

News Release

For release: 14 July 2020

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

Applications are now open for ANZ's Seeds of Renewal program, with grants of up to \$15,000 available for not-for-profit organisations in rural areas to support the ongoing prosperity of regional Australia.

Established in 2003 and administered by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), the program has provided more than \$5 million to more than 800 community groups to support local projects and help build vibrant and sustainable rural and regional communities.

In 2020, the ANZ Seeds of Renewal program is offering a share of \$250,000 to community organisations in regional locations for projects that improve:

- **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

ANZ General Manager Business Banking Jenefer Stewart said: "The ANZ Seeds of Renewal program has supported hundreds of community-based, grassroots programs and initiatives that have created new opportunities for regional communities. It is truly humbling to see the difference these grants are able to make in rural and regional Australia," Ms Stewart said.

Last year, ANZ and FRRR provided grants to 25 community groups for projects ranging from saving an endangered bee species on Kangaroo Island to supporting young people at risk of homelessness in the Port Hedland region of Western Australia. These projects shared in \$250,000 in cash, and a further \$16,728 in IT equipment provided by ANZ's technology partner Lenovo.

FRRR CEO, Natalie Egleton said, "Rural and regional communities play such a vital role in the prosperity of Australia. Yet they face far greater economic inequity and limited housing opportunities compared to those living in the city. Additionally, rural areas are also often at the forefront of environmental disasters, like drought and bushfires. The ANZ Seeds of Renewal program is a great opportunity to help address these challenges with locally-appropriate solutions. We look forward to seeing what inspirational ideas rural and regional communities put forward this year," Ms Egleton said.

Applications open on Tuesday, 14 July and close Wednesday, 19 August 2020.

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

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For media enquiries contact

Rachel Gemmell (FRRR) 0428 998 279 or email news@frrr.org.au
Karly Dwyer (ANZ) 0437 988 626 or email karly.dwyer@anz.com

About Seeds of Renewal: Since 2003, 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, or 10 Lenovo devices 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. Technology company Lenovo also donates IT equipment, giving applicants the chance to apply for IT devices instead of a monetary grant.

About FRRR

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) was established in 2000 to support the renewal of rural, regional and remote communities in Australia through partnerships with the private sector, philanthropy and governments. Since inception, FRRR has managed the distribution of more than \$100 million in grants and provided substantial capacity building support to community organisations across the nation. To find out more about FRRR, visit www.frrr.org.au.