



Newsletter

Dorper sheep grazing on the south block at Greenough River Solar Farm.

Local Wishes Granted Ahead of Community Grants Renewal

Applications for the 2022 Bright Energy Investments (BEI) Warradarge Wind Farm Community Grants closed on Monday, 12 September, with successful applicants to be announced in October.

The Warradarge Wind Farm Community Grants is in its third year of providing grants of up to \$5,000 for eligible organisations that improve their regional communities in the shires of Coorow and Carnamah.

The Coorow Waddy branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) used last year's grant to maintain its grounds through the purchase of a ride-on mower. CWA treasurer, Betty O'Callaghan, said there had been a benefit to community and the Shire of Coorow's street beautification plan.



The Coorow Waddy branch of the CWA purchased a ride-on mower to ensure their facilities remain tidy, accessible and safe.

"Our Warradarge Wind Farm Community Grant is helping to keep our grounds beautiful, especially during wildflower season," Mrs O'Callaghan said. "The mower also allows us to maintain the area safely for children and any members using the CWA building by discouraging snakes in longer grass."

The Coorow Playgroup used its 2021 Community Grant to purchase kinder gym equipment to give children the opportunity to be more sociable and

About Bright Energy Investments

Bright Energy Investments (BEI) is focussed on the development of large-scale renewable energy projects in Western Australia. Established in April 2018, BEI is an investment vehicle established between WA electricity generator and retailer Synergy, global infrastructure investment fund DIF and industry superannuation giant Cbus, to develop over 250MW of renewable energy projects. The BEI portfolio currently includes the Greenough River Solar Farm in the state's Mid-West, the Albany Grasmere Wind Farm in the Great Southern Region and the 180MW Warradarge Wind Farm near Eneabba which is one of the best renewable energy projects in the country. For more information visit. www.brightenergyinvestments.com.au.



Members of the Coorow Playgroup with their 2021 Warradarge Wind Farm Community Grant last Christmas.



The LTTAG's movie nights are creating cinematic experiences for the local community.

active in a safe environment. Coorow Playgroup president, Laura Brewster, said the equipment enabled young and growing families to socialise.

“The Coorow Playgroup has been operating for 23 years and our new equipment has allowed us to implement a new program called ‘Run Riot’,” Miss Brewster said. “Dozens of kids and parents are now able to come together and connect from across the Shire.”

The Leeman Townscape and Tourism Advisory Group (LTTAG)'s grant funded a projector for community cinema events. LTTAG secretary Judy Wallace said the investment enabled the group to host its first movies in July and September, with more planned for the October school holidays and beyond.

“Small coastal communities such as Leeman and Green Head do not have the luxury of cinema venues,” Ms Wallace said. “Our Warradarge Wind Farm Community Grant has provided an exciting way to strengthen our community bonds.”

Positive Signs in Sheep Grazing Pilot

Bright Energy Investments has started an innovative sheep grazing trial at Greenough River Solar Farm (GRSF) as part of an environmentally friendly approach to land management.

The trial involves around 200 dorper sheep to explore the ways grazing can replace mechanical methods to maintain vegetation growth on the south block of the solar farm. BEI General Manager Tom Frood said the agreement to locate sheep onsite had showed promising early signs.

“Bright Energy Investments is trialling this technique in the hope of maximising the environmental and safety benefits,” Mr Frood said. “Sheep grazing is a natural way to manage vegetation growth, enabling the area to be productive agricultural land, minimising risk to solar equipment caused by vehicle mowing and reducing bushfire risk by keeping fuel loads consistently low.

Sheep have been used at other renewable sites across Australia, with one such project in New South Wales's Central West reporting [improved quantities and quality of wool production in a win-win for farmers and landowners](#). When successful, the shade and condensation run off from the panels can increase grass compared to surrounding paddocks.



Maintenance and Other Updates

BEI and Warradarge Wind Farm Operations and Maintenance contractor Vestas will begin works to replace a blade on one of the site's 51 turbines in September, following a lightning strike during winter. BEI will also explore trial initiatives during the coming months to improve drainage on-site.

Contact us

For more information on BEI and its projects, please visit our website or contact us

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