

# Lal Lal Wind Farms

## Community Fund Guidelines



### How to Apply

Read the guidelines on the next page to make sure your community initiatives are eligible for funding under our community benefit fund program



Fill in the application form, which can be found on the website or call on 1800 187 183 for more information

### Community Benefit Fund

The Lal Lal Wind Farms Community Benefit Fund provides financial support for a range of community based initiatives, projects and events that benefit local communities. The program targets a range of community needs including; health and social welfare, safety, environment, education and youth, sport and recreation, culture, arts and economic development.

### Funding Guidelines

The following guidelines are designed to assist groups and organisations who wish to apply for funding for an initiative, project or event within the catchment area of the Lal Lal Wind Farms.

#### What is the objective of the Community Fund?

The Lal Lal Wind Farms Community Benefit Fund is established by Lal Lal Wind Farms to fund local projects and organisations that benefit the wider community through the construction and operations of the wind farms. Lal Lal Wind Farms has a genuine interest in building the capacity of the communities in which it operates. The Community Reference Group (CRG) has been appointed to assess all applications and to help determine how best to allocate funds and in-kind contributions to maximise benefits for communities within and around the wind farm.

The key objective of the funding is to provide financial support to not-for-profit community groups and organisations that are working to make a positive and lasting contribution to the communities within and around the wind farms.

#### What sort of projects will Lal Lal Wind Farms support?

Lal Lal Wind Farms will consider funding locally run initiatives for Incorporated or Not for Profit Community groups, funds, projects/programs or facilities that are located within, or provide a direct benefit to, the community within a 5km radius of Lal Lal Wind Farms.

Applications will only be accepted from the following townships and localities:

***Lal Lal, Yendon, Elaine, Cargerie, Clarendon, Bungaree, Dunnstown, Millbrook, Mt Doran***

All applications must provide:-

- tangible benefits for local communities
- strengthen Lal Lal Wind Farm's presence in the community.
- are run by groups/organisations with suitable governance structures in place
- provide full financial and legal disclosure on the activity and be subject to independent audit
- does not have a detrimental or negative impact on other community facilities and services
- applications that have a dollar for dollar contribution will be favourably considered, as will those that show in-kind support/contribution

The Lal Lal Wind Farms Community Benefit Fund is committed to supporting projects that benefit the community surrounding Lal Lal Wind Farms. Preference for sponsorship will be given to programs that support the following priority focus areas:

#### Education and Training

- Advancement of education, research and analysis and the grant of scholarships
- Early childhood and youth education enhancement programs
- Tertiary education/ TAFE scholarships
- Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- Programs that promote cross sector skill development

- Work placement programs in partnership with local high schools, prizes for students
- Programs encouraging flexible learning, further education and improved employability

### Community Development

- Promotion of industry, commerce, agriculture, culture and arts
- Renovation and upgrade of community buildings
- Community awareness of environment and sustainability
- Projects that attract government funding
- Projects that encourage local economic development and skill development

### Health/Wellbeing

- Promotion and enhancement of community participation and social cohesion
- Promotion, enhancement and development of health, health care, child care, aged care, mental health and assistance to disadvantaged persons
- Programs/ initiatives that encourage medical and health professionals to practice in the region
- Emergency services support
- Sport and social clubs

### Environment

- Conservation, protection, restoration, preservation,
- Expansion and enhancement of the natural environment
- Programs that support prevention of local environment degradation
- Initiatives that enhance the natural environment of the community

### What will not be funded by Lal Lal Wind Farms Community Benefit Fund?

Lal Lal Wind Farms Community Benefit Fund will not support any programs that may breach its code of conduct policy or other regulatory, licensing or statutory commitments.

These include but are not limited to:

- Political organisations or campaigns;
- Religious activities;
- A direct or indirect competitor to Lal Lal Wind Farms or their investors;
- Funding for commercial enterprises;
- Core funding that is the responsibility of Federal, State or Local Governments;
- Repayment of debts and loans;

- Salaries and wages;
- Administration expenses such as stationary, postage, office supplies;
- Rent and lease costs;
- Purchase of equipment/service for an individual;
- Funding for a staff or member social event;
- Overseas travel;
- Gifts;
- Grant writer fees;
- Miscellaneous items;
- Endeavours for personal or commercial gain;
- Ongoing operational costs;
- Applications to cover the costs of alcohol, drugs, gambling or illegal or unethical activities.
- Applications seeking retrospective funding i.e. for costs already incurred before approval of funding is given. However exceptional circumstances may be considered by the CRG.

### How much money can I apply for?

Lal Lal Wind Farms has a limited budget available for the Community Benefit Fund. Applications can specify the amount required and Lal Lal Wind Farm will assess the cost of the initiative in relation to the outcomes achieved for the community, as part of the funding decision process. Applicants may receive less funding than specified in their application.

Successful applicants must assume all responsibility for the project, initiative or event they are running. This includes having an adequate safety system in place, public liability insurance and any other risk management strategies applicable to the organisation or activity.

### When will applications be assessed?

Applications will be administered once a year. The application process will adhere to the following timelines:

#### **Anniversary of the start of construction:-**

- Requests for applications
- Six weeks to complete applications
- Close of applications,
- CRG evaluates applications
- Successful and unsuccessful applicants notified
- Funds distributed

All eligible applications, from Incorporated or Not for Profit Entities meeting the selection criteria will be reviewed and considered by the Community Reference Group (CRG). The CRG will meet to discuss and determine, through consensus, applications it recommends should be funded by the community fund. The final funding decision is to be made by the operators of Lal Lal Wind Farms.

Application processing and funding allocation will also consider the funding cycle for other programs and the potential need for more than one funding opportunity each year.

### **What criteria will be used to evaluate applications?**

All applications will be assessed; however due to the limited funds available not all requests that meet the established criteria will be approved. General selection criteria may include:

#### **Project benefits**

- direct and indirect community benefit
- quality of life/community wellness enhancement
- program/ project operational efficiencies
- demographics served

#### **Target community need**

- public safety/improved access
- provide a direct service to the community
- Council/community support

#### **Availability of funding**

- prior funding to applicant
- demonstration of need for financial assistance

#### **Project/program viability**

- background of applicant (i.e. organisation size/ representation, prior experience)
- the extent to which project or program duplicates other available facilities or programs in the area

### **Where can I send an application for funding?**

Completed and signed applications, together with supporting attachments are to be forwarded to:  
Lal Lal Wind Farms Community Benefit Fund:-

- Email: [info@lallalwindfarms.com.au](mailto:info@lallalwindfarms.com.au)
- Post: P.O. Box 669 Buninyong VIC 3357

### **How will I know if my application is successful?**

All applications lodged will receive a response from the Community Reference Group, via email or post, advising of the success or otherwise of their application. All applications are treated as public documents. Should applicants not want details or components of their application made public, this should be stated clearly within the application.

When a Community Benefit Fund application has been approved, Lal Lal Wind Farms will make the necessary payment arrangements.

### **What reporting is required for approved applications?**

Reporting on completed projects is required to ensure that the target community and the CRG can be confident that allocated funds have been used effectively.

Standard templates will be provided to all successful applicants. Applicants must submit final reports using these templates. Funding recipients must also submit receipts and details of expenditure of funds to determine if the grant has been properly spent.

### **What acknowledgement of support is required for approved applications?**

In order to promote Lal Lal Wind Farms as a source of funding for the community, successful applicants are required to acknowledge the support provided by the wind farm. The specific mechanism for this acknowledgement may be part of a special condition included with the notification of sponsorship or donation.

Common methods for recognising the wind farm include plaques, signage, acknowledgment in newsletters and media releases, and displaying logos in project material. Any costs for signs, plaques, etc must be covered in the project costs. The final wording and layout of any acknowledgement requires approval from Lal Lal Wind Farms.

### **What happens if the project does not go ahead and funds have been accepted from the Lal Lal Community Benefit Fund?**

All funds are to be returned to Lal Lal Wind Farms Community Benefit Fund for reallocation if the project does not go ahead.

If funds are left over, the following steps should be applied:-

- Discuss the situation with the Lal Lal Wind Farms Community Engagement Manager
- If there is another part of the project that follows the community benefit fund guidelines, these funds can be directed according
- Receipts still need to be provided along with the completion of the acquittal form, outlining how the money was spent
- Failure to follow these steps may preclude your organisation from applying for funds in the future

## **Contact**

If you would like additional information on the Lal Lal Wind Farms Community Benefit Fund, please contact us on 1800 187 183 or email [info@lallalwindfarms.com.au](mailto:info@lallalwindfarms.com.au)