

MEDIA RELEASE

July 16, 2021

Community project funds awarded

WIMMERA Southern Mallee community organisations will benefit from a new grants initiative.

Seven organisations are successful applicants to the Murra Warra Wind Farm 1 Sustainable Community Grants Fund.

The Fund provides financial support to promote social and environmental sustainability initiatives for the benefit of communities within the Horsham Rural City, Hindmarsh and Yarriambiack shires. It is part of the wind farm's community investment program.

The successful applicants are:

Recipient	Project
Centre for Participation, Horsham	Installing solar panels at the Centre for Participation for energy savings and organisational sustainability
Horsham Motor Sports Club	Blue Ribbon Raceway parkland project
Enterprise Rupanyup	Rupanyup Retail Centre solar power project
1st Warracknabeal Cubs and Scouts	Revitalise Outdoor program
Warracknabeal Girl Guides	Outdoor environment enhancement
Beat the Heat Victoria Inc and Wimmera Off Street Drag Racing	Beat The Heat Youth Motorsport Mentoring Program, Warracknabeal
Guides Victoria Dimboola	Painting of building exterior at Arura Campsite, Riverside Dimboola

Horsham Motor Sports Club's Richard Wilken said the club would use its \$20,000 grant to install a fully automated watering system at Blue Ribbon Raceway.

"We anticipate this project will encourage greater participation from the local community at our venue, courtesy of the spectator and competitor areas being more hospitable, with green grassed areas for families and shade from trees. What a wonderful thought of having green grass surrounding the racetrack, and what a great result for Blue Ribbon Raceway and the greater community," he said.

Centre for Participation acting chief executive Robbie Millar said the grant would assist to install solar panels at the organisation's base in Horsham.

"It's estimated that this will contribute \$4500 to \$5000 to our electricity bill annually," he said.

"As a not-for-profit organisation, anything we can do to reduce our overheads means that savings can be put back into services that directly benefit the community we serve.

"This grant will therefore have huge benefits to our organisation's long-term viability and we thank the Murra Warra Wind Farm for their valuable contribution to our local community."

Wimmera Development Association is managing the Fund.

Project manager Vernetta Taylor said the Fund's Community Grants Steering Group allocated its full complement of \$55,000 to large and small projects. All projects must be completed by June 30, 2022.

"The Fund received applications for projects worth a total \$240,000 which made our evaluation process very challenging," Mrs Taylor said.

"The committee is delighted to allocate funding to projects that will have immediate and long-lasting benefits for their local communities and the wider region.

"The Fund is an ongoing initiative with an opportunity to apply to an annual Funding round."

An official announcement of the Fund recipients is on Wednesday at Horsham Golf Club.

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