

18 August 2025

Media Release:

Call for local Hunter Valley groups to apply for funding

Community groups in the Hunter and Upper Hunter Valley regions with projects or ideas that make a positive difference to the local community are being encouraged to apply for funding in the next round of Mount Thorley Warkworth (MTW) and Ashton Coal's Community Support Programs.

The 2026 Community Support Program is funded by Yancoal Australia and provides financial assistance to local groups working in the areas of health, community, environment, arts, culture, education and training.

Mount Thorley Warkworth General Manager, Cris Shadbolt, encouraged local community groups to lodge their application form to apply for funding.

"Our Community Support Program gives us the opportunity to assist locally focused programs and initiatives capable of making a real contribution to the continued growth and sustainability of the region.

"A previously successful organisation is Singleton Heights Pre-School. With joint funding support from MTW and Ashton Coal, they were able to install a waterproof shelter over their softfall play area. This has enabled the children to have access to the playground equipment more frequently, the play area is dry which is safer, and research shows that having kids play outside leads to better general health. It is a significant improvement to the Pre-School.

"We are a proud and active member of the local community, and this is just one example of some of the amazing projects that have been supported by our program, which will be enjoyed by many people in our community for years to come.

"If you have a project or idea that has the potential to benefit others in the Hunter Valley region, we encourage you to apply now," said Cris.

In the past, Yancoal Australia funding has enabled: the development and implementation of environmental projects, education, training, and employment assistance initiatives; sponsorship of key community events; the purchase of much needed equipment; and helped support disadvantaged groups within the community.

Ashton Coal Operations Manager, Michael Bartlett urged Upper Hunter Valley community groups to apply for financial assistance.

"As a key employer in the area, we believe in the value of supporting grass roots groups and organisations to grow and expand, thereby strengthening our community.

“In the past, Ashton donated funding to Singleton PCYC to update their outdoor space. The centre purchased a new five burner BBQ and outdoor dining setting to create a functional and comfortable area to relax and mentor its youth members.

“We are proud to be able to help organisations like this one and we encourage all the local community groups in our area to apply for financial support now,” said Michael.

To apply for funding:

Upper Hunter Valley community groups - Applications are open from 18 August to 26 September 2025. Please visit <https://www.yancoal.com.au/our-sites/ashton/>

Hunter Valley community groups - Applications are open from 18 August to 26 September 2025. Please visit <https://www.yancoal.com.au/our-sites/mount-thorley-warkworth/>

Yancoal is proud to be investing into local and regional Australia, helping build stronger communities across the country.

For over 20 years since 2004, Yancoal has grown to be one of Australia’s largest coal exporters: owning or operating eight producing mines across the country, employing almost 5,500 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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