



The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

The Hon Kevin Hogan MP
Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister
Assistant Minister for Local Government
Federal Member for Page

Senator Hollie Hughes
Patron Senator for the Hunter Region

MEDIA RELEASE

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Funding to improve Sporting facilities in Shortland

The Liberal/Nationals Government is investing more than **\$2.3 million** in priority projects across Shortland, supporting local jobs, businesses, and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Patron Senator for the Hunter Region, Hollie Hughes said “these projects will provide support for local kids with new and upgraded sporting facilities, they’ll provide convenience for motorists with upgraded parking facilities and even enhance the entranceways to several town centres.

Announcing the funding today at Belmont Sporting Fields, Senator Hughes said, “and the good news is that every time the Morrison Government injects funds into Shortland and the Hunter, we are stimulating the local economy by creating more jobs for locals.”

The Projects are funded through the Australian Government’s Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program.

Projects currently being delivered via Lake Macquarie City Council include:

Project Name	Project Description	Construction Commence	Construction Complete	LRCI Funding Required
Belmont Sports Field Master Plan Upgrade Stage 1	Construction of 4 sports fields including fencing, drainage, irrigation, lighting and turf.	November 2022	June 2023	\$1,400,000
Murray Beach Park	Construction of a new public park including playground, multi-purpose court, public amenities and picnic facilities.	February 2023	June 2023	\$200,000

Croudace Bay Sports Complex Master Plan	Construction of new netball courts as part of the Croudace Bay Sports Complex Master Plan.	March 2022	June 2022	\$200,000
Redhead Beach Car Park Upgrade	Extension of the formal car parking areas at Redhead Beach as part of the installation of the BMX Pump Track	June 2022	June 2023	\$400,000
City Entry Landscaping Improvements	Landscaping improvements at the entry point to the town centres including roundabouts.	June 2022	June 2023	\$134,776

Senator Hughes said the funding reflects the top priorities of the Lake Macquarie community.

“With the challenges presented by COVID-19, bushfires, floods and other events, the past couple of years have been tough for communities, businesses and local councils,” Senator Hughes said.

“That’s why we have moved quickly to approve funding for priority projects across Shortland, paving the way for shovels to hit the dirt to make them a reality.

“This will provide a vital boost for our local communities, backing local jobs and economic growth while delivering lasting upgrades that will benefit residents for years to come.”

The Liberal National Government has committed a \$500 million extension to Phase 3 of the LRCI Program, taking the total commitment to the LRCI Program to \$3 billion.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Barnaby Joyce said the newly increased funding of \$500 million for the extension to Phase 3 will flow through the LRCI Program to local councils across Australia to improve their local road networks and deliver priority community infrastructure projects.

“This builds on the \$1.7 billion already approved to deliver more than 7,400 projects nationwide under the first three phases of the program,” the Deputy Prime Minister said.

“This program is having a significant impact across the country, with more than 6,400 projects already complete or under construction – delivering upgrades to local roads, bike paths, community halls, playgrounds, parks and sports facilities, as well as improved accessibility to public facilities.

“The \$500 million Phase 3 Extension will build on this, delivering more jobs, more economic stimulus, and more of the local priority projects that communities need and deserve.”

Assistant Minister for Local Government Kevin Hogan said the program forms part of the Liberal and Nationals unwavering commitment to back local councils and their communities through COVID-19 and secure a stronger future out the other side of the pandemic.

“We want to deliver the best outcomes for locals under this program, which is why we have listened and acted on council feedback, providing a longer delivery window for local governments to pursue larger, more complex projects that may be a higher priority and have a bigger impact on the community,” Assistant Minister Hogan said.

“We also get councils to use local businesses and workforces to deliver these projects as much as possible, ensuring this stimulus flows directly into the hands of hard-working Aussies, their families, their businesses and their communities.

“I look forward to seeing more projects get underway and supporting jobs and communities at this critical time.”

Councils will be able to access funding through the LRCI Phase 3 Extension from July 2023.

For more information on the \$3 billion LRCI Program, including the allocations for the \$500 million Phase 3 Extension, visit <https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/local-roads-and-community-infrastructure/>.

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