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Media Release:

Local Hunter Valley groups urged to apply for funding boost

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 2027 Community Support Program is funded by Yancoal Australia and provides financial assistance to not-for-profit local groups working in the areas of health, community, environment, arts, culture, education and training.

Mount Thorley Warkworth General Manager, Cris Shadbolt, is encouraging locals to raise their hand for assistance by applying 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 Miller Park Bowling Club. With funding support from us, they purchased and installed new handrails on the bowling green making it safer for bowlers when stepping onto or off the green.

"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 and MTW donated funding to Singleton District Hospital to purchase four emergency department trauma stretchers that are specialised, high-mobility patient trolleys designed for rapid response situations. The hospital is now better equipped to manage urgent patient care.

“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 - The program is open for applications until 25 September 2026. For more information or for an application, please visit <https://www.yancoal.com.au/our-sites/ashton/>

Hunter Valley community groups - The program is open for applications until 25 September 2026. For more information or for an application, 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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