

Media Release

For release: 12 March 2008

Funding of up to \$10,000 available to help build stronger communities

ANZ and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) today announced that applications for this year's *Seeds of Renewal* grants are now open.

This year grants will be given to assist small rural and regional communities work towards a more sustainable future. Projects that create community well being, support volunteer initiatives at a local level or diversify local economies could be eligible for up to \$10,000 through the program.

Commenting on the program, FRRR Chief Executive Officer, Ms Sylvia Admans said: "Seeds of Renewal grants have collectively made a real difference to hundreds of rural communities across Australia. The grants are designed to help communities help themselves, so I would encourage community organisations to seek support from this highly effective program."

Seeds of Renewal is funded by ANZ and independently administered by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).

ANZ Managing Director for Regional, Rural and Small Business Banking, Mr Rob Goudswaard said: "Seeds of Renewal is an important part of ANZ's commitment to making a difference in the communities where we live and work. This year the grants will help small communities with projects that support renewal and sustain them long into the future."

Applications will be accepted from not-for-profit organisations with an ABN in communities with a population of 15,000 people or less.

Since its inception in 2003, Seeds of Renewal has provided small grants to the overall value of more than \$1.6 million to approximately 380 community projects including:

- A raw water line for recreational water use in the Baralaba community in Queensland
- An information and support network for refugee women living in the Lismore region
- The opening of a fuel outlet in Gulargambone, New South Wales
- An information kiosk at the Hume Freeway roadhouse to promote tourism and business opportunities in the local area
- A 5,000 gallon water tank for kindergarten in Dunkeld, Victoria to capture rainwater
- A recording and filming studio for the Kimba local community in South Australia.

Communities interested in applying for Seeds of Renewal grants should visit www.frrr.org.au, call FRRR on 1800 170 020, or visit their local ANZ branch. Applications close 5.00pm, Wednesday 14 May 2008.

For more information or media enquiries, please contact:

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Notes to editors

ANZ – supporting communities

ANZ supports rural and regional communities across Australia as part of our corporate responsibility and sustainability program.

We are committed to enhancing the wellbeing and prosperity of the communities where our people live and work, and where our business operates.

ANZ's support of Seeds of Renewal began at its inception six years ago.

Seeds of Renewal

- Seeds of Renewal is an ANZ-funded rural and regional grants program for community projects in small towns.
- Seeds of Renewal is independently administered by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).
- By the end of this year, Seeds of Renewal will have granted almost \$2 million to around 500 community projects in small towns since its inception in 2003.
- Applications for 2008 are now open and will close at 5.00pm on 14 May 2008.
- The grants pool for the 2008 program totals \$450,000 with a maximum of \$10,000 per project.
- Applications are accepted from not-for-profit organisations with an ABN in communities with population of 15,000 people or less, or for community based responses to water sustainability issues.
- Application forms for Seeds of Renewal can be obtained by visiting www.frrr.org.au or by contacting FRRR on 1800 170 020.

About the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)

Founded in 2002 as a partnership between the Sidney Myer Fund and the Department of Transport and Regional Services, FRRR supports the renewal of rural and regional Australia.

The FRRR's role is to work in partnerships with the private sector, governments, and community and philanthropic organisations to champion the economic and social strength of Australia's regional, rural and remote communities.

FRRR manages all of the Seeds of Renewal program's planning and implementation, including processing grant applications, overseeing the recipient selections process and distributing the grants themselves.