

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Powering your ideas.
Stronger communities for a brighter future.

snowyhydro

red
energy

Snowy Hydro celebrates and acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the many lands and waters on which we live, work and serve. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging for their custodianship of Country over the centuries throughout Australia.

We recognise and honour the ongoing connection and deep spiritual relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to Mother Earth and acknowledge the unique role they play in caring for and protecting her for future generations.





About

At Snowy Hydro and Red Energy, we know that when communities thrive, everyone benefits. That's why we invest in the local communities where we live, work and serve.

One of the ways we do this is through our Community Grants Program, which offers grants of up to **\$20,000** to community groups across the Snowy Monaro (NSW), Snowy Valleys (NSW) and Towong (Vic) or up to **\$10,000** for Cessnock (NSW), Central Coast (NSW), Latrobe City (VIC), City of Hobsons Bay (VIC), Barossa (SA) and City of Onkaparinga (SA) local government areas.

These grants aim to bring community ideas to life and create lasting social and economic benefits for the region.

Focus Areas for Community Investment

To be eligible for funding, your project must align with at least one of our focus areas. We prioritise projects that create tangible benefits, encourage collaboration and support communities to deliver initiatives in the following areas:



Energy for everyone

Projects that help local community groups or facilities improve energy efficiency, lower its operating bills, or deliver local energy awareness and education workshops.



Reconciliation

Initiatives that promote First Nations cultural awareness, support local Aboriginal-led community projects, or strengthen local cultural connections and events.



Future energy leaders

Local educational and youth initiatives that build hands-on STEM skills, support school projects, or encourage career pathways for regional youth.



Stronger communities

Practical equipment, small facility upgrades, or local events that strengthen community connections, health, wellbeing and regional volunteer groups.

Key dates

APPLICATIONS OPEN

18

Oct 2026
9:00am AEDT

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

15

Nov 2026
11:55pm AEDT

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

All applicants will be notified in writing within 8 weeks of the closing date.



Eligibility requirements

To be eligible for funding, applicants and projects must meet **all** of the following criteria:

1. Be a not-for-profit or charity with an Australian Business Number (ABN). *Note: a not-for-profit entity without an ABN can enter into an 'auspicing arrangement' with another not-for-profit entity with an ABN (the **Auspikor**), with the Auspikor applying for funding on that entity's behalf.*
2. A completed application is submitted via our online grants platform on or before the deadline (11.55pm AEST on Sunday, 15 November 2026).
3. The proposed project, event or initiative directly involves or supports communities located within the Snowy Monaro (NSW), Snowy Valleys (NSW), Cessnock (NSW), Central Coast (NSW), Towong (VIC), Latrobe City (VIC), City of Hobsons Bay (VIC), Barossa (SA) and City of Onkaparinga (SA) local government areas. Where a postcode crosses an LGA boundary, eligibility will be determined by the physical location of the proposed initiative.

LGA	Postcodes within/partly within LGA
Snowy Monaro Regional Council	2620', 2621', 2622', 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629', 2630, 2631, 2632', 2633'
Snowy Valleys Council	2611', 2629', 2642', 2649', 2652', 2653', 2720', 2722', 2729', 2730', 3707'
Towong Shire Council	3691', 3695, 3697, 3698, 3699, 3700, 3701, 3704, 3705, 3707', 3708, 3709
Cessnock City Council	2250', 2320', 2321', 2322', 2323', 2325', 2326, 2327, 2334', 2335'
Central Coast Council	2083', 2250', 2251, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259', 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2775'
Latrobe City Council	3840, 3842, 3844', 3847, 3848, 3849, 3850', 3851', 3869', 3870, 3871', 3872'
Hobsons Bay City Council	3012', 3015, 3016, 3018, 3025, 3028'
The Barossa Council	5235', 5351', 5352, 5353', 5355', 5356, 5357', 5360', 5371', 5373'
City of Onkaparinga	5047', 5051', 5153', 5157', 5158, 5159, 5160, 5161, 5162, 5163, 5164, 5165, 5166, 5167, 5168, 5169, 5170, 5171', 5172', 5173', 5174', 5201'

Not eligible

- Political groups or those primarily engaged in political lobbying activities.
- Religious initiatives that primarily focus on promoting religious activities or beliefs.
- Private individuals or activities.
- Requests for recurrent expenses (e.g., rent, utilities, wages) for a business or organisation. *Note: While operational costs may not be eligible, applicants can include and justify project-related costs in their budget if they are directly linked to the project. For example, wages for employees are not eligible; however, contractor fees (e.g., a mental health facilitator, guest speaker) may be considered if essential to project delivery. Where possible, we encourage funds to be spent locally.*
- Requests for retrospective activities or to cover costs associated with making an application.
- Initiatives that have direct links to tobacco, illegal drugs, or are associated with inappropriate activities.
- Requests for funding where the direct community spend is not clear.
- Requests for funding where ongoing maintenance or ownership of assets, infrastructure or land is not clearly defined (e.g., sporting equipment, storage trailers). *Note: To address this, please provide supporting information in your application that clearly outlines the plan for ownership and maintenance.*
- Requests for funding where ownership of land or infrastructure is not supported with an owners letter of permission or support (e.g., council owned land or infrastructure). *Note: To address this, please provide a clearly titled letter of support from the owner.*

Assessment criteria

All eligible applications will be assessed by Snowy Hydro's Community Review Panel against the following criteria.

The project, event or initiative must address:

- **Alignment to Focus areas (50%):** Directly contribute to at least one of the Community Commitment Pillars (Energy for Everyone, Reconciliation, Future Energy Leaders, Stronger Communities)
- **Community Impact & Need (20%):** Address a specific community need with tangible benefits, evidenced by community consultation, letters of support, or data
- **Project Viability & Delivery (10%):** Demonstrate viability with a detailed project plan including a timeline, activities, resourcing and budget, supported by quotes or other relevant documentation (please note that partial funding is no longer offered, so the budget should reflect the total intended expenditure)
- **Value for Investment (20%):** Demonstrate efficient use of funds and potential for lasting impact beyond the funding period

NOTE: Not every application that meets the assessment criteria will receive funding.

All decisions are at the discretion of Snowy Hydro; decisions will be final and no negotiations with applicants will be entered into. Please ensure that your financial request reflects the total intended expenditure, as partial funding is not available. Requested amounts must align directly with delivering project scope and outcomes.

Application process

1. Submit your application: Use our secure grants platform, accessible via the Snowy Hydro and Red Energy websites.
2. Confirmation: Snowy Hydro will send an email acknowledging receipt of your application.
3. Review: Applications will be screened for eligibility and reviewed by Snowy Hydro's Community Review Panel.
4. Notification: All applicants will be notified of the outcome via email within eight weeks.

Submission requirements

Each application must include a budget and supporting quotes in PDF format. Please clearly name and attach these documents to your application.



Governance and funding process

Successful applicants will:

- Receive a formal agreement to be signed before any funding is released.
- Be responsible for submitting an invoice/a tax invoice with the correct banking details before the end of the financial year.
- Be responsible for determining whether the GST is applicable on the Tax Invoice issued to Snowy Hydro, to the extent the successful applicant is registered for GST.
- Ensure the key contact person listed on the application form, and their appropriate accounting/treasurer contact are contactable throughout the funding process, and that all contact details are correct and up-to-date.
- Be responsible for paying all taxes, duties, and government charges associated with the project.
- Use the funding only for the agreed-upon activities and within the specified timeframe.
- Notify Snowy Hydro in writing for any changes to the project or budget.

Snowy Hydro may withhold payment if it is believed that the recipient has not complied with the agreement or that their actions may damage Snowy Hydro or Red Energy's reputation.

All payments made by Snowy Hydro under this Community Grants Program are required to be reported by Snowy Hydro to the Australian Tax Office via the Taxable Payments Annual Report. The information to be reported includes the applicant's name, contact details, bank account information, date of payment and amount paid to the applicant.

Acquittal process

Successful recipients have 12 months to deliver their project/initiative. On completion, an acquittal form must be submitted within six weeks of the completion of the project/event and ahead of the next grant round.

The acquittal form requires:

- A short description of the project and a summary of its outcomes.
- Proof of fund usage (e.g., invoices, receipts).
- Copies of photos, promotional materials, and community testimonials. By submitting these, the recipient agrees to allow Snowy Hydro and Red Energy to use them for promotional purposes.
- Recipients who fail to submit their acquittal may be ineligible for future funding. If the initiative does not proceed, Snowy Hydro must be advised immediately to discuss next steps.

Need help?

General questions: Our Community team is here to assist. Email us at: community@snowyhydro.com.au

Technical issues: If you have issues with the grants portal, including bugs and difficulties submitting your application take a look at the [SurePact Knowledge Hub](#) or contact the [SurePact support team](#).



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