

Waubra community celebrates new playground with WRL support

The Waubra community has celebrated the opening of its new playground, marking the completion of a locally-led project supported by the Western Renewables Link (WRL).

More than 100 school and kindergarten students were the first to try out the playground which features modern climbing structures, swings and slides designed for toddlers to pre-teens, as well as new safety fencing and a double electric BBQ with picnic table and drinking fountain.

The upgraded space was delivered via a partnership between local community members, funding partners and WRL.

Driven by a passionate group of local Waubra mums, the project reflects the value of community-led ideas supported by practical investment. WRL contributed \$200,000 through its Benefit Sharing Program, alongside funding from the Victorian Government's Tiny Towns Fund, the Waubra Wind Farm Community Fund and local fundraising efforts.

The playground is an example of early benefits in action, responding directly to community feedback and delivering a tangible outcome while the WRL project continues to progress.



Three local Waubra Mums, Lucy, Molly and Brianna, started the new playground project idea over two years ago with the simple goal to create a play space where local children, families and visitors could come together, play, connect and enjoy community year-round.



Lucy commented: "What started as a small idea, backed by a lot of maternal determination, has grown into something far bigger than we ever imagined. Seeing our vision come together is incredibly rewarding. We hope this playground is a testament to what can be achieved when the community comes together with a shared purpose and we hope it will be enjoyed by our children, and generations of children and families to come."

"We thank WRL for their generous contribution which allowed us to take the project beyond a basic playground upgrade and create something much more modern, engaging and unique for our community, with a range of additional features that otherwise wouldn't have been possible."



\$4 million Local Grants Fund still open

As part of WRL's commitment to early investment, the Local Grants Fund will invest \$4 million in projects that strengthen communities and deliver meaningful benefits during the project's development phase.

The Local Grants Fund is still **open for applications until 11.59pm on 30 June 2026** and is looking for funding ideas across five priority areas:



Community infrastructure

Upgrades and improvements to public places to help build connected, resilient, healthy and inclusive communities.



Environment

Nature conservation activities that support biodiversity and enhance habitats and water resources.



New energy initiatives

Support for community facilities that improve energy affordability, resilience and education.



Community connection and participation

Initiatives that bring people together, improve inclusion and support participation.



Emergency services

Support to encourage and train volunteers and help purchase equipment to assist with service delivery.

Grants are available for up to \$50,000 for smaller projects through to \$300,000 for larger legacy initiatives and communities from Ballarat, Hepburn, Melton, Moorabool, Pyrenees, Northern Grampians and Ararat Shires are encouraged to apply. For more information or to submit your application, visit the [website](#).

While the free grant writing workshop series has now concluded, support is still available. The WRL team have been hosting drop-in sessions to support grant applicants, with the details for remaining sessions on the right:

Stawell

17 June, 11am-3pm – Stawell Entertainment Centre Downstairs Foyer, 59-69 Main Street, Stawell

Clunes

18 June, 11am-3pm – The Warehouse (Ulumbarra Room), 36 Fraser Street, Clunes

Visit the [Community events page](#) for full details.



Expressions of interest for the independent panel now closed

Thank you to everyone who submitted an expression of interest for the Independent Local Grants Review Panel. This process is now concluded and we will be reaching out to applicants in the coming weeks to advise them of the outcome and next steps.

About the project

The Western Renewables Link is a proposed electricity transmission line that will carry renewable energy from western Victoria to homes and businesses across the state and into the National Electricity Market. The project is critical infrastructure required to unlock the renewable energy potential of western Victoria as a key Renewable Energy Zone and will help to deliver clean and affordable energy to all Victorians.

Find more information online

Read more about the WRL Benefit Sharing Program and how you can get involved on the [project website](#) and the [program guide](#).

Sign up to the [project newsletter](#) on the website to receive updates on the program and notifications on when expressions of interest open.



Want to speak to a member of our team about the Local Grants Fund?

You can contact the team at grants@westernrenewableslink.com.au or on 1800 WRL WRL (975 975)

More information

Visit the project website westernrenewableslink.com.au for the latest project information.

Contact us

westernrenewableslink.com.au
1800 WRL WRL (975 975)
info@westernrenewableslink.com.au

Delivered by

AusNet