

Media Release

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Community Choices and Community Halls Offering \$245,000

Electricity distributor Essential Energy has this week launched its annual Community Choices program, which supports local groups across its footprint by offering funds up to \$2,500 for successful candidates.

This is the first year the annual Community Choices and Community Halls giving programs have been consolidated, with a total funding pool of \$245,000.

With funding available in 20 zones across the network's footprint incorporating rural, regional and remote New South Wales and parts of southern Queensland; the electricity distributor hopes to support as many as 300 registered charities, not-for-profit groups, community groups and community halls.

Community Relations Manager Northern, Bronya Pressler, said "From Monday 28 February, eligible groups such as charities, not-for-profit and community groups like CWAs, community halls, community centres, school P&Cs and sporting clubs can nominate to take part in the community-led voting for a share of the \$245,000. Once verified, they can rally their supporters to take part in the public voting online for 10 days from 8 April."

"The entire process can be completed online – from community groups and charities nominating to the community voting. It's a great and COVID-safe way to raise funds," Bronya said.

"There are many groups across our footprint that are really in need of this funding – which is why Essential Energy is asking the community to choose a cause that counts and nominate them." Bronya said.

The Community Choices program includes \$245,000 in funding across 20 zones in our network area, with funding packages ranging from \$300 to \$2,500 available depending on votes. There are separate funding streams available for community halls and for groups located within small communities with populations of less than 10,000.

Nominees must be able to receive payments by electronic funds transfer (EFT) and provide photos and stories about their organisations and the work they do.

Nominations open 28 February and close 20 March 2022. Voting opens on 8 April and closes 18 April 2022.

Visit essentialenergy.com.au/choices-2022 to learn more or make a nomination.

FACT FILE:

- Essential Energy builds, operates and maintains one of Australia's largest electricity distribution networks, servicing more than 880,000 customers across regional, rural and remote NSW and parts of southern Queensland
- Our footprint covers 95 per cent of NSW, traversing 737,000 square kilometres of landmass with 183,612 kilometres of powerline, including 163,417 kilometres in designated bushfire zones
- The network has approximately 5.1 customers to each kilometre of powerline, which is almost one-tenth the customer density compared with our counterparts in NSW
- Essential Energy's footprint also includes 1.38 million power poles, equating to 1.6 power poles per customer

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