

Social inclusion grants increase to \$15,000



Caption: Warragul fireman, Tyler Hogan, speaking at the 2010 launch

Small grants to aid 'grassroots' social and economic development in regional and rural communities throughout Australia are available through our Seeds of Renewal partnership with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).

Since its inception seven years ago, Seeds of Renewal has provided in excess of \$2 million in grants to more than 500 community projects in support of rural and regional Australia.

Seeds of Renewal focuses on communities identified as more vulnerable because of location, industry composition, demographic profile, skill mix and past economic performance.

This year, grants have been increased up to \$15,000, from \$10,000 in 2009, and are available to fund projects that create education and employment opportunities, build financial capability, help to bridge urban and rural social and economic gaps or support disaster recovery or preparedness.

FRRR Chief Executive Officer, Sylvia Admans said: "We are pleased the grants have been increased up to \$15,000 this year. They will provide local projects with an extra boost they need to really make a difference to their communities."

Speaking at the program launch, Warragul Fire Brigade fire-fighter, Tyler Hogan, told how the devastating effects of the Victorian Black Saturday fires in February 2009 had resulted in a large increase in volunteer fire-fighters and a need for training facilities.

"The 2009 Seeds of Renewal grant we received gave us the funds we needed to set up a training facility which is being used by the CFA to run courses for us as well as interbrigade training across the region," Tyler said.

Also speaking at the program launch, ANZ Managing Director Retail Distribution, Mark Hand, said: "Initiatives that are identified and managed locally and designed to meet local needs have the best chance of delivering long-term economic and social benefits."

"With more than a third of our branches located in rural and regional areas, we have a strong commitment to supporting social and economic development in rural communities," Mark said.

ANZ Seeds of Renewal is open to not-for-profit organisations in communities with a population of 15,000 people or less. Applications close Friday 3 September 2010. Successful applicants will be notified in late October 2010.

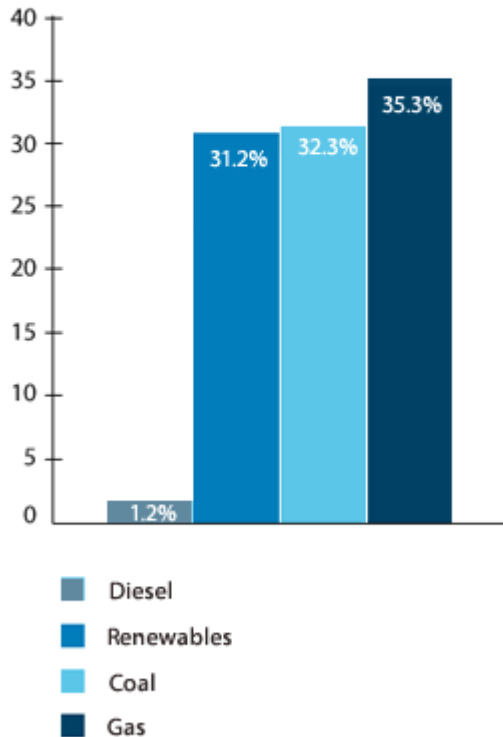
Learn more:

- To apply for an ANZ Seeds of Renewal grant visit www.frrr.org.au
- To find out more about ANZ's approach to corporate responsibility visit www.anz.com/cr

Features

- [Renewable energy investment set to rise](#)
- [Funding for new health clinics in Liangping](#)

Breakdown of ANZ project finance of energy projects by resource type (June 2010)



Renewable energy investment set to rise

Around \$20 billion in renewable energy investment will be needed over the next ten years to meet Australia's aim of 20 per cent of electricity supply from renewable sources by 2020.

80 per cent of Australians currently rely on electricity generated from coal-fired power stations to run their households, businesses and industries. Transitioning to a lower carbon future will take time and require a significant transformation of the energy sector to build new capacity, while ensuring energy security for our economy and communities.

Chris Yencken, ANZ's Executive Director - Power and Utilities, and his team have helped finance a number of renewable energy projects, primarily wind power, in Australia, the US and Taiwan. This takes renewable energy to around 36% of our project finance energy portfolio.

"We financed Australia's first renewable energy project in 1992, providing project finance for Energy Developments BioEnergy landfill gas projects in Victoria and NSW and Australia's first wind farm at Chalicum Hills in 2002," Chris said.

"As the 2020 target approaches, demand for renewable energy project financing is certainly set to increase," Chris said.

ANZ's current wind project finance portfolio extends to some 1,145MW - enough renewable power to supply around 630,000 homes or every household in Brisbane, spread across 14 projects, of which over 80% are Australian. In the past twelve months alone, we have completed four wind project financings, totalling some 640MW.

Since March 2010 we have:

- Provided project finance for the 206MW Collgar Wind Farm in Western Australia.
- Facilitated the purchase of Vestas Turbines by Meridian Energy, New Zealand's state owned electricity generator, who generate all of their electricity from renewable sources, with a 15 year NZ\$150 million facility.
- Delivered the first international syndicated loan for Energy Development Corporation (EDC), the world's largest Geothermal Company.

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- [Our approach to reducing electricity energy consumption](#)

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Funding for new health clinics in Liangping



Caption: Building begins for the new clinic in Hui Long village.

Two village health clinics will be built by the Red Cross in rural China using disaster relief and recovery funding from ANZ.

Liangping County is the site of our first rural bank in China. In early May, the community was hit by a tornado – the first since records began - which struck South Western China. The tornado inflicted enormous damage to homes, crops and infrastructure across the County and tragically resulted in the death of six people.

President of Chongqing Liangping ANZ Rural Bank, Patrick Zhu, said ANZ's donation of RMB180,025 (approximately A\$33,000) to the Red Cross will help Liangping on the path to recovery following the disaster, with construction of the clinics underway now and due to be completed by the end of the year.

"The destruction and loss of life caused by the tornado was devastating for the Liangping community, but the people here are strong and resilient and their focus now is on re-building their lives," Patrick said.

"The clinics we are funding will help improve the livelihoods of locals, increasing access to medical care for people in Hui Long Village and Shuang Long Village both located in Hui Long Town, which was the worst hit area of the disaster," he said.

Last year, ANZ opened the Chongqing Liangping ANZ Rural Bank in Liangping County becoming the first Australian bank, and one of the first international banks, to enter China's rural market.

"We've also undertaken a year-long initiative to assist the local pomelo industry – a major driver of the local economy. Around 2,000 farmers have participated in this program which provides specialist advice on agricultural and marketing techniques to help create a sustainable and thriving local industry," Patrick said.

Learn more:

- [Investment in rural China](#)

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