



MEDIA RELEASE

Joyce welcomes National Stronger Regions Fund applications announcement

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FEDERAL Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce said applications under Round One of the Australian Government's landmark \$1 billion National Stronger Regions Fund are now open.

The new Fund will target projects that deliver priority economic development and small scale community infrastructure at the local level throughout Australia.

"This is a huge opportunity for local projects across the New England Electorate to get their share of this major new investment in growth," Mr Joyce said.

"The Fund will support a range of local and regional development initiatives that are designed to spur economic growth – from freight and transport projects to convention centres and major multi-purpose sports and community facilities.

"The Government's focus is on strengthening economies in Australia's most disadvantaged regions and communities by improving productivity, economic opportunity, employment and workforce skills."

The National Stronger Regions Fund will provide local community projects with between \$20,000 and \$10 million, covering up to 50 per cent of project costs.

"Importantly, the Fund gives local communities the power to identify local projects to meet local needs, ensuring communities are investing in their own future," Mr Joyce said.

"The Fund encourages partnerships, with project proponents engaging with the private sector and possibly local and the state government.

"I urge all local community groups to get behind the National Stronger Regions Fund to ensure our region gets its fair share of this vital investment."

Projects seeking funding will be considered in consultation with the Australian Government's National Infrastructure Committee, which has a strong interest in, and commitment to, harnessing the potential of Australia's regions.

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Hon **Barnaby Joyce** MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

The Guidelines for the National Stronger Regions Fund detail the type of project proposals sought, how to lodge an application, how assessments will be conducted, and critical programme dates.

To access the guidelines, and to lodge a Round One application, visit -
www.infrastructure.gov.au/nsrf

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