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**Government grants $3 million to public parks and open spaces**

The Department of Planning and Environment is partnering with local councils across Sydney to improve the city’s parks and open spaces, after the release of $3 million in grants and the first funding for Sydney’s Green Grid – an interconnected network of Sydney’s parks and green spaces.

The latest round of funding under the Metropolitan Greenspace Program (MGP) will be shared by 24 local projects reaching across metropolitan Sydney, as well as Wyong and Gosford.

A Department spokesperson said the NSW Government is dedicated to investing in open spaces for the benefit of the community encouraging an active, healthy lifestyle.

“Sydney and the Central Coast are renowned for natural beauty and these funds can only improve local open spaces by adding bike and walking paths, cycleways, picnic spots and play spaces to be enjoyed by the public,” the spokesperson said.

“These projects will also form part of Sydney’s Green Grid – which will see a connected network of green spaces linking bushland, parks, waterways and centres across the city.”

The MGP has granted $35 million to councils for 562 projects across the metropolitan area between 1990 and 2014. All 41 metropolitan councils and the two Central Coast councils are eligible to apply for grant funding and approximately $3 million is available annually on a dollar-for-dollar matched funding basis.

A full list of projects funded is attached. For more information about program visit the Department of Planning and Environment’s website http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/metropolitan-greenspace-program

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