



MEDIA RELEASE

11 July 2016

KEPCO'S COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND OPEN

KEPCO Bylong Australia (KEPCO) will provide more than \$20,000 to support local community activities in the Mid-Western Regional Council region. The second round of the Bylong Coal Project Community Investment Fund for 2016 is now open for applications.

"The Bylong Coal Project has contributed over \$145,000 to the local community through its 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.

KEPCO established the Community Investment Fund in 2015 to proactively support local community initiatives through event sponsorships and local group grants. 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 11 July and 12 August, with the successful initiatives being announced by the end of August 2016. More detailed information and the application form is available on the Project's website (www.bylongproject.com.au).

ABOUT THE BYLONG COAL PROJECT:

KEPCO Bylong Australia (KEPCO) proposes to develop the Bylong Coal Project, located approximately 55 km north-east of Mudgee and 53 km from Denman in New South Wales, Australia. The mine is likely to employ up to 665 people during peak construction and up to 470 people during peak operation. The Bylong coal mine proposes to recover up to 6.5 million tonnes of raw coal per annum, with open-cut operations commencing first and lasting approximately ten years (including 2 years decommissioning), and underground mining commencing thereafter.

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