

ACEREZ COMMUNITY GRANTS ADVISORY GROUP APPLICATION FORM



1. ACEREZ Community Grants Program

ACEREZ, a partnership of ACCIONA, COBRA and Endeavour Energy, has been appointed network operator by EnergyCo to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) transmission project.

The Central-West Orana REZ transmission project will build new high-capacity transmission lines, energy hubs and supporting infrastructure to transfer power generated by solar and wind projects to electricity consumers. The new infrastructure is expected to be operational by 2028 and will initially unlock up to 4.5 gigawatts (GW) of new network capacity.

ACEREZ is committed to improving the long-term economic and social outcomes for communities in the region beyond the project's lifecycle. Our vision is to partner with our diverse communities to understand local needs and deliver improved, long-term social outcomes.

We understand that building community trust takes time and requires collaboration. Well-considered and carefully designed community initiatives respond to service gaps, address community needs and deliver tangible benefits to the community undergoing changes associated with the energy transition.

To help bring ideas to life, ACEREZ will provide funding through its Community Grants Program via two categories over three years from 2026-2028:

- Small community grants from **\$3000** up to **\$50,000**; and
- Significant community grants from **\$50,000** up to **\$1 million**

Applications must be within the four local government areas or Local Aboriginal Land Councils hosting the infrastructure.

The four local government areas are:

- Upper Hunter Shire Council
- Mid-Western Regional Council
- Dubbo Regional Council
- Warrumbungle Shire Council

The Local Aboriginal Land Councils are:

- Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Walhallow Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Gilgandra Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Dubbo Local Aboriginal Land Council

2. ACEREZ Community Grants Advisory Group

ACEREZ is establishing a Community Grants Advisory Group to engage community members in evaluating the applications for grants.

The Advisory Group will meet at least twice a year (or in accordance with the grant rounds per year) to provide recommendations on grant applications in line with the ACEREZ Community Grants Program's vision and criteria.

A report will be issued to the ACEREZ Social Licence Group (SLG) by the Advisory Group, outlining its assessment of the shortlisted applications for funding approval.

In the event that a large number of applications are submitted for the Advisory Group member positions, ACEREZ will keep additional applications on file to be considered for the two future recruitment rounds.

How the Advisory Group works

- The Advisory Group will comprise four community members selected from across the region to provide independent recommendations on the grant applications against the ACEREZ Community Grants Program's vision and criteria. These community members will help us to understand the diverse community of the project area
- Each Advisory Group member can only provide recommendations for one year (or in accordance with the grant rounds per year)
- A community member can only participate in the Advisory Group for one year
- ACEREZ will remunerate Advisory Group members with a \$110 half-day sitting fee per session

3. Your application

Please read the [ACEREZ Community Grants Advisory Group Terms of Reference](#) before you complete this application. You can attach a separate document if you need more space.

Applications are due by **5pm Tuesday 27 January 2026**.

Your name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Why are you interested in joining the Advisory Group? For example, your connections to the area that is hosting the transmission project, your involvement in local community works or your experience in working with your local community on delivering projects.

(A short paragraph of around 100 words)

How might your experience help ACEREZ to ensure a fair and equitable grant assessment process?

(A short paragraph of around 100 words)

Are you a member of any community groups or organisations? Please provide details of your involvement.

(Please just list the groups)

Do you have any Conflicts of Interest to declare? Conflict of interest can be, for example, if you are on the Advisory Group and a group that you belong to submits an application. Or you may be a part of the Advisory Group and next year a member of your family, or a friend, submits a grant application. We can help to manage these sorts of things if we understand any issues. Importantly, the final decision on community grants is made by ACEREZ and EnergyCo.

At this stage we just need your agreement that you will raise any potential issues with us.

YES

NO

4. Next steps

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by phone and email by **Friday 27 February 2026**.

5. Contact ACEREZ

Please contact our Community Team at cwo.community@acerez-acjv.com.au or **1800 298 379** if you require assistance with your application.



24/7 Community Information Line 1800 298 379



cwo.community@acerez-acjv.com.au



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