

WHITE ROCK Wind Farm

Community Fund Guidelines

April 2024



Introduction

The White Rock Wind Farm ('WRWF') Community Fund ('the Fund') has been established by White Rock Wind Farm Pty Ltd. WRWF is committed to building and maintaining positive relationships with the local community and aims to keep an open dialogue with local residents, stakeholders and the wider community throughout all stages of the wind farm lifecycle. The Fund is a key element of WRWF's broader Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan (the Plan). The focus of the Plan is to successfully integrate the project into the local community and to work towards equitably sharing the project benefits.

The annual allocation of funding is a voluntary contribution from WRWF and in 2018 was based on \$2,500 per commissioned wind turbine, per annum. An annual indexed increase of 2.5% is fixed for the lifespan of the Fund.

WRWF Community Consultative Committee has funding categories for Minor and Major Projects or initiatives that would deliver a sustainable legacy with lasting benefits to the local economy, community, or natural environment.

These guidelines outline all details related to the role and function of the Fund. The guidelines have been developed in collaboration with the WRWF Community Consultative Committee and the committee is pleased to announce the 2024 funding available for applicants is \$202,946.35

Aim of the fund

The aim of the WRWF Community Fund is to financially support initiatives and projects that enrich and enhance the local community.

Focus areas for the fund

Funding applications will be considered from all sectors, including but not limited to community development, the arts, education and training (including scholarships through organisations), health and wellbeing, sport, economic development, environment and sustainability.

Geographic area for the fund

Applications will be considered for projects located within a 50 km radius of WRWF as shown on the map in Figure 1. Distance weighting will be applied to all projects according to the zone in which the project is located e.g. zero to 10km from the windfarm (Zone A), 10km to 20km (Zone B) etc. **The applicant must list what zone the project will fall within.**

Preference will be given to those projects closest to WRWF. This weighting will be considered together with other selection criteria such as direct benefit to the community, demonstrated sound financial management, etc. Further details on selection criteria are outlined below.

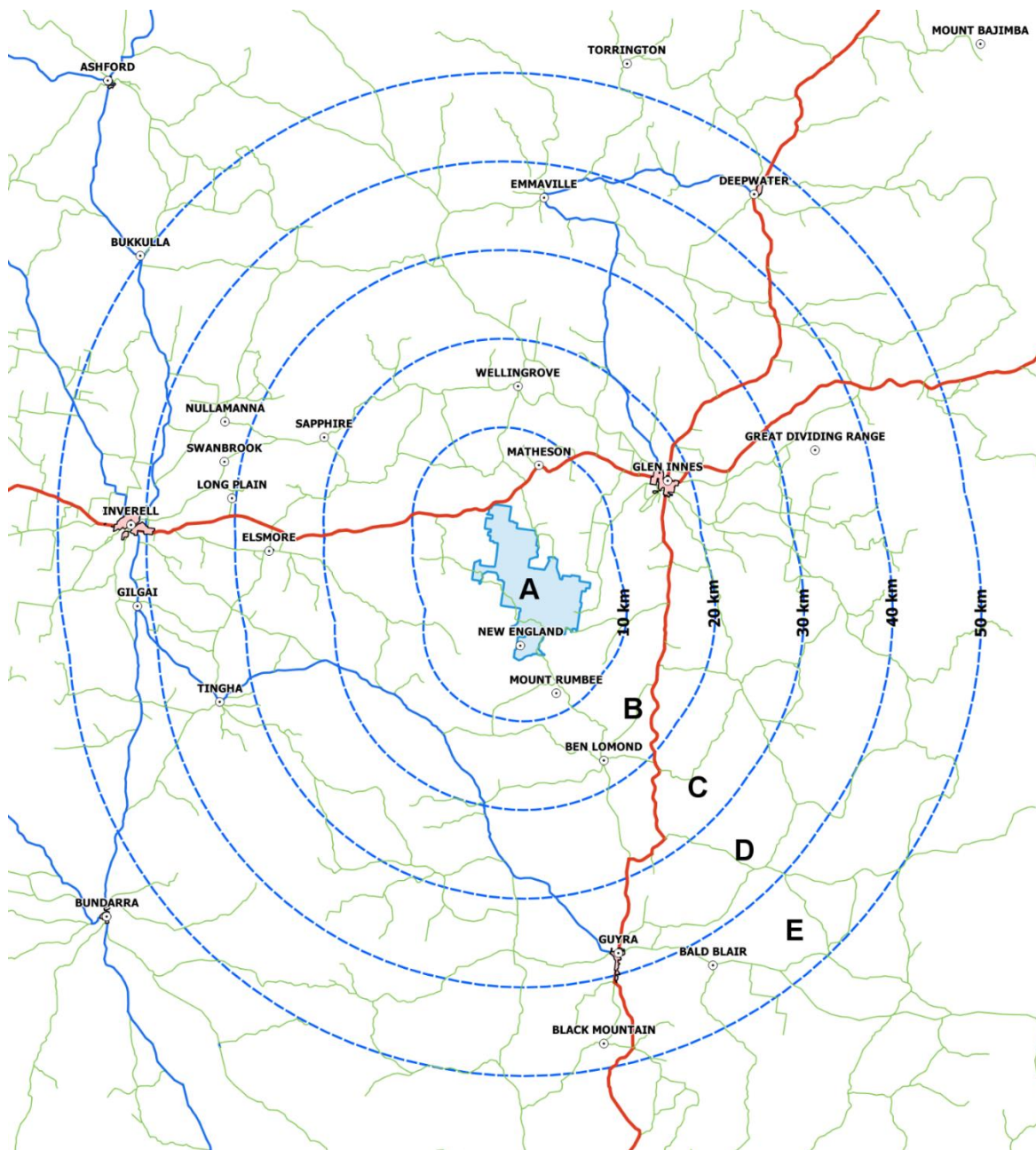


Figure 1 WRF Distance Bands (0 – 50 km) and Zone Identifiers (A – E)

Funding amounts

The Fund has three (3) grant categories:

1. Minor Grants are for applications seeking less than or equal to \$5,000 (including GST) with no minimum limit.
2. Major Projects seeking more than \$5,000 (including GST) with the upper limit being the maximum fund amount for the year.
3. Expression of Interest in major project funding should create a lasting positive impact on the local economy, community, or environment.

For all categories, the amount requested in Grant applications must be inclusive of GST.

The requested amount must be satisfactory to complete the proposed project. No additional funding will be provided once funding is awarded.

Eligibility to apply for funding

The following groups are eligible to apply for funding:

- Not-for-profit organisations, and
- Community based organisations.

Projects where the core funding is the responsibility of government entities (including Federal, State and Local Government and their business entities) are not eligible to apply for funding. However, applicants of projects that have created partnerships with Local Government are eligible to apply.

Additionally, applications seeking the following will not be eligible to apply:

1. Funding for ongoing operational costs (e.g. electricity),
2. Retrospective funding (e.g. costs incurred prior to award of funding), or
3. Components that have recurrent implications.

Individuals are not eligible to apply for funding.

Application process

Grant applications across the three categories can be applied for on an annual basis. The annual application process will adhere to the following timeframes for the 2024 Fund allocation:

- Applications open and advertised through local media, social media and websites.
- **07 June 2024** - Applications close at **4:30 pm**, review process begins.
- **09 August 2024** - Notifications sent to successful and unsuccessful applicants. Funds distributed to successful applicants.

Organisations are limited to one application per year where they are the principal applicant.

Different applications forms will be used for each of the Fund categories as detailed below:

Minor Grant Application (Under \$5000)

A short application form will be used for all Minor Grant applications.

Major Grant Application (Over \$5000)

A detailed application form will be used for all Major Grant applications, the potential size and complexity of projects applying for a Major Grant means detailed information (quotes, building approvals etc.) may be required for the application to be reasonably considered by the Committee.

Major Projects Expression of Interest (EOI) An EOI form will be used to gather high level details of proposed major projects, if an applicant for major projects is chosen to proceed to the next step, they may be required to complete an additional application providing further detail for their proposal.

All applications must be received within the designated application period and **late applications will not be accepted**. The Committee may request further details or supporting documentation in order for an application to be assessed.

All applicants will be notified within six weeks of closure of the application period. Unsuccessful applicants can request feedback from the Committee. Unsuccessful applicants will remain eligible to apply for future rounds of funding.

Successful applicants, the approved project and grant amount allocated will be advertised annually through local media together with the total number of applications received. Media on the progress and outcome of the projects may also occur.

General principles for evaluating applications

The following general principles underpin the evaluation of all applications and may require applicants to identify:

- Purpose of the project.
- Direct and indirect community benefits (including number of people benefitted).
- Diversity of community demographics benefitted.
- Demonstrated viability of the project and the project proponent.
- Duration of the project.
- Current financial status of the project, e.g. other funding applications, prior and current funding partners and demonstrated need for financial assistance.
- Extent to which the project duplicates other programs/facilities in the area.
- Demonstrated collaboration between organisations to maximise benefits e.g. partnership with local government.
- Where the project is situated within the 50 km geographic area criteria.

Reporting

Acquittal of project funds (including financial and project outcomes) must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding for Minor Grants and two years for Major Grants, or as agreed when funding is awarded.

Interim reporting will be required within six months for projects under \$5,000 or within 12 months for projects over \$5,000, if the funds have not been fully spent. Reporting should include an update on the proposed completion date, any project milestones achieved or advise WRWF of any delays that have or may be faced in commencing or completing the project in time.

A final summary of the project must be provided to WRWF on completion of the project regardless of the Grant category awarded. Unspent funds must be returned to WRWF for reallocation in the next funding year, unless agreed otherwise.

Version Number: 1 Date of Effect: April 2024	Review Date: March 2025	Responsible Officer: EA DCCS GISC
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Acknowledgement of White Rock Wind Farm

Successful applicants will be required to acknowledge the financial support provided by WRWF. The specific requirements for acknowledgment will be agreed upon when funding is awarded. These could include displaying logos in project material, acknowledgement in media releases, newsletters or placement of plaques, signage etc. with costs covered in the project budget. **WRWF must approve the final wording and layout for any form of recognition to be used.**

Standard wording to acknowledge WRWF should include the following:

This project has been proudly funded by the White Rock Wind Farm Community Fund or This project was made possible with funding from the White Rock Wind Farm Community Fund.

Governance of the Fund

A committee governs the Fund and oversees the grant process and disbursement of funds. Committee members include members based on a skills and experience criteria, representation from local councils, and representation from WRWF. Membership on the Committee is voluntary. Community members who are able to demonstrate relevant skills and experience are eligible to apply when expressions of interest are called through the local media.

Acceptance of these guidelines

By submitting an application to the WRWF Community Fund Committee, on behalf of your committee you acknowledge you have read and understood the information and requirements provided in these Guidelines. Furthermore, that if you are successful in receiving a grant and do not adhere to the reporting requirements you may be required to return the funds to WRWF and/or may forfeit being able to apply for future grants.

Review of these guidelines

These guidelines have been developed in collaboration with the WRWF Community Consultative Committee. It is intended that the guidelines be a living document that may be modified after regular reviews by WRWF and the committee to ensure that the Fund remains current and focused on equitably sharing of the project benefits.

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