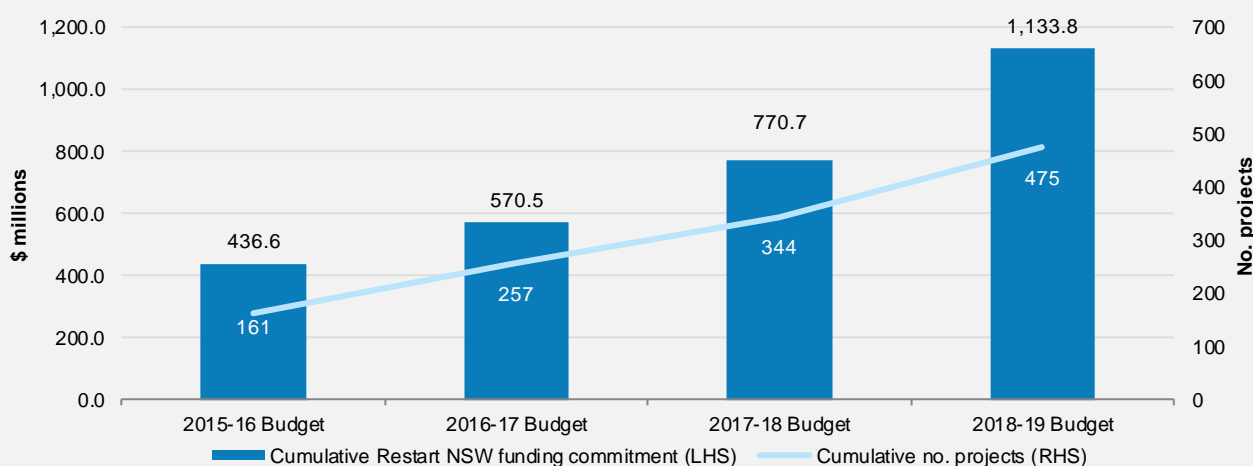
Box 3.1: A substantial commitment to local infrastructure

The Government continues to invest in local initiatives in addition to major infrastructure projects such as Sydney Metro City and Southwest. Communities across the State are benefitting from significant investment in aged care facilities, water treatment plants, regional sporting facilities, local road upgrades, civic centres and airports.

There has been a 47.1 per cent increase in the funding committed to local infrastructure projects since the 2017-18 Budget. Projects funded since the 2017-18 Budget include the Wagga Wagga Riverside Precinct Rejuvenation, Newcastle Beach Community Infrastructure project and the Port Stephens Koala Hospital and Tourism Facility.

A total of \$1.1 billion in Restart NSW funding has been committed to 475 projects being delivered by local governments and non-government organisations. Of these projects, 346 will have Restart NSW funding deeds in place by 30 June 2018 (worth \$857.0 million), allowing the projects to proceed.

Chart 3.1: Restart NSW commitments to local infrastructure projects

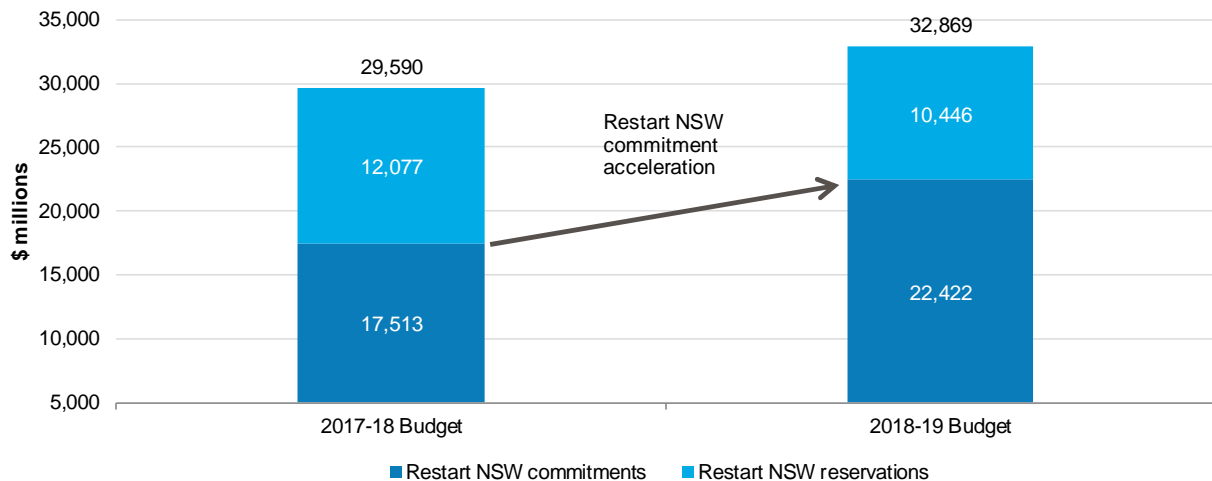


Since Restart NSW was established, 139 local infrastructure projects receiving Restart NSW funding have been delivered, providing critical infrastructure to both metropolitan and regional areas of the State.

Restart NSW is forecast to have reserved a total of \$10.4 billion as at 30 June 2018 for identified projects and programs. Funds are reserved while the Government undertakes an investigation and reviews the business case for an individual project. These reservations are summarised in Table 3.3. Since the 2017-18 Half-Yearly Review, the estimated direct budget impact of Restart NSW reservations are included in the budget estimates (see Box 3.3).

Restart NSW will commit or reserve a total of \$32.9 billion for infrastructure projects as at 30 June 2018 (see Chart 3.2).

Chart 3.2: Restart NSW commitments and reservations^(a)



(a) Includes commitments and reservations for Rebuilding NSW projects and other projects funded from Restart NSW.

Box 3.2: Restart NSW and Rebuilding NSW terminology

The following terminology is frequently used throughout Chapter 3 of this *Infrastructure Statement*.

Inflows: Funds deposited into Restart NSW, including proceeds from asset recycling transactions, Commonwealth Government Asset Recycling Initiative payments, proceeds from Waratah Bonds, windfall tax revenue, and investment earnings. Inflows are then invested into Rebuilding NSW projects and other Restart NSW projects.

Commitments: Funds committed for an individual Restart NSW project. A commitment can only be made once the Treasurer has accepted a specific funding recommendation from Infrastructure NSW for an individual project, as required by the *Restart NSW Fund Act 2011* (Restart Act). Restart NSW funding commitments are included in the budget aggregates.

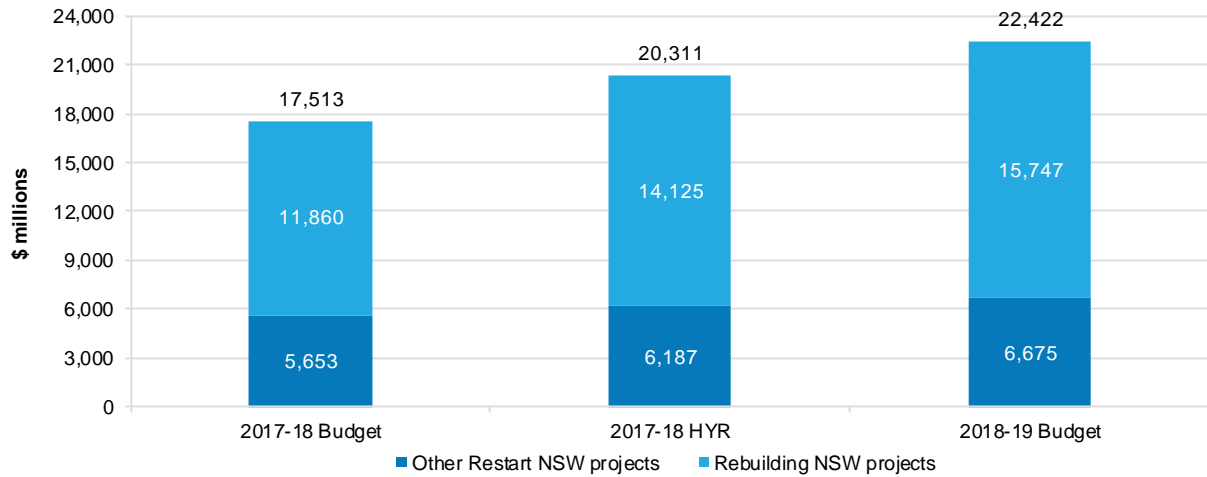
Reservations: Funds in Restart NSW that are reserved with a view to a future commitment. This allows for further project development and project assurance process completion prior to a final funding decision. A Restart NSW reservation can only become a commitment once the Treasurer has accepted a specific Infrastructure NSW recommendation for a particular project. The budget aggregates include the estimated direct impact of spending reserved amounts.

3.2 Commitments

An additional \$4.9 billion has been committed to projects from Restart NSW since the 2017-18 Budget, representing a 28.0 per cent increase over last year.

Total Restart NSW commitments are \$22.4 billion as at the 2018-19 Budget (see below).

Chart 3.3: Restart NSW commitments^(a)



(a) Chart 3.3 shows the total cumulative Restart NSW funding up to the 2018-19 Budget compared to the 2017-18 Budget. Funding is expended on projects over the course of the project delivery.

Restart NSW commitments as at the 2018-19 Budget are included in Table 3.2 below. Rebuilding NSW commitments are summarised in Table 3.4.

Table 3.2: Restart NSW commitments

	Commitments \$m
Commitments as at the 2018-19 Budget	
WestConnex	1,825.0
Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan	444.5
Pacific Highway upgrade	403.0
New Intercity Fleet	402.0
Parramatta Light Rail	400.0
Northern Beaches Hospital, Road Connectivity and Network Enhancement	358.0
Water Security for Regions program ^(a)	331.3
Resources for Regions program	240.6
Batemans Bay Bridge replacement	200.0
Grafton Bridge	177.0
Princes Highway upgrade	170.0
Regional Freight Pinch Point and Safety program	169.0
Bridges for the Bush program	135.0
Maitland Hospital development	134.4
Housing Acceleration Fund (HAF 4)	132.7
Easing Sydney's Congestion (Pinch Points)	130.0
Regional Tourism Infrastructure program	103.7
Illawarra Infrastructure Fund	100.2
Regional Growth: Economic Activation Fund	95.9
Sydney Airport Area Road Upgrades	87.0
NorthConnex (M1 to M2 connection)	83.1
Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund	75.0
Additional Support for Tourism Infrastructure	60.6
Western Sydney Centre of Innovation in Plant Sciences	59.5
Housing Acceleration Fund (HAF 3)	58.3
Regional Health Infrastructure program	50.0
Western NSW Freight Productivity program	44.7
Fixing Country Roads program	41.4
Housing Acceleration Fund (HAF 5)	29.1
Bells Line of Road Corridor Improvement program	28.0
Cobbora Transition Fund	20.0
NSW Cycling Infrastructure Initiative	18.8
Sydney Gateway (planning)	15.4
Sydney Motorway Network planning	15.0
Newcastle Inner City Bypass Missing Link (Rankin Park to Jesmond)	14.0
Queanbeyan Bypass (Ellerton Drive extension)	12.5
Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Management Review – Stage 2	5.0
Port of Eden Breakwater Wharf ^(b)	3.0
Royal Flying Doctor Service Multi-Purpose Facility	2.5
Restart NSW commitments excluding Rebuilding NSW	6,675.1
Rebuilding NSW commitments - various (see Table 3.4)	15,747.3
Total commitments as at the 2018-19 Budget	22,422.4

(a) Includes the Regional Waste Water and Backlog Water program.

(b) The 2016-17 Budget allocated an additional \$27.5 million from the Regional Tourism Infrastructure program to the Port of Eden Breakwater Wharf project.

Table B.1 in Appendix B provides a reconciliation of the movements in Restart NSW commitments since the 2017-18 Budget.

3.3 Reservations

A total of \$10.4 billion has been reserved in Restart NSW to fund further projects and programs, as at the 2018-19 Budget.

Projects and programs covered by reservations are subject to further development, and review by Infrastructure NSW before the Government makes a final decision on whether to proceed with a project.

Significant reservations since the 2017-18 Budget include \$3.0 billion for Sydney Metro West (Box 2.8) and \$60.0 million for the Western City Liveability Program. Restart NSW reservations are listed in full in Table 3.3, and Rebuilding NSW reservations are listed in Table 3.4.

Box 3.3: Reflecting Restart NSW reservations in the budget

Since the 2017-18 Half-Yearly Review, the budget estimates include the estimated direct budget impact of spending funds reserved in Restart NSW. This aligns the budget aggregates with the State's anticipated future fiscal position and reflects the Government's commitment to invest the entire amount reserved for projects and programs.

Reflecting updated Restart NSW reservations in the 2018-19 Budget reduces expenses by \$352.6 million over the four years to 2021-22, primarily due to re-profiling the expected expenditure on projects that will be delivered by local government. The impact on the net lending result is a worsening of \$1.8 billion over the four years to 2021-22.

Estimates of the timing and type of expenditure for Restart NSW reservations are expected to change as project plans are developed, assurance processes are completed, and as reservations for new projects are made.

Consistent with current practice, individual projects will not be included in agency budgets until payment from Restart NSW has been formally approved by the Government in accordance with the Restart Act and following completion of assurance processes and advice from Infrastructure NSW.

Table 3.3: Restart NSW reservations

	Reservations \$m
Reservations as at the 2018-19 Budget	
Sydney Metro West	3,000.0
Regional Growth: Economic Activation Fund ^(a)	594.0
Sports Stadia	590.5
Housing Acceleration Fund (HAF 5)	450.9
Sydney Metro City and Southwest	379.5
Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan	222.6
Housing Acceleration Fund (HAF 4)	207.3
Newcastle Inner City Bypass Missing Link (Rankin Park to Jesmond)	136.0
Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund	100.0
Coffs Harbour Hospital expansion	84.5
Lismore Hospital redevelopment	79.4
NSW Cycling Infrastructure Initiative	61.2
Western City Liveability program	60.0
North-South Rail for Western Sydney Airport Stage 1 (planning)	50.0
Dubbo Base Hospital redevelopment (Stage 3 and 4)	36.8
Regional Freight Pinch Point and Safety program	31.0
Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund	25.0
Housing Acceleration Fund (HAF 3)	24.7
Everyone Can Play in NSW program	20.0
Goulburn Hospital redevelopment	19.8
Water Security for Regions program	12.0
Regional Tourism Infrastructure program	6.3
Fixing Country Roads program ^(b)	1.4
Co-contribution towards regional development priorities	0.7
Restart NSW reservations excluding Rebuilding NSW	6,193.7
Rebuilding NSW reservations (see Table 3.4)	4,252.7
Total reservations as at the 2018-19 Budget	10,446.4

(a) Includes \$50.0 million reserved within the Regional Growth: Economic Activation Fund for the Resources for Regions program and \$40.0 million for research stations related to primary industries.

(b) There is an additional \$325.4 million reserved for the Fixing Country Roads program as part of the Rebuilding NSW plan.

3.4 Rebuilding NSW plan

In June 2014, the Government announced its Rebuilding NSW plan to invest \$20 billion in new infrastructure funded from the proceeds of the electricity network transactions, Commonwealth Government Asset Recycling Initiative payments, and investment earnings. Restart NSW is the vehicle for the Rebuilding NSW plan — as the proceeds of the electricity network transactions are first deposited into Restart NSW before being invested into Rebuilding NSW projects.

The Rebuilding NSW projects and programs were outlined in the *Rebuilding NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2014*, which the Government prepared following advice from Infrastructure NSW. The successful completion of the electricity network transactions will enable the Government to deliver in full the \$20 billion Rebuilding NSW plan through Restart NSW.

Rebuilding NSW projects are governed by the same framework that applies to other projects funded from Restart NSW. As a result, Infrastructure NSW continues to play a critical role in assessing Rebuilding NSW projects, making specific funding recommendations to the Government and monitoring implementation and delivery.

The \$20 billion Rebuilding NSW plan is summarised in Table 3.4 below, which shows funding committed and reserved for the Rebuilding NSW plan from Restart NSW.

Table 3.4: Rebuilding NSW plan

Priority areas	Project/Program	Rebuilding NSW plan contribution	Restart NSW commitments	Restart NSW reservations
		\$m ^(a)	\$m	\$m ^(b)
Urban public transport	Sydney Metro City and Southwest	7,000.0	7,000.0	...
	More Trains, More Services	1,000.0	1,000.0	...
	Parramatta Light Rail	600.0	600.0	...
	Bus Priority Infrastructure (including B-Line)	300.0	290.4	9.6
Urban roads	Western Harbour Tunnel and F6	1,100.0	623.0	477.0
	Pinch Points and Clearways	400.0	396.0	4.0
	Smart Motorways	400.0	385.0	15.0
	Gateway to the South Pinch Points	300.0	295.0	5.0
	Traffic Management Upgrades	200.0	184.0	16.0
Regional transport	Regional Road Freight Corridor ^(c)	2,000.0	962.7	1,037.3
	Regional Growth Roads	1,000.0	977.3	22.7
	Fixing Country Roads	500.0	174.6	325.4
	Fixing Country Rail	400.0	149.4	250.6
	Bridges for the Bush	200.0	123.4	76.7
Water security	Safe and Secure Water Program ^(d)	1,000.0	460.5	539.5
Education	Future Focused Schools	700.0	432.1	267.9
	Regional Schools Renewal program	300.0	119.2	180.8
Health	Hospitals Growth program	600.0	...	600.0
	Regional Multipurpose Services (MPS) health facilities	300.0	300.0	...
	Primary and Integrated Care Strategy	100.0	100.0	...
Culture and sport	Culture and Arts	600.0	584.5	15.5
	Sports Stadia	600.0	380.5	219.5
	Regional Growth: Environment and Tourism Fund	300.0	142.3	157.7
Other opportunities	Corridor Identification and Reservation	100.0	67.5	32.5
Total as at the 2018-19 Budget		20,000.0	15,747.3	4,252.7

(a) In some cases the amount included is less than the expected total cost of the project and funding from other sources will be required.

(b) Restart NSW reservations for the Rebuilding NSW plan include funds reserved to replace advances from the Consolidated Fund.

(c) The Regional Road Freight Corridor reservation includes a \$155.0 million project level reservation for the New South Wales contribution towards the construction of a new Shoalhaven River Bridge at Nowra.

(d) Formerly the Regional Water Security and Supply Fund. The Safe and Secure Water program reservation includes project level reservations for Bega Water Filtration Projects, Mid Coast Water Projects, Oxley Water Projects and Cootamundra Water Projects totalling \$88.2 million.

Restart NSW has now committed a total of \$15.7 billion to the \$20 billion Rebuilding NSW plan, with \$3.9 billion committed since the 2017-18 Budget.

To ensure benefits are spread across all of New South Wales, the Government is investing \$6.0 billion of the \$20 billion Rebuilding NSW plan (30 per cent) in regional and rural projects outside metropolitan Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

3.5 Funding sources

Restart NSW is forecast to receive \$32.9 billion by 30 June 2018, an increase of \$3.2 billion since 30 June 2017 (see table below). The increase in inflows is primarily due to cash deposits from the Consolidated Fund, investment earnings and receipts from Waratah Bonds.

Table 3.5: Restart NSW funding sources (expected position as at 30 June 2018)

Funding source	Total Inflows \$m
Asset recycling	
TransGrid (including stamp duty)	6,578.6
Ausgrid (including stamp duty)	5,561.4
Port Botany and Port Kembla (including stamp duty)	4,252.9
Endeavour Energy (including stamp duty)	2,841.9
Land and Property Information	2,606.8
Newcastle Port (including stamp duty)	1,575.6
Macquarie Generation (including stamp duty)	713.6
Sydney Desalination Plant	312.0
Property NSW (various asset recycling transactions)	231.8
Green State Power	86.9
Eraring Power Station	48.1
Delta Electricity (various asset recycling transactions)	25.6
Pillar Corporation (including stamp duty)	16.2
Cash deposits from the Consolidated Fund	2,336.5
Windfall tax revenues	2,293.0
Investment earnings to date ^(a)	1,444.6
Asset Recycling Initiative payments	1,007.9
Waratah Bonds	958.4
Total Inflows (see Table 3.1)	\$32.9 billion

(a) Investment earnings to date include the recognition of \$600.0 million of investment returns in the NSW Infrastructure Future Fund (NIFF) as an inflow into Restart NSW. A portion of the investment returns in the NIFF remain unallocated as a prudential buffer against future volatility.

The Government established the NSW Infrastructure Future Fund (NIFF) in December 2016 as the investment vehicle for Restart NSW proceeds. These proceeds are put into a range of financial assets with a higher earning potential than cash deposits and an investment horizon that matches the committed Restart NSW and Rebuilding NSW capital expenditure profiles. Earnings from the NIFF support the delivery of the Government's Restart NSW and Rebuilding NSW infrastructure programs. See Box 7.2 of Budget Paper No. 1 *Budget Statement* for further information about the NIFF.

3.6 Investing in regional New South Wales

A total of 30 per cent of Restart NSW funding over time is targeted at regional and rural areas outside the metropolitan areas of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

The Government has also dedicated \$6.0 billion (30 per cent) of the \$20 billion Rebuilding NSW plan to regional and rural New South Wales.

Around \$9.5 billion in Restart NSW funding is committed or reserved for programs and projects in regional New South Wales, including the Rebuilding NSW plan. This is comprised of \$5.8 billion committed from Restart NSW and \$3.6 billion reserved for future projects.

The Government has committed an additional \$2.1 billion for projects in regional New South Wales since the 2017-18 Budget, comprising \$1.6 billion for Rebuilding NSW projects and \$459.5 million for other Restart NSW projects. Significant new regional commitments and reservations are detailed in Section 2.3 of this *Infrastructure Statement*.

This significant investment in regional New South Wales will also be bolstered by the investment of the proceeds of the NSW Government's share of the sale of Snowy Hydro to the Commonwealth and the planned construction of Snowy 2.0 funded by the Commonwealth Government.

Box 3.4 outlines regional Restart NSW programs (excluding Rebuilding NSW) and Box 3.5 summarises the Rebuilding NSW programs dedicated to infrastructure investment in regional areas.

Box 3.4: Restart NSW is making a significant commitment to regional areas

The Government invests in regional infrastructure through 12 dedicated programs (not including the Rebuilding NSW plan)^(a)

Table 3.6: Restart NSW programs in regional New South Wales

Program	Description	Restart NSW commitment at the 2018-19 Budget \$m ^(b)
Bridges for the Bush (Box 2.25)	Improves road freight productivity by replacing or upgrading bridges in regional New South Wales.	135.0
Cobbora Transition Fund	Drives productivity and economic growth in local communities impacted by the land acquisition and other activities associated with the Cobbora Coal Project.	20.0
Fixing Country Roads (Box 2.29)	Improves local and regional roads managed by Local government in country areas, especially roads allowing higher mass vehicles to operate.	41.4
Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund	Promotes economic growth and enhances the liveability of the Hunter region.	75.0
Illawarra Infrastructure Fund	Supports economic growth in the Illawarra region.	100.2
Regional Freight Pinch Point and Safety program	Improves key road and rail freight corridors in regional areas including the Golden Highway, Kings Highway, Gocup Road and Bells Line of Road.	169.0
Regional Growth: Economic Activation Fund	Targets investment in economic enabling infrastructure and supports communities affected by mining.	95.9
Regional Health Infrastructure	Fast-tracks regional health infrastructure in Coraki, Grafton, Macksville, Manning, Lismore and Armidale.	50.0
Regional Tourism Infrastructure	Supports regional airports, cruise terminals and rail trail infrastructure to increase the economic competitiveness of the State.	103.7
Resources for Regions ^(c)	Supports rural and regional mining-related communities by addressing infrastructure constraints.	240.6
Water Security for Regions	Secures water supplies and drought-proofs regional communities, including dams and bores, and includes the Regional Waste Water and Backlog Water program.	331.3
Western NSW Freight Productivity program	Supports sealing, widening and other improvement works on the Cobb Highway, Silver City Highway and other freight corridors in western New South Wales.	44.7

(a) The Illawarra Infrastructure Fund, Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund and Resources for Regions program also include funding commitments to projects located in Newcastle and Wollongong.

(b) Restart NSW reservations for the listed regional programs are detailed in Table 3.3.

(c) Restart NSW commitments to this program are separate to the \$50.0 million reservation for the Resources for Regions program, from within the Regional Growth: Economic Activation Fund.

Box 3.5: Rebuilding NSW is providing substantial investment in the regions

The Government also invests in regional infrastructure through nine Rebuilding NSW programs.

Table 3.7: *Rebuilding NSW programs in regional New South Wales*

Program	Description	Restart NSW commitment at the 2018-19 Budget \$m
Bridges for the Bush (Box 2.25)	Improves road freight productivity by replacing or upgrading bridges in regional New South Wales.	123.4
Fixing Country Roads (Box 2.29)	Improves local and regional roads managed by local government in country areas, especially roads allowing higher mass vehicles to operate.	174.6
Fixing Country Rail (Box 2.27)	Targets regional rail freight improvements to support primary producers and regional jobs.	149.4
Regional Growth: Environment and Tourism Fund (Box 3.6)	Supports regional environmental and tourism facilities to support local economies.	142.3
Regional Growth Roads	Supports road network improvements in regional centres experiencing strong population growth. This program focuses on the Central Coast, Lower Hunter and south of Wollongong.	977.3
Regional Multipurpose Services (MPS) health facilities	Improves health infrastructure in regional areas.	300.0
Regional Road Freight Corridor (Box 2.26)	Improves key road and rail freight corridors in regional areas.	962.7
Regional Schools Renewal program	Improves schools and education facilities in regional areas.	119.2
Safe and Secure Water program ^(a) (Box 2.28)	Addresses the water security, public health, environment, and safety priorities of regional NSW communities.	460.5

(a) This program repurposes the \$1.0 billion Regional Water Security and Supply Fund, including existing commitments.

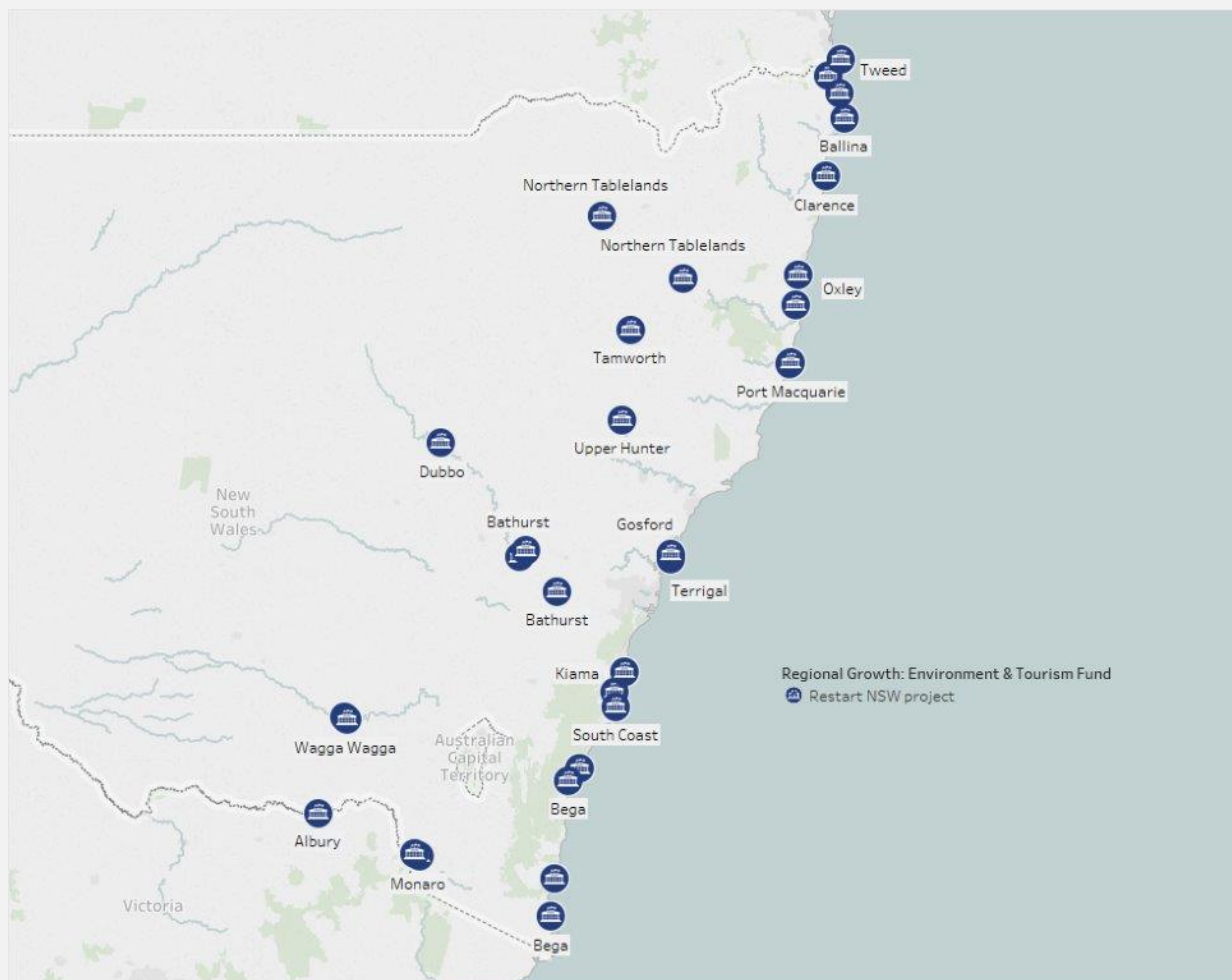
Box 3.6: Regional growth fund prioritises tourism infrastructure

Program: The Regional Growth: Environment and Tourism Fund aims to increase tourist visitation by investing in regional environment and tourism infrastructure. Funding is available to local councils, Aboriginal Land Councils and other Aboriginal groups, community groups and non-government organisations.

Funding allocation: A total of \$300.0 million is available for the fund, with \$142.3 million already committed for specific projects.

Implementation: A total of 35 projects across regional New South Wales have received funding commitments from the program. Examples of some of the projects funded include:

- **Restart Jenolan (\$8.5 million)** - Jenolan Caves Upgrade of Visitor Facilities is a project aimed at rejuvenating Jenolan Caves as an iconic, regional tourism destination, by providing upgraded and additional walking tracks and lookouts, and an educational visitor and field studies centre.
- **Repurposing of the Saumarez Homestead (\$1.8 million)** - this project will enhance the natural and heritage assets of Saumarez Homestead, creating a tourist destination to act as a key economic driver for the region.
- **Scone Aviation Visitor Attraction (\$6.3 million)** - Upper Hunter Shire Council will construct an Aviation Visitor Attraction and supporting aerodrome infrastructure at the Scone Regional Airport providing the Upper Hunter Region with a unique warbird aviation attraction and interactive aircraft display.



3.7 Governance and project selection framework

The Government has implemented a strong governance framework to ensure that Restart NSW funds are effectively invested into infrastructure projects that enhance the State's economic growth and productivity.

The Restart Act is central to this governance framework. It provides the Government, through the Treasurer, with enhanced oversight of Restart NSW expenditure and sets out the process for fund allocation. The Restart Act entrusts Infrastructure NSW with the responsibility for independently assessing projects and making recommendations to the Treasurer for the use of Restart NSW funds. A review of the Restart Act was tabled in Parliament in September 2017 and found that the terms of the Act remain appropriate.

New infrastructure projects considered for Restart NSW funding are subject to a comprehensive selection process. Those selected for delivery must be supported by a robust business case that demonstrates the project is financially and economically justifiable. The components of the project assessment framework are:

- strategic assessment to ensure the project aligns with the Restart Act criteria and existing government priorities
- economic assessment to ensure the project can produce a net economic benefit and improve economic growth and productivity in the State (demonstrated by a benefit-cost ratio greater than one)
- Gateway assurance, an independent review process to ensure, where required, the project has successfully completed the appropriate business-case processes.