

News Release

For Release: 12 July 2023

ANZ commits \$250,000 to help rural and regional communities through Seeds of Renewal

Applications are now open for the [ANZ Seeds of Renewal program](#), with grants of up to \$15,000 available for not-for-profit organisations in remote, rural and regional areas to support the ongoing prosperity of regional Australia.

The program, which is now in its 21st year, is administered by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) and has provided more than \$5.5 million to more than 800 community groups for approximately 900 projects to help build vibrant and sustainable communities.

This year, the ANZ Seeds of Renewal program is again offering a share of \$250,000 to community organisations in remote, rural or regional locations for projects aligned to four focus areas:

- **Environmental sustainability:** initiatives that restore and conserve the natural environment or which contribute to lower carbon emissions, water stewardship and waste minimisation;
- **Financial wellbeing:** particularly for under-represented and disadvantaged people in the community, including initiatives that improve economic participation. For example, building financial literacy and vocational skills and providing access to meaningful work;
- **Housing access:** initiatives and programs that support those experiencing or at risk of homelessness or that provide supports for people living with disability; or
- **Projects that assist local communities to thrive** by either enabling vibrant communities where everyone can participate and build a better life, or creating sustainable communities that help deliver demonstrable medium to long term economic sustainability.

ANZ General Manager Business Banking Jenefer Stewart said: "ANZ is committed to enhancing the wellbeing and prosperity of the communities where our people live and work, and where our business operates. One way we do this is by reinvesting in communities through programs like Seeds of Renewal. This year we are proud to once again contribute to the long-term growth and sustainability of small rural communities," Ms Stewart said.

FRRR CEO Natalie Egleton said: "In the current financial environment, we know there is a heightened need to support and strengthen the sustainability of rural Australia. We believe local leaders and community groups are best placed to identify and address the environmental, financial and housing concerns in their region, and to know first-hand what their communities need to thrive. Programs like ANZ Seeds of Renewal mean we can support these types of meaningful and community-led projects that promote the sustainability and liveability of remote, rural and regional Australia. We look forward to seeing what projects local groups put forward this year," Ms Egleton said.

Last year, ANZ and FRRR provided grants to 20 community groups for projects including preserving Anbinik Rainforests through Indigenous Fire Management in Arnhem Land, NT; building capability and confidence by providing practical financial literacy skills and

awareness training to women in East Gippsland, Victoria; providing fit out of accommodation to support women at risk of domestic violence and homelessness in remote WA; and delivering key skills training to increase the employability of young people in agriculture in Crookwell, NSW.

Applications open on 12 July and close 5pm AEST, 10 August 2023.

A [grant seeker workshop](#) will be held online from 1 – 2pm AEST, on Wednesday 19 July, 2023.

Watch the [ANZ Seeds of Renewal 20 year video](#).

For more information about ANZ Seeds of Renewal, or to apply for a grant visit [FRRR's website](#).

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About Seeds of Renewal: Over the past 21 years the ANZ Seeds of Renewal program has provided more than \$5 million to support more than 800 community groups achieve their goals. Administered independently by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), the ANZ Seeds of Renewal program offers grants of up to \$15,000 to community groups for projects that support environmental sustainability; improve access to housing; or financial wellbeing in regional communities of fewer than 15,000 people.

About FRRR: The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal - FRRR - (phonetically: F-triple-R) – is the only national foundation specifically focused on ensuring the social and economic strength of remote, rural and regional communities. FRRR's unique model connects common purposes and investment with locally prioritised needs, to create communities that are vital and resilient. Since FRRR's start in 2000, it has delivered nearly \$155 million to more than 13,000 projects.