

Media Release

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Up to \$10,000 available for community projects in drought-affected rural towns

Community projects to help small rural and regional towns recover from drought could be eligible for up to \$10,000 from the *Seeds of Renewal* grants program. Applications for this year's grants are now open until 30 April 2007.

Applications will be accepted from not-for-profit organisations with an ABN in communities within Exceptional Circumstance (EC) declared areas with a population of 15,000 people or less.

The aim of the grants program is to assist rural communities survive and recover from drought. This may include projects to assist in the creation of community enterprise, enable community growth or develop local tourism, culture or the economy.

Seeds of Renewal is funded by ANZ and independently administered by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).

Commenting on the program, FRRR Chief Executive Officer, Ms Sylvia Admans said: "Seeds grants are available to help drought affected communities rebuild. We know the drought has resulted in many community driven initiatives being put on hold. The aim of the program is to help communities get their plans for the longer term back on track."

ANZ's Managing Director for Regional, Rural and Small Business Banking, Mr Rob Goudswaard said: "ANZ's support for Seeds of Renewal is part of our commitment to supporting the communities who have supported us. We know the drought is having a severe impact on many small communities and the cash grants are intended to help them rebuild for the future."

Seeds of Renewal has granted more than \$1.15 million to about 180 community projects in small towns since its inception in 2003, including:

- A Farm Gate Trail map in Cobram-Barooga in Victoria
- A networking and confidence-building youth rapping workshop in northwest Tasmania
- The foundations for the new Ardrossan Community Hospital helipad in South Australia
- An FM transmitter tower for Beacon West Australia
- Instruments and sheet music to establish a music program at the Alyangula Area School in Northern Territory
- A golfing putt putt course in Merriwa New South Wales
- A mobile youth leisure and information service in Miriam Vale Queensland.

Communities interested in applying for Seeds of Renewal grants should visit www.frrr.org.au or call FRRR on 1800 170 020. Applications close 5.00pm, Monday 30 April 2007.

For more information or media enquiries, please contact:

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Notes to editors

ANZ – supporting communities

ANZ supports rural and regional communities across Australia as part of our corporate responsibility and sustainability program.

We are committed to enhancing the well being and prosperity of the communities where our people live and work, and where our business operates.

ANZ's support of Seeds of Renewal began at its inception three years ago.

Seeds of Renewal

- Seeds of Renewal is an ANZ-funded rural and regional grants program for community projects in small towns.
- Seeds of Renewal is independently administered by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).
- By the end of this year, Seeds of Renewal will have granted more than \$1,150,000 to community projects in small towns since its inception in 2003.
- Applications for 2007 are now open and will close at 5.00pm on Monday 30 April 2007.
- The grants pool for the 2007 program totals \$450,000 with a maximum of \$10,000 per project.
- Applications are accepted from not-for-profit organisations with an ABN in communities with population of 15,000 people or less, or for community based responses to water sustainability issues.
- The Seeds of Renewal theme for 2007 is the drought. This year, the Seeds of Renewal program will help small rural communities affected by drought in Exceptional Circumstance (EC) declared areas, as defined by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
- Application forms for Seeds of Renewal can be obtained by visiting www.frrr.org.au or by contacting FRRR on 1800 170 020.

About the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)

Founded in 2002 as a partnership between the Sidney Myer Fund and the Department of Transport and Regional Services, FRRR supports the renewal of rural and regional Australia.

The FRRR's role is to work in partnerships with the private sector, governments, and community and philanthropic organisations to champion the economic and social strength of Australia's regional, rural and remote communities.

FRRR manages all of the Seeds of Renewal program's planning and implementation, including processing grant applications, overseeing the recipient selections process and distributing the grants themselves.