



John Barilaro
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional NSW
Minister for Industry and Trade

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$20 MILLION FOR WORLD-CLASS EVENTS IN COUNTRY TOWNS

Major sporting, music and cultural events are coming to regional NSW and existing shows will be bigger and better than ever, thanks to a new NSW Government funding program that will help showcase towns internationally and boost local economies.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro announced the \$20 million Regional Events Acceleration Fund, which opens today, will provide grants to boost major events in regional areas, creating valuable jobs for locals.

“We have proven our ability to stage major events that accommodate large crowds in a COVID safe environment and now is the right time to bring entertainment to the bush and provide much needed stimulus to local economies,” Mr Barilaro said.

“This funding will deliver major events that will create valuable jobs, keeping money local, as well as giving people the chance to see their favourite teams or performers in their hometown.

“By helping organisers to host bigger and better events we are giving regional communities greater access to entertainment and the opportunity to attend events they would otherwise have to travel to metropolitan areas to experience.

“The NSW Nationals are creating a safer and stronger regional NSW by creating valuable jobs and boosting the local economy, while keeping people COVID safe.”

Applicants can apply for a minimum of \$100,000 to help bring major sporting, lifestyle, food and beverage, music, art and cultural events to regional NSW that provide national and international exposure.

Event organisers can also apply for between \$50,000 and \$200,000 for activities that enhance events, including extra seating, temporary fencing, accessibility infrastructure, additional stages at festivals, pop-up camping sites or temporary car parks.

The \$20 million Regional Events Acceleration Fund is part of the NSW Government’s \$2 billion Regional Growth Fund, which is delivering infrastructure and programs that generate economic opportunities, create jobs and improve everyday living in the bush.

Applications for the Regional Events Acceleration Fund open on Tuesday 23 February 2021 and close at 5pm on Friday 17 December 2021, or when funding is fully committed.

Event organisers, regional NSW councils, not-for-profit organisations, sporting bodies and Aboriginal Land Councils are eligible to apply.

For further information about the fund, including program guidelines, applications and eligibility, go to www.nsw.gov.au/REAFund.

MEDIA: Jennifer Lugsdin | 0427 930 922