



The Hon Michael McCormack MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for Riverina

Senator The Hon Simon Birmingham

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate

MEDIA RELEASE

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REGIONAL TOURISM AND JOBS THE BIG WINNER IN NEW FUNDING ROUND

Regional tourism and local jobs are front and centre of the latest round of the Building Better Regions Fund, with regional Australia set to share in \$200 million for local infrastructure and community-building projects.

Deputy Prime Minister, Nationals' Leader and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said Round 3, applications for which open today, continue the Liberal and Nationals' Government's commitment to unlocking economic potential in the regions.

"We are building strong and resilient communities, as well as helping create local jobs, by investing in projects across Australia which drive our regional economies," Minister McCormack said.

"We have had fantastic outcomes over the first two funding rounds of the Building Better Regions Fund and I expect Round 3 to deliver more of the same with up to \$45 million earmarked to increase tourism and – importantly – create even more local jobs.

"In previous rounds, projects have ranged from building new community-based aged care facilities, developing training programs to support young people in starting their own businesses, and improving freight access to airports, just to name a few.

"Through this fund, we are making vital local tourism projects a reality for our regional communities, creating even better places to get a job or to visit, grow up in, and raise a family."

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Simon Birmingham said this was a great opportunity for regional communities to kick-off new tourism infrastructure projects.

"Tourism is a major industry for many regional areas, and this fund could give regional communities the helping hand they need to seize on local tourism opportunities," Minister Birmingham said.

"Whether it's Wallaroo, Wollongong or Weipa, now is the time for regional centres to unlock their tourism potential.

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“I’m looking forward to seeing the ideas that regional communities have to attract and support more local and international tourists as this will ultimately help boost the local economy and help to create more local jobs.”

Minister McCormack said Round 3 would continue delivering projects across the Community Investments and Infrastructure Projects streams, including tourism-related infrastructure projects, to drive economic development, create jobs and create stronger partnerships across communities.

“I encourage all interested and eligible organisations to apply for infrastructure and community-based project funding, to ensure our regional and remote communities continue to thrive.”

Applications will close on 15 November 2018.

For further information on eligibility and how to lodge an application, please visit www.infrastructure.gov.au/bbrf.

Ends.

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