

Lotus Creek Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Guidelines



About the community benefit fund

At CS Energy, we're committed to investing in the regions where we work to build vibrant, liveable communities.

The Lotus Creek Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund will provide financial support to projects and events that help enrich the Lotus Creek, Clarke Creek, St Lawrence and surrounding communities in a tangible, lasting way.

Through the Lotus Creek Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, \$100,000 will be awarded annually over two rounds per year. These rounds will open in March and September.

Eligible organisations can apply for up to \$10,000 for an individual project.

Eligibility

To be considered for the Lotus Creek Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, your project, event or initiative must meet one or more of the below objectives:

- 1. Safety and environment** – keeping our communities safe, and looking after the environment.
- 2. Social and community development** – helping local communities be the best they can be by supporting projects that alleviate disadvantage, provide fit-for-purpose community facilities and infrastructure, and promote equality and respect.
- 3. Education** – initiatives that support teachers and community leaders and help students and children to develop the skills they need for a brighter future.
- 4. Culture and art** – events or initiatives that provide local communities with encounters or experiences to enjoy, or help to express history, creativity, and uniqueness.
- 5. Active and healthy communities** – we support initiatives that improve the health (physical or mental) of residents in our regions. This could include health education, emergency response, disease prevention and initiatives that promote fitness or wellbeing.
- 6. Indigenous** – projects that advance outcomes for Indigenous peoples and communities, and improve understanding of Indigenous culture in our communities.

Your project should also:

- 1.** Be able to get off the ground quickly, and have a clear plan for the timing of delivery,
- 2.** Be able to demonstrate lasting benefit for the community, and
- 3.** Be delivered or administered by an organisation (e.g. club, association, company or non-profit).

Who can apply for sponsorship funding?

Not-for-profit organisations such as:

- Schools, P&Cs, or educational institutions
- Charities
- Community clubs
- Environmental organisations
- Sporting clubs
- Industry or business associations
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisations.

You must also have the appropriate type and level of insurance for your project.

Exclusions

Please note that CS Energy generally does not support:

- individuals participating in sporting events, camps, or championships
- events or projects that have already taken place (i.e. applying for funding retrospectively). Future incidences of recurring (i.e., annual) events are eligible
- political organisations, campaigns or events
- religious organisations, to deliver religious programs
- costs we consider to be associated with an applicant's core business, or ongoing operating costs
- applicants seeking financial support for expenses such as prize money or insurances
- initiatives deemed high-risk or dangerous, or posing an unacceptable safety risk
- events that promote alcohol, bullying, gambling or any illegal or unethical activities
- funding for commercial enterprises, salaries or wages, repayment of debts and loans
- core funding that is the responsibility of Federal, State or Local Government

Successful applicants are not excluded from re-applying.

How to apply

Visit <https://lotuscreekwindfarm.com.au/our-community/community-benefits/> for details on key dates, including when funding rounds open and close.

All sponsorship applications are completed via SmartyGrants, which is an online grants portal. You can access this portal via the Lotus Creek Wind Farm website when funding rounds are open.

Please note, all correspondence regarding the application will be sent to the contact details you supply in this section. All communication regarding your application will be via email - please ensure you supply an email address that is regularly monitored.

When completing your application, you will be asked to demonstrate:

1. How the initiative aligns to at least one of CS Energy's areas of focus.
2. How the project will benefit the community, and meet an area of need.
3. A clear project plan, including objectives, budgets and a detailed timeline.

4. How the Lotus Creek Wind Farm will be recognised for the sponsorship.

5. A commitment to complete the online acquittal process via SmartyGrants.

As part of your application you may also choose to upload information that supports your application such as quotes or letters of support.

Decision making process

Applications for funding will be assessed by the Lotus Creek Community Benefit Fund Advisory Committee. This committee will include a maximum of seven members and will be comprised of a minimum of three business, education, health, local government or community representatives, one CS Energy representative and one Lotus Creek Wind Farm project representative. This approach ensures that the potential benefits and impacts of any application are considered from a community perspective.

This group will meet following the close of each funding round and make recommendations to the delegated financial decision-maker within CS Energy.

Decisions may include:

- a request for more information and postponing a decision until the next round
- awarding a different amount than that requested

Successful applicants

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application within four weeks of the round closing.

Successful applicants will receive a letter that clearly outlines the obligations of each party and any conditions tied to the funding. Acceptance of funds will be taken as acknowledgement that you accept these obligations and conditions.

Successful applicants will have 12 months to fully acquit the sponsorship funds.