

# 2026 First Nations Benefit Fund

Distributing **up to \$35,000** in grants to local projects demonstrating meaningful benefits to those living near the Culcairn Solar Farm.

The First Nations Fund is part of Neoen's \$300,000 annual benefit-sharing program on the asset.



Apply between **1 June to 12 July** on an online platform administered by the Community Enterprise Foundation: [foundation.smartygrants.com.au/2026FirstNationsFund](https://foundation.smartygrants.com.au/2026FirstNationsFund)

## Who can apply?

- ✓ Charitable and not-for-profit organisations with a valid Australian bank account.
- ✓ If you are not an incorporated entity or a 'for-profit'/sporting organisation, consider partnering with an incorporated community or not-for-profit organisation that is (a) willing to enter into the funding agreement on your behalf and (b) help you deliver the project.
- ✓ Organisations operating within the Greater Hume Shire region.
- ✓ Applications demonstrating a strong, positive impact in one of the growth areas (see below) will be looked upon favourably.

## Key dates

<b>1 JUN</b>	Applications open
<b>12 JUL</b>	Applications close
<b>JUL</b>	Local Advisory Committee reviews applications and awards grants
<b>AUG</b>	Funds are distributed
<b>OCT</b>	Grant recipients are announced on our project website

## Growth areas



Arts, culture & events



Disaster relief & emergency services



Education & training



Energy efficiency & environment



First Nations Initiatives



Aged care, health & well-being

### Is there a minimum or maximum limit of funding available to each applicant?

No. The total amount of funding available from this grant is \$35,000. We encourage applicants to propose how much funding they would like for their project. The First Nations Local Advisory Committee (FNLAC) will review all applications to decide which ones get a grant and up to how much.

### Can I apply if my project has received a grant before or is expecting another one?

Yes. If you have previously received funding or applied for another grant, please mention this in your application. The FNLAC may award you a grant in addition to your other source of funding and for a part, if not all, of the requested amount.

### I want to get funding for more equipment at our sporting facilities, am I eligible?

Unfortunately, the Australian charitable law limits us from funding sporting clubs applying for new equipment or uniforms since it only benefits some people in the community. However, projects showing wider, longer-term benefits to the community through sports can be considered. Some examples include:

- organising fitness events in support of mental well-being of residents living near the Culcairn Solar Farm and within the Greater Hume Shire Council area
- upgrading sports facilities to make them more accessible or buying new equipment for people with disability, or
- installing rooftop solar at bowling or tennis clubs to reduce energy bills and for their hosting more community events.

### Why isn't Neoen distributing more?

This is only one of many streams of funding under Neoen's Culcairn Community Benefit-Sharing Program. There is also:

- Council Contributions: \$150,000 per year allocated to our Voluntary Planning Agreement with the Greater Hume Shire Council, and
- Community Benefit Fund of \$105,000 per year on projects in the Greater Hume Shire region.

In total, there is an annual \$300,000 commitment, from which a conservative fee is paid to the Community Enterprise Foundation for their administrative support on the two Funds.

### Who is in the Local Advisory Committee?

Neoen created the LAC to ensure decisions relating to investments in community projects are made in partnership with local residents. The LAC includes 4 community members who were selected from an open and competitive application process and Neoen.

### What is the Community Enterprise Foundation and what will they do?

The Foundation is a philanthropic arm of Bendigo & Adelaide Bank, working as per the Australian charitable law and an experienced administrator of community grants. They are an independent entity helping the Committee by administering the grant process and by conducting due diligence on all applications. They also assist Neoen in their annual reporting on the impact of these contributions across its portfolio of assets in Australia.

▼ Neoen RAP Artwork: *Celebrating Renewal*, Teho Ropeyarn, 2022

