

The Safe and Secure Water Program—prioritising funding

The NSW Government established the \$1 billion Safe and Secure Water Program in 2017 to provide safe, secure and sustainable water and wastewater services to regional NSW towns.

The program, managed by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, provides funding to non-metropolitan councils, local water utilities, county councils, water supply authorities and joint organisations for projects that ensure these organisations can continue to deliver their services safely and reliably.

The program also supports:

- long-term strategic planning via Integrated Water Cycle Management strategies
- local water utilities in need of assistance in building capacity and capability.

Prioritising risks

To make sure the available funds are directed to projects that will have the most impact, we work with councils and utilities to identify risks to:



Water security—risks that may affect current or future continuity of reliable and uninterrupted town water supply



Water quality—risks to health posed by drinking water supplies, considering the source waters and the barriers present in treatment systems to manage these risks



Environment—risks to human health or the environment from sewage management that does not satisfy community expectations or regulatory requirements.

We then assess risks against a prioritisation framework to direct funding to areas of greatest need.

Mitigating risks

The Safe and Secure Water Program provides funding to allow authorities to mitigate prioritised risks through improvement works.

Funded infrastructure and non-infrastructure solutions can be delivered via a single project, a number of projects or a program of works.

More information

Find more information on the program at industry.nsw.gov.au/water/water-utilities/infrastructure-programs/safe-and-secure-water-program

Contact the program team by email at sswp@industry.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 176 011.

Risk prioritisation framework

Each risk or issue is assessed against a prioritisation framework to determine how critical it is in regard to regional NSW water safety and security.

Risks and issues are ranked based on the result of the prioritisation assessment.

The prioritisation framework, along with eligible risks and issues, is re-assessed quarterly by a review panel to ensure it remains current and in line with policy objectives.