

April 2020

Accelerated Infrastructure Fund – Frequently asked questions

This document answers frequently asked questions regarding the \$70 million Accelerated Infrastructure Fund (AIF).

What is the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund?

The AIF provides \$70 million to support the delivery of community infrastructure – including local roads, public open space, and stormwater infrastructure – in the high growth Local Government Areas of Blacktown and The Hills in North West Sydney.

The AIF was announced by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces on 3 April 2020 as part of the Planning System Acceleration Program. The Program will cut red tape and fast-track planning processes to keep people in jobs, boost the construction pipeline and keep the economy moving.

The AIF sits alongside existing infrastructure programs and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment infrastructure's grant programs such as the Housing Acceleration Fund and Precinct Support Scheme, to support the continued delivery of new homes and jobs throughout NSW.

Who is eligible to lodge a request?

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will only seek project nominations from Blacktown City Council and The Hills Shire Council using the authorised project nomination process.

What criteria will be used to determine the projects?

AIF funds will be prioritised towards projects that achieve the following:

1. Projects that support the development of significant new housing or employment land;
2. Projects that will commence and complete construction as early as possible;
3. Projects that help unblock development approvals and assist in the conversion of approvals to completed development.

The Department will seek to allocate funding to projects that can be removed from local contributions plans – thereby reducing local developer contributions.

An inter-agency assessment panel will seek advice from an independent engineering and economics consultancy when reviewing shortlisted projects. The panel will make its investment recommendations by May 2020.

What is the timeline for completing the AIF?

The AIF is being delivered urgently to keep people in jobs and the construction industry moving. Approved projects will be announced in mid-2020 and it is expected construction of the first projects will commence within six months of announcement. At this time, the Department will publish a detailed timeline for each project and report on the achievement of program objectives.

How can you get involved?

Should you have any further questions, please contact the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on 1300 305 695 or email planning.covidresponse@planning.nsw.gov.au. If emailing, please use the subject header “Accelerated Infrastructure Fund”.

© State of New South Wales through Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (April 2020). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent adviser.