



Media release

29 March 2019

NINE COMMUNITY GROUPS FIRST TO BENEFIT FROM WIND FARM FUND

A school's project to encourage healthy eating and enjoyment of the area's abundant local produce will be among the first to benefit from the Mount Emerald Wind Farm Community Fund.

Walkamin State School's Kitchen and Garden Program was one of nine projects chosen for the fund's first grants, after an advisory committee made up of local residents reviewed more than 40 applications.

The school asked for support for a new kitchen to be used by students, volunteers and to cater for community events.

It will also enable healthy eating to be incorporated into the school curriculum, using local ingredients to help children build the skills and understanding to enjoy a positive relationship with food.

The full list of successful organisations in this round is:

- Atherton Cricket Association
- Bibbohra State School
- Helpful Hearts community project
- Kairi State School P&C
- Malanda Bowls Club
- Mareeba and District Pony Club
- Mount Molloy State School
- Tolga State School P&C
- Walkamin State School

Advisory Committee Chairman Tom Braes said: "It was far from a straightforward task to choose the most deserving applications for support from such a high-quality field.

"I am grateful for the considerable efforts of the three local volunteers on the committee that co-operated to decide on the first recipients from the fund. We were particularly pleased to be able to support projects from across the area.

"We would certainly encourage anyone who missed out this time to apply again, using the guidelines available on the project website to help make sure applications are as strong as possible.

"We look forward to receiving the next batch of applications as well as seeing some of these excellent projects come to fruition."

Ratch-Australia, the owner and operator of the wind farm, will donate \$200,000 to support local causes every year of the turbines' working lives.



Around \$100,000 remains available for community groups to share this year. Application forms and guidance for applicants, as well as information about the wind farm and how it was built, are available at www.mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au

Projects or initiatives located within a 50km radius of the wind farm are eligible for funding. Email completed applications, or ask any questions, to communityfund@ratchaustralia.com

The deadline for the next round is 31 July 2019.

ENDS

Notes to editors

- Ratch-Australia is an independent power producer that owns and operates a portfolio of energy projects across the country with a total installed capacity of more than 800MW.
- Mount Emerald Wind Farm is located between Atherton and Mareeba, approximately 5km west of Walkamin.
- The wind farm comprises 53 wind turbines with a maximum height to the blade tip of 148.5m.
- Construction started in February 2017 with the first electricity generated and exported to the local network in late 2018.
- The wind farm – Queensland's largest - is anticipated to generate between 500 and 600 million KWh of renewable electricity per annum on average. This is approximately equivalent to the annual electricity requirements of between 75,000 and 90,000 homes in Far North Queensland.
- Visit www.mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au