



MEDIA RELEASE

14 March 2016

KEPCO Community Investment Fund Opens

KEPCO Bylong Australia (KEPCO) has today announced the first round of the Bylong Coal Project Community Investment Fund for 2016 is open for applications.

KEPCO established the Community Investment Fund in 2015 to proactively support local community initiatives through event sponsorships and local group grants.

"The Bylong Coal Project has sponsored over ten initiatives through the Community Investment Fund so far, and KEPCO is thrilled its support has directly translated to positive outcomes for Bylong and its surrounds," KEPCO Australia's Chief Operating Officer Bill Vatovec said.

Some of the groups and events supported by the Community Investment Fund to date include the Bylong Christmas Celebration, Mudgee Disability Support Service, Rylstone Hospital Auxiliary, Rylstone Kandos Show Society, the Rylstone and District Pony Club and Mudgee Men's Shed.

Mudgee Men's Shed applied for funding to assist with their rebuilding process following a fire which seriously damaged their facilities in late 2014.

"KEPCO's Community Investment Fund provided Mudgee Men's Shed with much needed additional funds to continue the journey of rebuilding we have been on over the last year. I certainly encourage other community organisations to apply," Mudgee Men's Shed President Tom Dudley said.

"With the grant we were able to purchase new welding machines and safety helmets which will allow us to continue our welding training programme we started before the fire that closed the Shed down," Mr Dudley said.

KEPCO encourages applications from programs addressing investment priority areas including community wellbeing, community health and education and childcare, and those programs focusing on the immediate and neighbouring areas of the proposed Project.

"Neighbouring communities of particular interest to the Bylong Coal Project's Fund include Bylong, Rylstone, Mudgee, Kandos and Gulgong, although applications from the Mid-Western Regional Council local government area are also welcome," Mr Vatovec said.

Applicants can apply for up to \$3,000 funding or sponsorship between 14 March and 15 April, with the successful initiatives being announced by the end of April. More detailed information and the application form is available on the Project's website (www.bylongproject.com.au).