

North Coast News & Views No. 145

Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund

Applications are now open for the \$24 million [Regional NSW - Business Case and Strategy Development Fund](#). The Fund supports local councils, joint organisations of councils, not-for-profit, industry and Aboriginal community groups with grants to develop business cases or strategies for projects delivering significant economic or social benefits to regional communities, with a focus on infrastructure.

The Fund will help organisations build their capacity to plan for and deliver projects, regional development initiatives and build a pipeline of investment-ready projects for future funding opportunities.

Available Funding

Stream One: Regional Significance - up to \$19 million available funding.

Stream Two: Aboriginal Prosperity - up to \$5 million available funding.

NSW Secures Iconic Creative Conference South By Southwest



Sydney has secured its place at the centre of the music, screen, gaming and tech world following the announcement the city has been chosen to host the first South by Southwest® (SXSW®) outside North America from 15-22 October 2023.

Destination NSW has secured a new annual SXSW event for the Asia Pacific from next year, which will be the first time in its 36-year history that the iconic futurist conference and festival of creativity will take place annually outside its North American origins.

Find [further information here](#).

Help For Hospitality Extended

The NSW Government is providing extra support to the hospitality industry by extending free refresher courses into next year, in a bid to address staff shortages.

Anyone whose certification expired from February 2020 can renew their Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA), or RSA and Responsible Conduct of Gambling certificate (RCG) together, for free, until February

2023 without having to retrain in full.

Read [media release](#).

Winter Holiday Fun In The Regions



Young people in regional New South Wales are being encouraged to get active, learn new skills and have fun with friends these winter school holidays.

Regional youth can enjoy free or heavily subsidised activities including arts and craft workshops, sports days, and social clubs as part of the NSW Government's \$10 million Holiday Break Program.

Read [media release](#)

\$1 Million To Support NSW Visual Arts

Career advancing opportunities will be offered to 17 artists and organisations through \$1 million in funding from the NSW Government's Visual Arts Commissioning Program. The successful grants range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 and will support ambitious and innovative artworks both in Sydney and in regional towns across the state.

Arts Northern Rivers Inc. was the recipient of a \$100,000 grant that will be used to assist Lismore's creative recovery. This program by Arts Northern Rivers will commission five artists to deliver messages of hope and affirmation through public artworks. The commissions will provide opportunities for humour and grace for the community that has endured adversity with natural disasters.

Read [media release](#).

New Destination Network Structure Goes Live

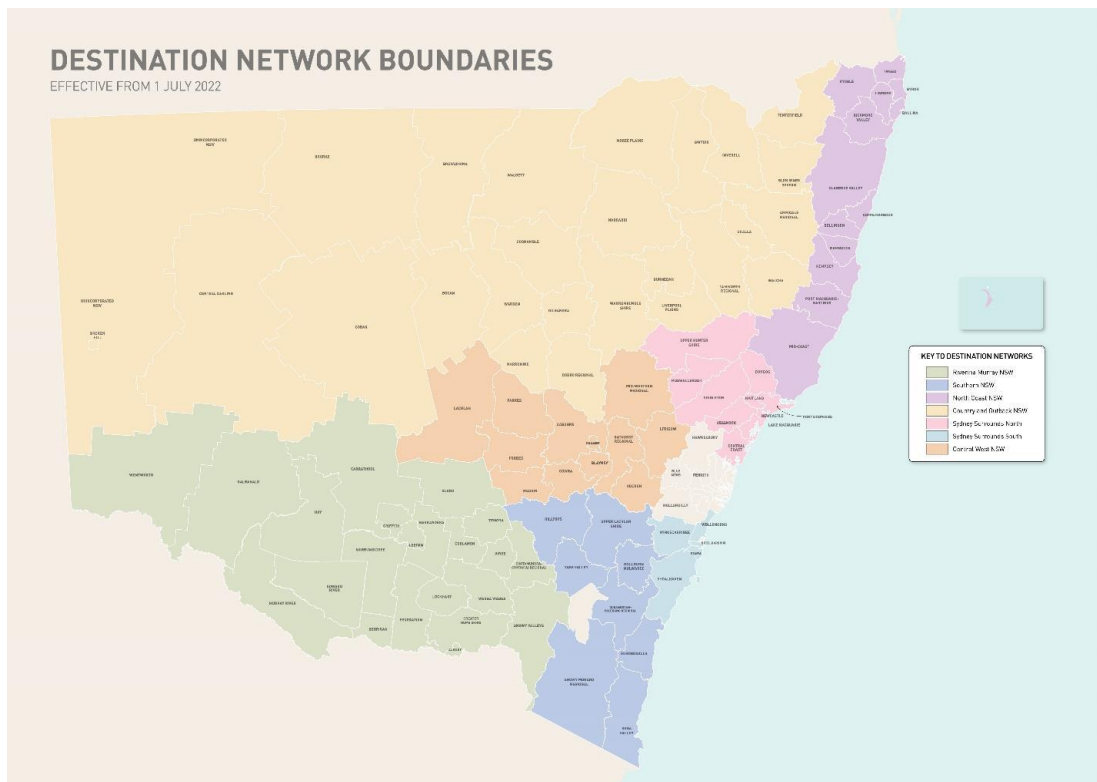
The Destination Networks are the 'shopfront' for Destination NSW in regional NSW and play a vital role in growing the visitor economy of regional NSW by working closely with local government, tourism organisations, visitor economy businesses and a diverse network of stakeholders.

From 1 July 2022, changes to the network boundaries and structure are being rolled out across the state to ensure the regional visitor economy is set up for continued success and receives increased support at the local level in several key areas.

The NSW Government established the original six Destination Networks in 2016 following a review of regional tourism to improve regional stakeholder engagement and better support the regional NSW visitor economy.

Changes to the Destination Network structure include the creation of a new Destination Network for Central West NSW to increase resources for well-established visitor destinations, including Bathurst, Orange and Mudgee.

For more information read [Media Release](#)



Alfresco Dining Measures Extended

The NSW Government has extended its temporary alfresco measures until at least 31 December 2023 to further support the hospitality industry.

Minister for Hospitality and Racing Kevin Anderson said the measures would enable businesses to use a range of spaces for outdoor dining, such as parks and car parks. "The uptake has largely been in the CBD, but we would love to see more regional venues take up this opportunity and consider permanent options that reflect the community's desire to dine outdoors year-round," Mr Anderson said.

The \$5000 Alfresco Restart Rebate also remains available.

Find [further information here](#).

NSW Government Invests In Aboriginal Koala Conservation

A \$600,000 investment to support an Aboriginal koala habitat conservation project is being delivered as one of the first actions in the NSW Koala Strategy.

The \$600,000 from the NSW Koala Strategy will support the Coffs Harbour and District Local Aboriginal Land Council to integrate traditional ecological knowledge into koala conservation. The project, known locally as Gumbayngirr Darruyay Dunggirr Jagun Mangga-Bayilaygam, will support habitat restoration, cultural burning in key koala locations, Aboriginal research projects and the development of cultural training for Aboriginal Rangers.

Read [media release](#).

16 Regional Cities Services Improvement program

Transport for NSW is delivering the 16 Regional Cities Services Improvement program. The program aims to create better customer journeys with better bus networks and timetables with improvements toward the future of Port Macquarie Hastings's public transport network included in this program.

Find [further information about the program](#)

The Port Macquarie-Hastings community is invited to attend an [online information session](#) at 12.15pm on **20 July 2022** to hear how bus services can be made more convenient and accessible and ask your questions.

Tourism Insights

Strong Signs Of Recovery For NSW Visitor Economy In Latest Visitor Survey Results

NSW remains Australia's top destination for domestic visitors and welcomed the highest number of overseas visitors since the closure of international borders according to the latest figures from Tourism Research Australia (TRA).

TRA has released the [National and International Visitor Survey](#) results for the year ending March 2022, which show NSW welcomed 66.4 million domestic overnight and daytrip visitors, with expenditure increasing by \$2 billion on the previous year. While international visitors rose to 251,200, representing a 601 per cent increase on the year ending March 2021.

The NSW North Coast was the nation's most visited destination for domestic overnight visitors after Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, with regional NSW accounting for 31 per cent of domestic overnight visitors in regional Australia.

Read [media release](#).

Census Results Released

Last week the release of the [2021 Census results](#) provided an insight into the changing profile of Australian families. With over 50 per cent of Australians either being born overseas or having a parent born overseas, it helps to explain why visiting friends and relatives is such an important tourism driver, and why it is the first segment to be returning as the nation emerges from the pandemic.

Unique Solutions For The Visitor Economy's Workforce

Workforce shortages are a current challenge for visitor economy businesses. Job losses during the COVID-19 pandemic mean people have transitioned to other professions. Migrant workers, an important supplement to this workforce, have been locked out due to border closures.

As life returns to normal and demand for visitor economy businesses increases, so too has a demand for workers. Job vacancies in the sector have significantly increased from pre-pandemic (March 2019) to three years later (March 2022).

Find [further information here](#).

Industry Development And Other Opportunities

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Read [media release](#).

Extending Intake - Accommodation Reinvestment Mentoring Program:

Are you interested in getting more advice on how your accommodation property can invest? Don't miss out and **APPLY NOW** for the [Accommodation Reinvestment Mentoring Program](#).

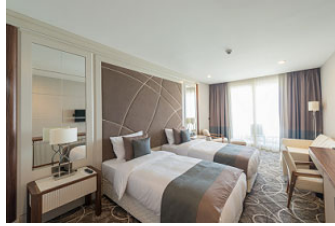
This program is **FREE** of charge to North Coast Accommodation businesses, funded through the Australian Government, under the Recovery for Regional Tourism program administered by Austrade. The [Stafford Strategy](#) team who will deliver the mentoring will provide one-on-one mentoring support including:

- Advice in relation to reinvesting your property
- Getting advice on what markets are looking for

- How your property can best align to take advantage
- Reinvestment strategies

The program will commence from late June/ early July until September 2022 and is flexible to fit around busy businesses.

For more information [visit our website](#) or contact [Sarah Elphinstone](#) or phone 0410 448 570.



Tourism Australia - Annual Stakeholder Engagement Survey

As inbound tourism rebuilds now that Australia's international border is reopening, Tourism Australia (TA) continues their endeavours to stay in close contact with industry to share as much information as possible, as regularly as possible.

TA wants to make sure their industry engagement strategy and approach remains useful and relevant, so they invite industry to take part in their Industry Engagement Survey to gain feedback regarding their organisation and activities.

Please complete this [5 minute survey](#) to input feedback for TA.

And the next TA Industry Webinar is scheduled for 11am, Friday 22 July 2022. [Register here.](#)

New Direct Flights Between Canberra And Coffs Harbour From 22 September 2022

Link Airways in partnership with Coffs Harbour Airport, Canberra Airport and ACT Government announced direct flights between Canberra and Coffs Harbour will commence utilising the airline's 34 passenger Saab 340B Plus aircraft. The first flight will be on Thursday 22 September 2022 with a schedule of two return services per week on Thursday and Sunday.

Find [more information here.](#)

Join Ballina's Visitor Services Team

Ballina Shire Council are seeking an enthusiastic and appropriately experienced individual to join their customer focused Visitor Services team. This position provides advice to visitors on attractions and accommodation in our Shire. The position will play a key role in promoting regional attractions to visitors and marketing regional tourism products and merchandise. [Applications close](#) 17 July 2022.

Rex Expands Regional Services

Rex has unveiled an increase in its services to major NSW regional centres on its network that includes Sydney to Coffs Harbour (up 67 per cent) and Sydney to Port Macquarie (up 33 per cent). The service commenced on 4 July 2022.

Read [Media Release.](#)

Product And Experience Development

Crystalbrook Collection Launches 'Meet Mindfully'

Sustainably-led, independent hotel group Crystalbrook Collection recently launched '[Meet Mindfully](#)'- a cleaner, slower, more conscious way to travel and gather for meetings and events.

Tapping into the rising trend for work wellbeing, Meet Mindfully is designed to remove the stressors and environmental pressures of conventional corporate meetings, instead facilitating meetings of purpose and value. Each Crystalbrook hotel will also stir in its unique



personality with proudly local destination experiences, transforming traditional concepts of team-bonding.

Highlights at [Crystalbrook Byron, Byron Bay](#) include:

- Guided Sound Healing: using a crystal quartz singing bowl and chimes to leave delegates feeling uplifted. The sound frequencies slow down brain waves to a deeply restorative state, which activates the body's system of self-healing.
- Palm Weaving: immersion in a traditional artform that is both relaxing and energising. Delegates will begin the exercise with a guided walk through Crystalbrook Byron's on-site rainforest, followed by an hour of string making using palm fronds from the rainforest.
- Forest Bathing: immersion in the rainforest, tapping into its healing qualities through a quiet, guided, mindful walk focused on soaking up the sounds, scents, colours and "feel" of the forest.

Read [media release](#).

Funding And Other Opportunities

[Small Business Northern Flood Grant](#)

This \$10,00 grant will help small businesses in Northern Rivers LGAs to cover operating costs as they recover from the February and March 2022 floods. **Closes 31 July 2022**

[Audience Development Program](#)

This Screen NSW fund supports public screenings, festivals or tours that provide opportunities for audiences to see and experience quality screen content and innovative practice, and one-off or annual events including those in single or multiple venues. **Closes 11 July 2022**

[Industry Development Program](#)

The Screen NSW 2022-2023 Industry Development Program provides funds to organisations that create professional development opportunities for NSW screen practitioners at various stages of their career. Funding is provided for one-off or annual events including workshops, masterclasses, forums and professional development activities. **Closes 18 July 2022**

[Regional Filming Fund \(RFF\)](#)

The Regional Filming Fund offsets costs associated with shooting in regional areas of NSW. Regional NSW is defined as all areas in NSW outside the Sydney Metro area (excluding the ACT). **Ongoing**

Clubgrants Category 3 Infrastructure Grants program

[Infrastructure Grants: Community Infrastructure](#)

Funding to support community infrastructure such as a multipurpose community hub or a service for an eligible community group. Grants from \$10,000 to \$200,000 available. **Closes 18 July 2022**

[Infrastructure Grants: Arts and Culture](#)

Funding to support arts and culture infrastructure such as museums, art galleries or cultural centres. Grants from \$50,000 to \$200,000 available. **Closes 18 July 2022**

[Infrastructure Grants: Disaster Readiness](#)

Funding to support disaster readiness infrastructure such as evacuation centres, capital equipment or a multipurpose community facility. Grants from \$10,000 to \$200,000 available. **Closes 18 July 2022**

[Infrastructure Grants: Sport and Recreation](#)

Funding to support sport and recreation infrastructure such as sports centres, playgrounds and swimming pools. Grants from \$50,000 to \$300,000 available. **Closes 18 July 2022**

North Coast Events

To aid your planning and to support local events, please note these upcoming events on the North Coast or find [all events on our website](#).

Elephant Trail Race 15-17 July 2022

Coastal Track and Trail Runners are again producing the Elephant Trail Race. ETR offers participants a choice of distances catering for both the novice and Ultra Distance Runner, from the 2.5km kids race to the 235km distance around the Mt Cairncross course.

3Rivers Mini Marathon 24 July 2022

The 3 Rivers Mini Marathon is a fun water event for all self-propelled craft; rowboat, surf boat, kayak, surf ski, dragon boat, ocean ski, outrigger, SUP and canoe. The event is open to anyone over the age of 12, from the serious competitor to the casual paddler.

Luminosity Youth Summit 27-29 July



Luminosity Youth Summit is a dynamic national forum uplifting young people to explore dangerous ideas for success. The event ignites creativity, excellence and entrepreneurship and fosters purpose and well-being amongst young people aged 15-25.

The summit inspires and uplifts the leaders of tomorrow through an incredible face to face youth development and leadership experience delivering fresh ideas and inspiration, tangible tools, real connections and lifelong skills.

The Luminosity Youth Summit, Port Macquarie is an action packed three day event filled with mainstage magic, keynotes, performances and hands on workshops.

River to the Sea Conference 28 July 2022

Exploring the need for agricultural sustainability on the Mid-North Coast of Australia - and showcasing the Macleay Valley region - the River to the Sea conference will provide an opportunity for our local farmers and the agriculture industry to meet to identify more ways to work together to achieve longer term sustainability in our changing climate conditions.

The conference will support local farming and agriculture businesses make connections to help improve well being and resilience. It's will also be an opportunity to celebrate the vast range of locally produced products from our region that have been developed or were diversified during the drought and now post drought.

A promotional poster for the River to the Sea Conference. The top section has the title "RIVER TO THE SEA CONFERENCE" in large green letters, with "MID-NORTH COAST, NSW" below it. A green leaf icon is in the top right. Below the title is a photo of a river valley. The date "28TH JULY 2022" and location "SUM DUSTY CENTRE KEMPSEY" are in a green box. Below that, it says "Mid-North Coast's Agricultural Conference showcasing our region, creating connections & increasing resilience to changing climate conditions". Two photos of speakers are shown: PIP COURNEY (MC & KEYNOTE SPEAKER / HEADLINE PRESENTER) and STEVE WAUGH (GUEST SPEAKER). A "TOPICS INCLUDE" box lists: overcoming adversity & building resilience, agricultural sustainability, longer term impacts of natural disaster, agricultural tourism opportunities, and farm safety and more. At the bottom, it says "For more details visit ksc.pub/agriculture". Logos for Australian Government, Climate Change Fund, FRRR, and KEMPSEY are at the bottom.

Casino Truck Show 6 August 2022

Celebrating its ninth year, Richmond Valley Council is busily setting the scene for what is shaping up to be the best-ever NCP Casino Truck Show. With potentially 300 trucks with chrome and alloy shined to perfection and some 40 categories to be won, including the prestigious Tiny Lollback Rig of the Show, it would be a great day for trucking families and the general public.

COVID-19 Resource Centre

The DNC [COVID-19 Resource Centre](#) makes it easy to access relevant information and find links to appropriate Government and other resources.

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