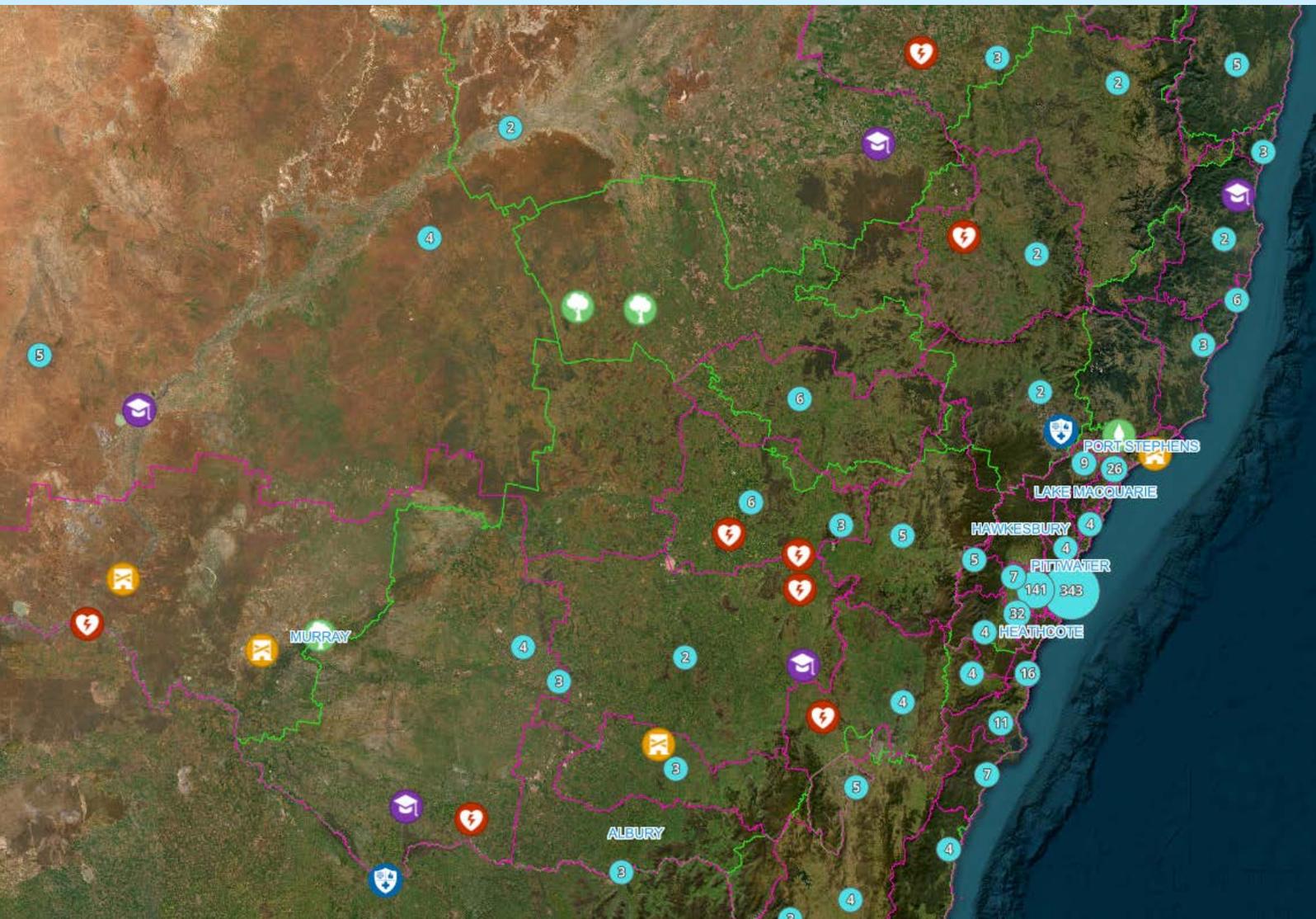**Spatial Services**

Mapping the NSW 2025/26 Budget

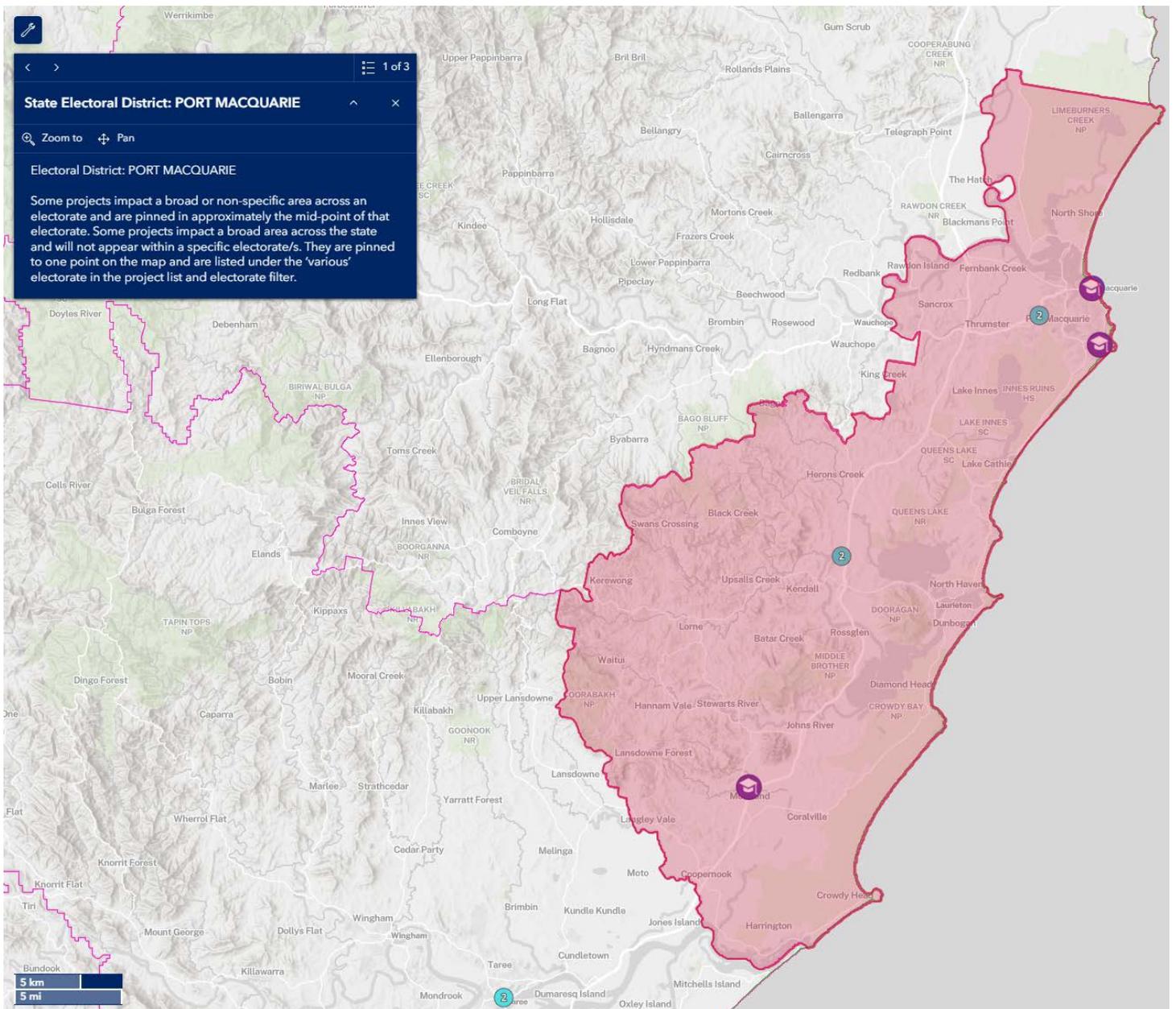DCS Spatial Services Case Study

Introduction

DCS Spatial Services was approached by NSW Treasury to deliver a publicly accessible, visual representation of major works and capital projects funded by the NSW Government across the state. The purpose of this interactive map is to help the NSW public gain a better understanding of how the Budget resources were allocated across the state.

As part of this project, DCS Spatial Services first needed to replicate the existing map to gain understanding of the project scope and demonstrate capability. Practical enhancements then needed to be implemented to deliver a more sophisticated application that serviced all requirements and challenges met by NSW Treasury.

Successful delivery of this project also included the development of charts that provide a snapshot of the NSW economy and budget aggregates.

Challenges

Prior to DCS Spatial Services undertaking this project, NSW Treasury were looking for opportunities to enhance the Budget Map and address challenges inherent to the previous platform. Enhancements were required to ensure it was fit-for-purpose.

The challenges and subsequent enhancements included:

1. ## Representing projects with complex or multiple locations

   NSW Treasury required support to develop a solution for presenting projects that did not have a single pinpoint location on the map.

2. ## Adding filters for electorate, suburb and postcode

   This functionality became critical when the electorate field was populated with 'various' or agencies entered 'various' instead of a specific electorate. An enhancement was required to display projects on the map where the electorate was not identified.

3. ## Presenting projects on the map when project coordinates had not been provided

   A more streamlined method was required for displaying projects that had no latitude, longitude and/or electorate data.

4. ## Improving visibility of closely located or overlapping projects

   The interactive map stacked pinpoints, meaning projects in a similar location could not be viewed unless they had been assigned separate pin categories.

5. ## Timing constraints of data influencing publication

   NSW Treasury worked with agencies to verify data accuracy. Due to time limitations, this assurance occurred shortly before the interactive map's launch, requiring the population process to accommodate very tight timelines. A staging workflow needed to be designed to review updated data before scheduled deployment.

6. ## Control measures to ensure immediate updates could be made to the map

   The budget process involves sensitive agency data, and any inadvertent publication could carry reputational risks for NSW Treasury. The team needed to implement measures that prevented sensitive information from becoming publicly accessible through the map, including a stop-gap mechanism to manage any potential issues.

7. ## Implement simple graphical user interface to update data

   The existing method utilised various Excel, CSV and JSON formats which required technical knowledge and had very little tolerance for formatting errors. Improvements were needed to simplify the user interface and streamline the data-updating process.

There was also an expectation that the charts would meet accessibility requirements in line with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 at an AA level. To ensure longevity, the content also needed to align with the design principles used across the existing nsw.gov.au website.

Solution

When developing this interactive map, DCS Spatial Services leveraged a proven understanding of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and skills in spatial data application.

Using ArcGIS Experience Builder, an online GIS web application development platform, our Spatial Data Transformation Team recreated the interactive map to scale. Once the initial replication was finalised, the team implemented the additional requirements. The charts requested were also developed within the GIS, making the platform more informative and interactive.

We also used feature manipulation engines (FME) to restructure the data into a consistent format. The data was published directly to our portal environment, ensuring any updates were automatically reflected across the platform. This approach simplified the user interface, strengthened governance and met NSW Treasury's data-sharing security requirements. It also enabled repeatable use from a single development effort. The map itself was hosted in our online GIS environment.

The map featured administrative boundaries data from the Foundation Spatial Data Framework (FSDF), which is maintained and distributed by DCS Spatial Services. This underpins the distinction between State Electoral Boundaries as well as Local Aboriginal Land Council regions on the map, ensuring boundaries are accurate, current and authoritative. As an endorsed Core State Digital Asset, agencies must use the spatial datasets comprising the Foundation Spatial Data Framework (FSDF) where applicable. By leveraging our data and expertise, NSW Treasury achieved compliance with this mandate and the State Digital Asset Reuse Policy.

The collaboration between DCS Spatial Services and NSW Treasury has delivered significant improvements to the design system and accessibility features. The migration strengthened compliance with NSW Government branding requirements and accessibility standards.
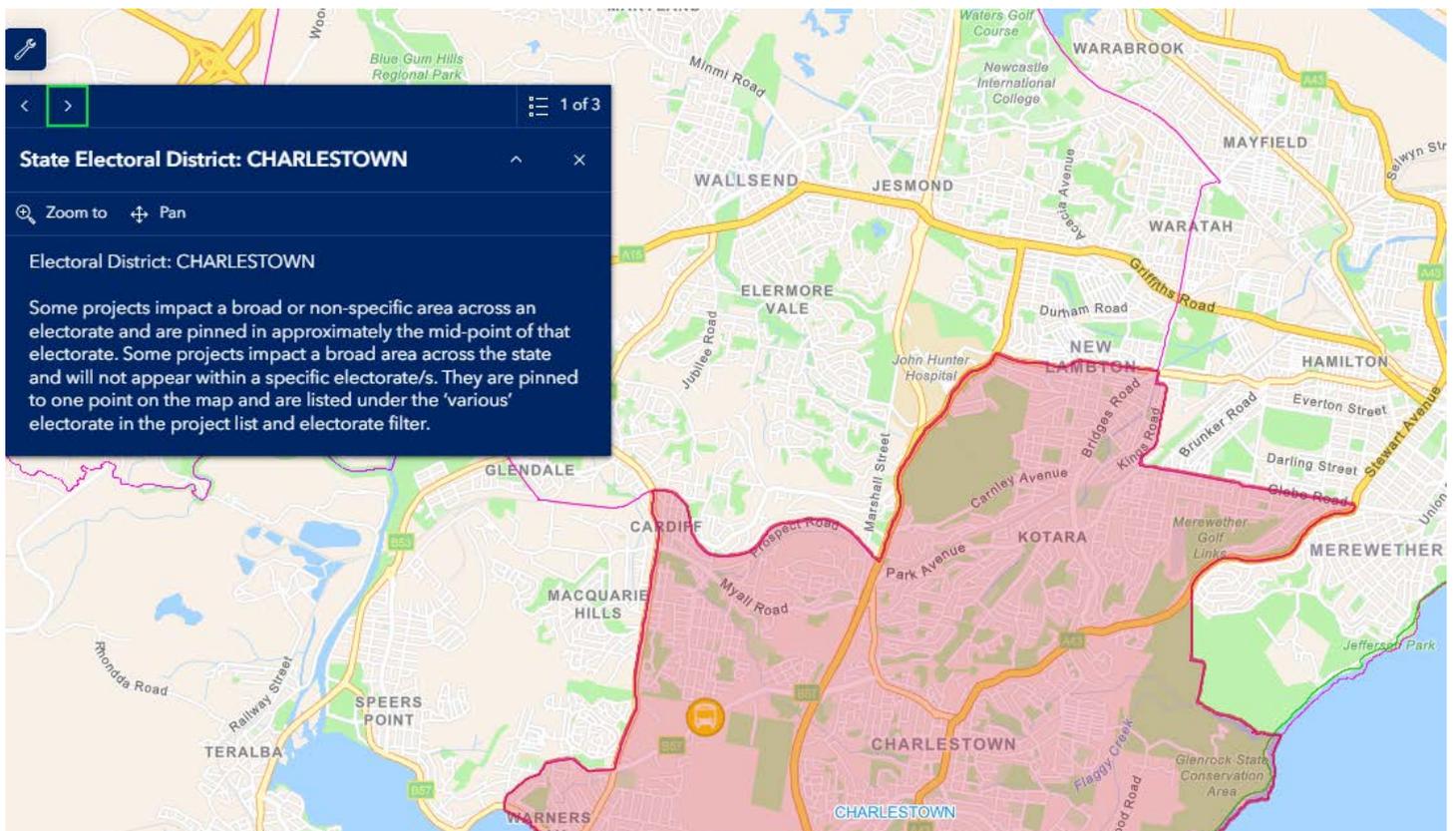
'With the support and expertise of DCS Spatial Services, NSW Treasury has been able to publish tools that create a more engaging visual representation of the State Budget.'
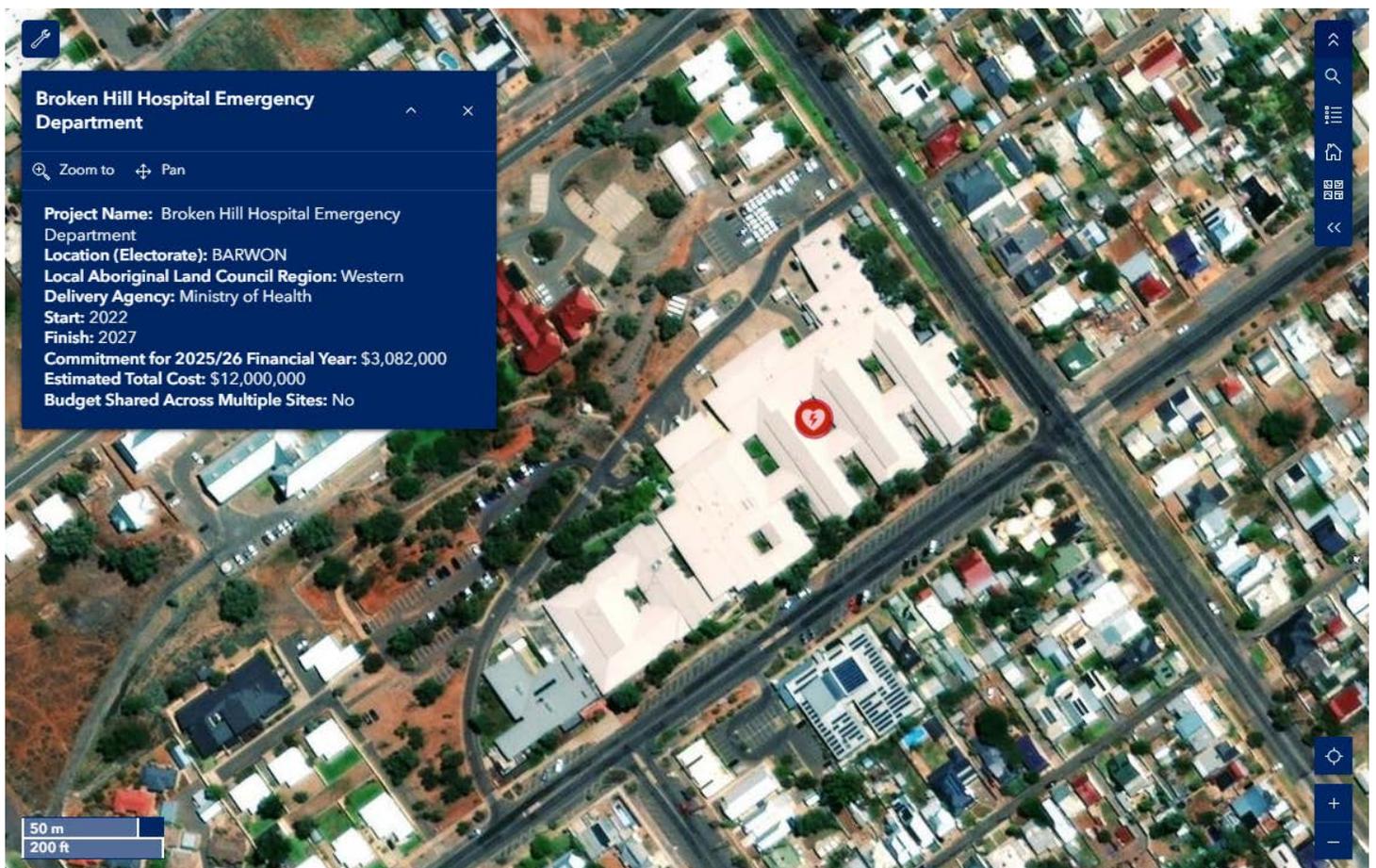
– NSW Treasury

Project outcomes

Through the expertise of DCS Spatial Services in GIS and spatial data applications, we delivered a sophisticated and advanced interactive online map for NSW Treasury. The map clearly illustrates major works and capital projects funded by the NSW Government in each electorate, addressing the challenges and required enhancements for the project.

In addition, we developed charts that show the state's funding sources and expenditure, designed precisely to NSW Treasury's specifications and highlighting key figures for the 2025/26 NSW Budget.

This collaborative project demonstrates the powerful, real-world applications of spatial data. It showcases how DCS Spatial Services continues to harness spatial capability to support agencies such as NSW Treasury in delivering essential tools, products and services used across the NSW Government. The potential for further expansion and reuse of this application is significant.

By delivering this platform in partnership with NSW Treasury, we have provided the people of NSW with an interactive tool that visualises the geolocation of capital projects across the state, enhancing public understanding of the 2025/26 NSW Budget.

Broken Hill Hospital Emergency Department

⊕ Zoom to   ⊕ Pan

Project Name: Broken Hill Hospital Emergency Department
Location (Electorate): BARWON
Local Aboriginal Land Council Region: Western
Delivery Agency: Ministry of Health
Start: 2022
Finish: 2027
Commitment for 2025/26 Financial Year: $3,082,000
Estimated Total Cost: $12,000,000
Budget Shared Across Multiple Sites: No

Resources

NSW Budget Capital Projects Map for the 2025/26 budget:
www.budget.nsw.gov.au/my-budget

DCS Spatial Services website: **www.spatial.nsw.gov.au**

Contact details

Want to learn more about how spatial data can empower your projects?

Reach out to us: **www.spatial.nsw.gov.au/contact_us**

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