

ACEREZ

Community Grants Program



At ACEREZ, our commitment to supporting our communities is paramount.

As the network operator for the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone, we want to leave a legacy by delivering tangible, long-term benefits for the region. We also recognise earning and retaining trust with our stakeholders is critical to the successful delivery and ongoing operation of our project.

We are proud to launch our Community Grants Program, a three-year multimillion-dollar investment program that aims to leave a legacy that extends beyond the completion of the transmission project.

Our priority areas

Our vision is to partner with our diverse communities to understand local needs and deliver improved, long-term social outcomes.



Public amenity

Community facilities to enhance safety, local services and respond to extreme events



Education

Programs to enhance young people and inter-generational outcomes



Sports

Programs to support grassroots sport for community inclusion



Agriculture

Programs to support land and agricultural management



Health

Programs to support physical health, mental health and wellbeing



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

Ways to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

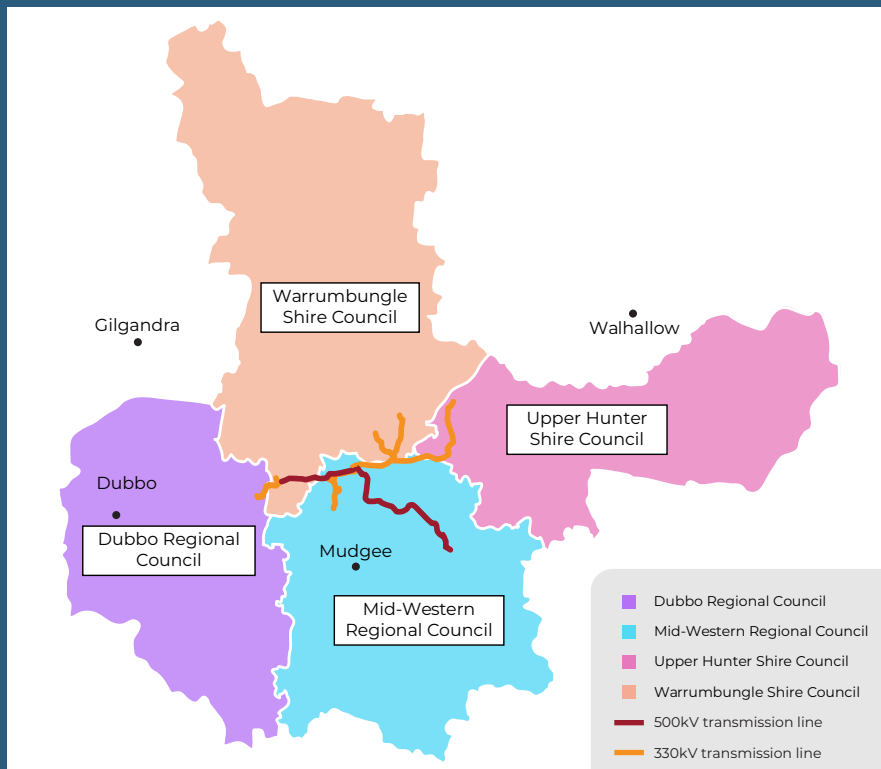
Applicants for the ACEREZ Community Grants Program must align with at least one of the above criteria

Applications must come from within the four local government areas or Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) hosting transmission network infrastructure.

The local government areas are Upper Hunter Shire Council, Mid-Western Regional Council, Dubbo Regional Council and Warrumbungle Shire Council.

The Local Aboriginal Land Councils are Mudgee LALC, Walhallow LALC, Gilgandra LALC and Dubbo LALC

Applicants for an ACEREZ Community Grants Program must demonstrate a direct benefit for communities in these areas.



How to apply



Are you eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants must be either:

- A not-for-profit community organisation
- An incorporated Aboriginal community organisation or a Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Volunteer organisations, such as the SES or Rural Fire Service brigade that is individually incorporated
- A council within the identified four LGA

Local partnerships

If an organisation or individual is not eligible but wishes to apply, it may be able to establish a relationship with an organisation that meets the criteria (such as a local community group or service organisation) and work in partnership to deliver the project.

This type of arrangement is known as auspicing, where the project is delivered with the support of that organisation. This arrangement is suitable for a newly formed community group or small neighbourhood group.

For more details and an application form, visit www.acerez.com.au

Our community grants

Applications for ACEREZ's Community Grants Program Round 1 open in March 2026.

There are two categories:

- Small grants from **\$3,000 up to \$50,000**
- Significant grants from **\$50,000 up to \$1 million**

Up to **\$4 million** in grants will be awarded in 2026 across two rounds.



Free assistance to help write grant applications

To help the community navigate the grant application process, ACEREZ will provide free grant writing support to assist applicants in preparing their grant applications.

Successful grant recipients will also receive a free check-in session six months after the project's commencement to support them with meeting the governance and reporting requirements



Local voices in decision-making

ACEREZ is establishing a **Community Grants Advisory Group** to engage community members in the grant evaluation process.

This group provides local voices and insights, working with us to ensure the process is fair and inclusive.

- The group will comprise four community members from across the region to provide independent recommendations on the grant applications
- Each group provides recommendations for one year; a new group is formed each year
- A community member can participate only once in the Advisory Group

For more information on the Advisory Group or to apply, please visit www.acerez.com.au



Contact us

We are here to assist applicants at any stage of the process.

Please contact the Community Team by:

- Emailing cwo.community@acerez-acjv.com.au
- Calling our 24-hour toll free number **1800 298 379**

You can find more information at www.acerez.com.au



ACEREZ
the future of renewable energy

Free translation services

You can have information translated into any language. If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 298 379**.