



Increased funding for Waterloo Wind Farm Community Grants Program

The Waterloo Wind Farm has increased the amount of funding available for community projects and initiatives that benefit the Mid North region this year, with a share in \$30,000 available.

Waterloo Wind Farm's General Manager Lindsay Ward said an extra \$10,000 has been added to the Waterloo Wind Fund Community Grant funding pool in 2016 because previous grant rounds have been so successful in contributing to positive change in the region.

"This will be the third consecutive year we have run the program. To date, the Waterloo Community Grant Program has provided more than \$60,000 in funding to a number of local community initiatives that continue to really make a difference to people living in our community," Mr Ward said.

"As a local business operating in the Mid North, we are proud to contribute to improving our local way of life by supporting groups working hard to deliver great programs that benefit our community."

Previous projects supported by Waterloo Wind Farm funding include the Marrabel Hall upgrade, new equipment for the Pygmy Bluetongue Conservation Association, the installation of a solar photovoltaic system at the Clare Valley Flying Club's aerodrome, and helping the Gilbert Valley Lions Club upgrade its catering van.

Grants are awarded based on a project's potential to benefit the Mid North Region in three key areas: community pride; the environment; and supporting the local economy.

- **Community Pride:** Support for initiatives that address key local community issues such as youth support, health, education and social cohesion.
- **Benefiting the environment:** Support for programs that revitalise the local environment such as projects that support biodiversity or community based conservation and rehabilitation programs.
- **Supporting the local economy:** Support for programs that build the local value chain such training, employment programs, tourism and local economic growth.

A panel of local community members and Waterloo Wind Farm staff will assess all applications and decide how grants are allocated.

"Through our Mid North Wind Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG), we have been able to gain a strong understanding of local residents' opinions, priorities and expectations – and the Waterloo Wind Farm Community Fund is a direct result of this consultation," Mr Ward said.

Wind farm operator EnergyAustralia has been consulting with local community members via the Mid North CLG for the past 5 years. Georgina House, independent facilitator of the Group, said feedback from members had been beneficial in helping to identify the type of programs grant funding should be directed to.

"The CLG played an important role in helping to determine the key themes for applications, which will ensure funds are allocated to projects that offer long-term social, environmental and economic benefits to the community," she said.

Applications for this round of funding close Monday 23 May.

To learn more and apply for a community grant, visit www.waterloowindfarm.com.au or contact Hannah Willson on 0408 547 869 for any questions.