

### **9.1.3 REGIONAL PRECINCTS AND PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM STREAM 1**

**FILE NO: 20.00071**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the information be noted.

---

#### **REPORT:**

Council has received funding under the Federal Government's Regional Precinct and Partnerships Program Stream 1 for Project 0274 - Connected Regional Neighbourhoods centred on the Bathurst CBD. Council will host the project in partnership with Transport for NSW and NSW Spatial Services. With a focus on new transport options, sustainable infrastructure and street improvements, importantly the detail will be co-designed with community and stakeholders making the next stage of CBD revitalisation investment ready.

Further information is provided at **Attachment 1**.

A project plan will be developed once the funding deed has been received.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Nil at this stage.

#### **BATHURST COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN – OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES:**

##### **Objective 1: Our sense of place and identity.**

- Strategy 1.3 Enhance the cultural vitality of the region.
- Strategy 1.5 Promote good design in the built environment.

##### **Objective 2: A smart and vibrant economy.**

- Strategy 2.1 Support local business and industry.  
Grow local employment, investment and attract new businesses skills
- Strategy 2.2 by nurturing and supporting entrepreneurs, partnerships and local skill development.
- Strategy 2.3 Develop Bathurst as a Smart City.
- Strategy 2.4 Promote our City and Villages as an attractive place to live.
- Strategy 2.6 Promote our City and Villages as a tourist destination.

##### **Objective 3: Environmental stewardship.**

- Strategy 3.5 Increase resilience to natural hazards and climate change.

##### **Objective 4: Sustainable and balanced growth.**

- Strategy 4.1 Facilitate development in the region that considers the current and future needs of our community.
- Strategy 4.2 Provide safe and efficient road, cycleway and pathway networks to improve accessibility.

##### **Objective 5: Community health, safety and well being.**

- Strategy 5.2 Help make the Bathurst CBD, neighbourhoods and the region's villages attractive and full of life.
- Strategy 5.3 Help build resilient, inclusive communities.
- Strategy 5.4 Make our public places safe and welcoming.
- Strategy 5.5 Plan and respond to demographic changes in the community.

**Objective 6: Community leadership and collaboration.**

- Strategy 6.1 Communicate and engage with the community, government and business groups on important matters affecting the Bathurst region.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

01 **Inform** - to provide the public with balanced and objective information to help them understand the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. RPPP grant - Information Sheet [9.1.3.1 - 3 pages]

## **INFORMATION SHEET – RPPP GRANT FUNDING**

---

### **Grant received under Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program Stream 1 Project 0274 - Connected Regional Neighbourhoods**

#### Funding Stream

A grant application was submitted under the Regional Precincts and Partnership Program: Stream One – Precinct Development and Planning, which has the objective of “activating partnerships and deliver an investment-ready precinct plan”. Funding under Stream 1 does not provide for construction of works. For the Bathurst CBD precinct, whilst there is the Town Centre Master Plan adopted by Council plus other concepts and proposal that have emerged since, it remains necessary to develop the relevant concepts and ideas into shovel ready and investment ready implementation plans. This will position such projects for future grant opportunities.

The application was lodged in March 2024.

Council was advised of the successful grant on 12 February under strict embargo.

#### Partners

The project is a partnership between:

- Bathurst Regional Council (applicant and main asset owner): lead on project management, governance, related procurement, reporting and funds management; lead in co-design, local strategic alignment, stakeholder identification and connection.
- Transport for NSW (Smart Places, Cities and Active Transport team): Support on project management, procurement, governance, reporting; technical advisory on emerging technologies, urban design, business case development, transport planning, street revitalisation, and movement and place.
- NSW Department of Customer Service (Spatial Services): technical advice and input related to spatial data, digital infrastructure including platforms, data governance arrangements.

#### Projects aims:

- revitalise the Bathurst CBD precinct for investment, fostering a walkable, vibrant, sustainable and smart town centre.
- address the needs of Bathurst's growing population, utilising the expertise of Bathurst Regional Council, Transport for NSW and the NSW Department of Customer Service.
- through local strategies and community engagement, it will develop concept designs incorporating active transport infrastructure, streetscape enhancements and smart, sustainable technology.

The project relies heavily on co-design with community and stakeholders. The co-design process will identify specific works to include in a works schedule for future

## INFORMATION SHEET – RPPP GRANT FUNDING

---

delivery as funding for works becomes available. The grant application does not detail specific works because the co-design process, to identify what the community wants, is a necessary precursor.

### Project Focus

The project does identify a focus on 3 infrastructure asset classes:

- Active transport: walking and cycling path improvements, safer road crossings and traffic calming, bike racks, maintenance stations, end of trip facilities. This focus adds value to the separately funded Bathurst Active Transport Strategy (BRATS) currently being developed.
- Emerging and sustainable infrastructure to connect communities: technologies generating new live data, smart poles and connected street furniture, charging stations, digital signage, and digital connectivity infrastructure; interventions to target urban heat and decarbonisation. This focus will utilise the Spatial Services Bathurst Digital Twin platform.
- Revitalisation and street improvements: new shared zones, pedestrian precincts, place making and amenity improvements, lighting, seating, street cooling and planting, event infrastructure and public art initiatives. This focus continues strategies identified in the Bathurst Town Centre Master Plan, and responds to more recent calls for a permanent street tree planting program and laneway revitalisation plan. The project will enhance future redevelopment of the former TAFE precinct.

### Deliverables

- engineering plans and detailed designs
- costings and a business case
- an emerging technology and data implementation plan.

### Funding received

Total project budget \$2,222,511 across two years comprises

Grant amount (cash)	\$1,720,400
BRC (in kind staff costs)	\$ 101,228
TfNSW (in kind staff costs)	\$ 400,883

There is no cash contribution from Council.

The cash component has not been broken down into any specific projects or deliverables, providing the community and Council the maximum flexibility as to what elements the funds will be allocated to.

The TfNSW staff time will be allocated to projects involving new technologies and connected community projects and programs.

Councils staff time will be devoted to projects involving active transport and

## **INFORMATION SHEET – RPPP GRANT FUNDING**

---

revitalisation and street improvements. Council will also coordinate (and facilitate when applicable) community engagement sessions.

### **Project Governance**

A project Advisory Group has been proposed with the following membership:

Regional Development Australia Central West  
Bathurst Business Chamber  
Business NSW West  
Charles Sturt University  
Bathurst Local Aboriginal Lands Council  
Charles Sturt University  
Bathurst Local Area Command

The application received letters of support from all but the last of these entities. Council has received commendation from BLALC since the grant was announced.

### **Background Strategies**

The project builds upon a number of previous studies and strategies adopted by Council, including:

Town Centre Master Plan  
Bathurst Region Local Strategic Planning Statement  
Bathurst Heritage Plan  
TAFE and Ambulance Station Conservation Management Plans  
Smart Communities Strategy  
Spatial Services Bathurst Digital Twin  
Previous Main Street Studies

### **Summary**

This grant funding will allow the design and planning of projects and when delivered by Council as funding for works becomes available, the new infrastructure would:

- increase walking, cycling and micro mobility trips for short, everyday journeys
- increase local economic activity and social cohesion
- increase climate resilience and urban cooling, improve water and energy efficiency
- improve digital inclusion: accessibility, affordability and digital ability
- improve productivity and operational efficiency of public spaces
- celebrate and share Wiradjuri culture.