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MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE THAN \$2.5 MILLION TO HELP LOCALS FIGHT CRIME

Another round of the \$10 million Community Safety Fund is now open, giving local businesses and organisations an opportunity to put forward their crime-fighting ideas to help make their communities a safer place to live.

Attorney General Mark Speakman and Minister for Police Troy Grant today announced the program is open for applications which has successfully funded 52 projects over the past three years.

“From Blacktown to Byron Bay to Bathurst, we have supported some brilliant projects that are helping to drive down crime and improve safety,” Mr Speakman said.

“In the first round, there was an Apprehended Violence Order education program for towns in North West NSW to reduce domestic violence, as well as a midnight basketball initiative for youth in Grafton, Griffith and Blacktown.

“The second round delivered more innovative ideas including a street beat program in Moree on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to encourage at-risk teenagers to take part in arts and cultural activities to keep them out of trouble.

“In the most recent round, we invested in solar street lighting for two Indigenous communities in the Walgett Shire to improve safety for residents.”

Mr Grant said the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government established the Community Safety Fund to support local crime prevention projects, particularly in disadvantaged, regional and remote areas.

“We know local people understand local crime problems and are in the best position to address the issues they’re dealing with day-to-day,” Mr Grant said.

“As we have seen from the wide range of applications we’ve received so far, the best crime prevention strategies are often the ones that come from the grassroots level.

“It’s safe to say regional NSW has received its fair share of more than \$7.3 million worth of grants delivered so far, and the final round won’t be any different.”

The fund provides up to \$250,000 for projects that address anti-social behaviour, promote safe use of public space and encourage people to work together to reduce crime.

Applications open today and will close at 5pm on Friday, 10 August. For more information go to www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au