



# GOLDEN PLAINS WIND FARM

## COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND GUIDELINES

The Golden Plains Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund has been established to provide financial sponsorship support for a range of community-based initiatives, projects and events that benefit local communities. The Fund is open to a range of community purposes and needs including health and social welfare, safety, environmental, educational, youth projects, sport and recreation, culture, the arts and economic development.

The following guidelines are designed to assist groups and organisations who wish to apply for sponsorship funding for an initiative, project or event around the Golden Plains Wind Farm.

## How to Apply

### Step 1

Read the Guidelines on the next page to check if your community initiatives are eligible for funding under our Community Benefit Fund program.

### Step 2

Submit the online application form, which can be found at [goldenplainswindfarm.com.au/communityfunding](http://goldenplainswindfarm.com.au/communityfunding).

If you have any enquiries about the Community Benefit Fund, or require a hard-copy application form, please contact us using the details below.

### GOLDEN PLAINS WIND FARM

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17 Goode Street  
Gisborne VIC 3437

Email:  
[info@goldenplainswindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@goldenplainswindfarm.com.au)

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[goldenplainswindfarm.com.au](http://goldenplainswindfarm.com.au)

# Funding Guidelines

## What is the objective of the Golden Plains Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund?

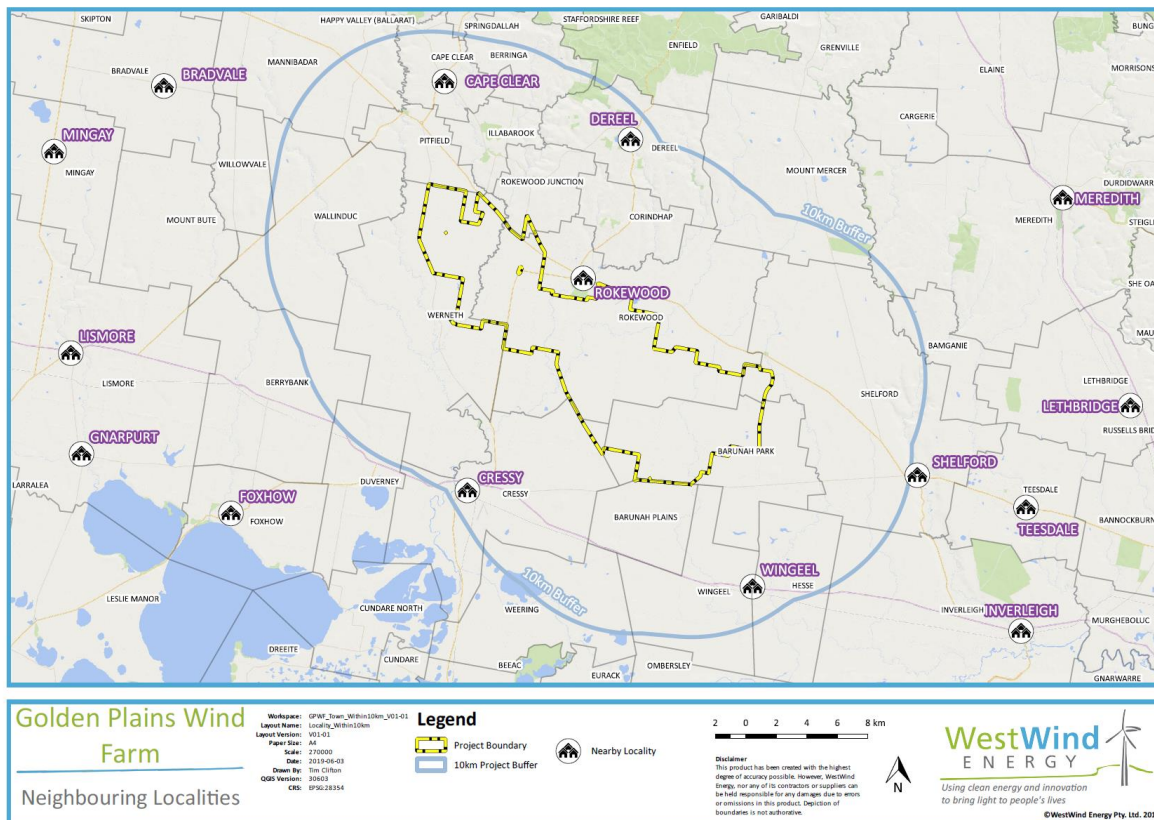
The Golden Plains Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund has been established by Golden Plains Wind Farm Management Pty Ltd (**GPWFM**), to sponsor local projects and organisations that benefit the regional community during the construction and operation of the Golden Plains Wind Farm.

GPWFM has a genuine interest in supporting the communities in which it operates. A Community Reference Group (**CRG**) has been appointed to assess all applications and to help determine how best to allocate funds and in-kind contributions to maximise benefits for communities within and around the wind farm.

The key objective of sponsorship is to provide financial support to not-for-profit community groups and organisations that are working to make a positive and lasting contribution to regional communities to the Golden Plains Wind Farm.

## What can be funded?

The **CRG** and **GPWFM** will consider funding locally run initiatives for not-for-profit Community groups, projects/programs or facilities that are located within, or provide a direct benefit to, the community within 10km of the Golden Plains Wind Farm boundary.



All applications must demonstrate:

- tangible benefits for local communities
- valued and visible community projects
- long-term sustainable benefits without dependency on sponsorship or grant funding
- potential to strengthen Golden Plains Wind Farm's presence in the community.
- appropriate governance structures, transparent finances and proper financial, accounting and legal compliance for and in connection with the relevant project and agree to be subject to independent audit;
- the project will not have (nor pose a risk of) a detrimental or negative impact on other community facilities and services

Applications that have a dollar for dollar self-contribution or which leverage other funding sources will be favourably considered, as will those which show in-kind support/contribution.

The Fund is committed to supporting projects that benefit the regional community surrounding the Golden Plains Wind Farm. Preference for funding will be given to programs that support the following priority focus areas:

- **Community Development**
  - Promotion of industry, commerce, agriculture, culture or the arts
  - Restoration, renovation and upgrade of community buildings
  - Community awareness/ education of environment and sustainability
  - Projects that may attract government funding
  - Projects that encourage local economic development and skill development
- **Education & Training**
  - Advancement of education, research and analysis and the grant of scholarships
  - Early childhood and youth education enhancement programs
  - Tertiary education/ TAFE scholarships
  - Apprenticeships and Traineeships
  - Programs that promote cross sector skill development
  - Work placement programs in partnership with local educational facilities, prizes for students
  - Programs encouraging flexible learning, further education and improved employability
- **Health / Wellbeing**
  - Promotion and enhancement of community participation and social cohesion
  - Promotion, enhancement and development of health, health care, child-care, aged care, mental health and assistance to disadvantaged persons.
  - Programs/ initiatives that encourage medical and health professionals to practice in the region
  - Emergency services support
  - Sport and social clubs
  - Programs and projects that improve accessibility and inclusion for people with disability or the elderly
- **Environment**
  - Conservation, protection, restoration, preservation,
  - Expansion and enhancement of the natural environment
  - Programs that support prevention of local environment degradation
  - Initiatives that enhance the natural environment of the community
  - Initiatives that enhance understanding of local cultural heritage

## What will not be funded by Golden Plains Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund?

GPWFM and the CRG will not support any project which includes a request for funding (or is in essence) featuring any of the following matters, and projects or programs (or an element or any regulatory, licensing or statutory commitment in connection with the Golden Plains Wind Farm.

Matters, programs or projects ineligible for sponsorship funding include but are not limited to:

- Political organisations or campaigns
- Religious activities
- Direct or indirect competitor to the Golden Plains Wind Farm or its investors
- Funding for commercial enterprises
- Core funding that is the responsibility of Federal, State or Local Government
- Projects or research that is in opposition to renewable energy
- Repayment of debts and loans
- Salaries and wages
- Administration expenses such as stationery, postage, office supplies
- Rent and lease costs (not including facility hire)
- Purchase of equipment/service for an individual
- Funding for a staff or member social event
- Overseas travel
- Gifts
- Grant writer fees
- Endeavours for personal or commercial gain
- Applications seeking retrospective funding i.e. for costs already incurred before approval of funding is given
- Ongoing operational costs
- Applications in support of, or to cover the costs of alcohol, drugs, gambling or any illegal or unethical activities.

## How much money can we apply for?

The Fund has a limited budget. Applications can specify the amount required, and the **CRG** will assess the cost of the initiative in relation to the outcomes achieved for the community, as part of the funding decision process. Applicants may be offered less funding than specified in their application.

Successful applicants must assume all responsibility for the project, initiative or event they are running. This includes having an adequate safety system in place (if required), necessary approvals, public liability insurance and any other risk management strategies applicable to the organisation or activity.

## When will applications be assessed?

Applications will be administered twice each year.

### Timelines for 2021 – Round 2:

- Applications open 4 October to 15 November 2021
- November 2021 - the CRG to reviews and shortlists the applications
- November 2021 – Shortlisted applications forwarded to GPWFM for selection and approval;
- December 2021 – shortlisted applicants notified of outcomes
- January 2022 onwards– funds released to successful applicants on receipt of requested documentation.

All eligible applications meeting the selection criteria will be reviewed and considered by the CRG. The CRG will meet to discuss and determine, through consensus, which application/s it will recommend for funding by the Community Benefit Fund. The final funding decision will be made by the operators of the Golden Plains Wind Farm.

For example, groups applying to the Fund may also wish to apply for other, complimentary grants.

## What criteria will be used to evaluate applications?

Applications will be assessed by the CRG based on the following criteria. Projects which best meet the criteria will be approved by GPWFM for funding through the Fund. Due to the limited funds available in each year, it may not be possible to fund all applications.

Selection criteria	Weighting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Project benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Direct community benefit.</li> <li>○ Quality of life/community wellness enhancement.</li> <li>○ Program/ project operational efficiencies.</li> <li>○ Demographics served: disadvantaged community, people with disability, youth, elderly etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>40</b></p> <p>10</p> <p>10</p> <p>10</p> <p>10</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Target community need</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public safety/improved access.</li> <li>○ Provide a direct service to the community.</li> <li>○ Council/community support.</li> <li>○ Benefit to environment</li> <li>○ Education and training outcome</li> <li>○ Health and wellbeing outcome</li> <li>○ Community development outcome</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>40</b></p> <p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Availability of funding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Demonstrated need for financial assistance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Project/ program viability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Capability of applicant to successfully deliver project (i.e. organisation size/ representation, prior experience).</li> <li>○ Uniqueness of the project or program - the extent to which project or program duplicates other available facilities or programs in the area.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p>

## **Where can I send an application for funding?**

Applications can now be completed online, by visiting [www.goldenplainswindfarm.com.au/communityfunding](http://www.goldenplainswindfarm.com.au/communityfunding).

All required information, including attachments, can be submitted on the website and this is the preferred method of application.

Should you require a hard-copy application form, please email us at [info@goldenplains.com.au](mailto:info@goldenplains.com.au).

## **How will I know if my application is successful?**

All applications lodged will receive an acknowledgement of lodgement. Once the CRG have assessed all applications against the Selection Criteria, notification will be sent via email or post, advising of the outcome of all applications, both successful and unsuccessful.

All applications are treated as public documents. Should applicants not want details or components of their application made public, this should be stated clearly within the application.

When an application has been approved, GPWFM will make the necessary payment arrangements.

## **What reporting is required for approved applications?**

Reporting on completed projects is required to ensure the target community and the CRG can be confident that allocated funds have been used effectively.

Standard templates will be provided to all successful applicants. Applicants must submit final reports using these templates. Funding recipients must permit a representative of the Fund to examine records relating to the expenditure of funds to determine if the grant has been used for its intended purpose.

## **How will Golden Plains Wind Farm's funding be acknowledged?**

In order to recognise the Golden Plains Wind Farm as a source of funding for the community, successful applicants are required to acknowledge the support provided by the wind farm. The specific mechanism for this acknowledgement may be part of a special condition included with the notification of funding.

Common methods for recognising the wind farm include plaques, signage, acknowledgment in newsletters, speeches and media releases, and displaying the Golden Plains Wind Farm logo in project material. Any costs for signs, plaques, etc must be covered in the project costs. GPWFM must approve in writing, the final wording and layout of the acknowledgement.