



**John Barilaro**

Deputy Premier

Minister for Regional NSW

Minister for Skills

Minister for Small Business

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR FUND FOR BORDER TOWNS**

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro today announced a \$20 million *NSW Cross-Border Commissioner's Infrastructure Fund* (CBCIF) to make it easier to fund and build vital infrastructure that benefits communities living on our state's borders.

The CBCIF will be used to build infrastructure which has social, economic, environmental or cultural benefits for towns in border areas, and requires co-investment from the neighbouring state.

Mr Barilaro said border communities should not miss out on building or improving critical infrastructure because of an invisible line.

"Residents and businesses in cross-border communities are often faced with issues brought about by differences in state and territory rules, regulations and policies, and that's why we led the way by establishing the NSW Cross-Border Commissioner in 2012," Mr Barilaro said.

"Under this new fund, the Commissioner will work with communities in NSW and neighbouring states through established cross-border agreements to identify priority projects, and secure co-investment.

"Projects for consideration may include improving electricity supply, developing telecommunications, accessing water supply or providing social and sporting infrastructure, all with the intention to grow and support our border regions.

"I'm confident that this fund will continue the good work already underway in the cross-border regions, as we work towards the further reduction in regulatory duplication, the recognition of qualifications across both states and easing planning and development processes," he said.

Projects must be located in local government areas of NSW and neighbouring jurisdictions which are adjacent to a NSW border. Applications will be invited in the coming months.

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