Three Scout groups in Myall Lakes to get upgrade work under COVID stimulus package

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Myall Lakes MP Stephen Bromhead with representatives from Taree Scouts. Taree Scout Hall has attracted \$38,000 in funding to refurbish its toilets and showers, including providing disabled access.

The funding, one of three grants for Mid Coast Scouts facilities announced this week, will also cover an upgrade to the electrical system at the Rifle Range Road facility.

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Wingham Scout Hall will receive \$17,000 for an external repaint and Forster-Tuncurry hall has \$13,000 for an electrical upgrade.

Member for Myall Lakes Stephen Bromhead said the funding was part of \$7.75 million being provided, under the State Government's COVID-19 stimulus program, for projects at Scouts facilities on Crown land.

"Scouts NSW is one of our State's largest and most popular youth organisations that helps communities build leadership skills, resilience and friendship through healthy activities for young people, so it's great to support them," Mr Bromhead said.

"Scouting has been operating in Australia since 1908 and I'm happy that three scouting facilities in our region will benefit from this funding, ensuring they are in good shape for future generations."

Minister for Water, Property and Housing Melinda Pavey said communities had done it tough during COVID-19, including organisations like Scouts NSW whose activities have been disrupted.

"Upgrade work will also support local economies with work for tradies and material suppliers."

Scouts NSW Chief Commissioner Neville Tomkins OAM said the stimulus funding would improve Scout facilities and help them attract more members.

"There are many Scout roofs that need repair, kitchen and toilet blocks that need upgrades, and facilities and campsites that we want to make more accessible including for those in wheelchairs, so this funding is very welcome."

Strengthening and supporting community connections is one of the key priorities of the newly launched Crown Land State Strategic <u>Plan</u>.

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