

Introducing the “West's For the Future” Grants program 2026

The West's **For the Future Grants Program** supports schools and community organisations in delivering environmentally/sustainability focused projects that create long-term positive change. Projects must align with one or more of the program's sustainability themes and demonstrate clear community benefit. Projects that actively involve young people, and/or the wider community are more likely to be successful.

Fund objectives are to:

To reduce small financial roadblocks and create more opportunities across our region toward sustainability initiatives

FUND OBJECTIVES

1. Help Small Ideas Get Off the Ground

Support community groups and local organisations to take simple sustainability ideas and turn them into action by removing common barriers like cost, time and access to support.

2. Back Community-Led Environmental Action

Encourage locally driven projects that bring people together, such as community gardens, shared green spaces and recycling initiatives for the betterment of the community.

3. Support Small Changes That Make a Real Difference

Enable practical, achievable sustainability actions — like small solar installations, waste reduction projects, recycling programs and biodiversity activities — that deliver immediate benefits for the local community and environment.

4. Connect People, Ideas and Support

Strengthen connections between West's and local sustainability initiatives across the Macarthur region by sharing knowledge, resources and impact of following small projects to grow and succeed.

Total Value of the GRANTS POOL \$20,000 (Total)

Who Can Apply

The program would be open to the following exclusively within the Campbelltown, Camden, Wollondilly Local Government areas and welcomes applications from Early learning centers, Community organisations and not for profit organisations, Schools, P&C Associations and Sporting clubs.

An ABN or ACN is required where the applicant is representing a business or organization. Individuals and/or personal sustainability initiatives will not be considered.

General Eligibility

- Where the project is on council property or buildings or attached to a lease (landlord) The applicant must supply the relevant approvals for the work to take place including a development application, correspondence form council and or relevant quotes.
- Applicants are encouraged to consider the minimum level of funding needed for their project to remain achievable.

Eligible projects

Projects must address at least one of the following themes;

- Reducing or conserving energy or water;
 - Energy efficiency upgrades (e.g. LED lighting, efficient HVAC)
 - Renewable energy projects (solar, batteries)
 - Water efficiency and conservation
- Improving waste management and recycling initiatives;
 - The Introduction of Recycling systems
 - Organic waste processing (e.g. composting, worm farms)
- Creation of kitchen or community gardens and “green thumb” spaces that promote local food production, reduce food waste and support environmental awareness through hands-on gardening.
- Small projects that help Biodiversity, look after local wildlife and improve or restore natural areas in the community.
- Practical education and awareness initiatives that support local people to try, learn and share sustainable practices.

If you are unsure if your project is eligible, please contact Wests Community team for confirmation prior to starting your application on community@westslc.com.au

Ineligible projects

The Wests “For the Future Fund” will not fund the following projects or project components:

- Projects exceeding \$20,000 in total with no evidence of other funding stream to support or requiring ongoing financial support
- Any activities not tied directly to an obvious Sustainability activities
- Major Infrastructure upgrades
- Proposals where ongoing financial support is required
- Purchase or lease of land/facility
- Any consultant or staff fees
- General administration or operating expenses, e.g. rent or wages
- Projects that have already been completed
- Initiatives related to room hire or catering including within Wests Group Macarthur venues.

Applicants

Applicants must complete detailed applications and meet reporting requirements including proof of delivery.

Throughout the assessment process Wests Group Macarthur may request additional information from the applicant.

Assessment Criteria

Strong applications will:

- Demonstrate research and subject knowledge
- Show clear planning, including feasibility and project timeline
- Present an accurate, itemised budget
- Encourage community engagement
- Address how they intend to deliver and what capacity they have to do so.
- Must be able to report of outcomes/identify how success will be measured

Key Dates for 2026 Grants Open 1 February 2026 & Grants Close 1 May 2026

Monitoring and Reporting

The Project must commence within a 6-month window of receiving the funding or Wests Group will actively pursue a returning of the funds. Projects can be redirected if required, on communication and with approval from Wests “For the Future” Grants committee.

All successful applicants will be asked to complete a formal acquittal form within three months of finishing their project and no later than 12 months, whichever comes first.

This will include a summary of how the funding was used (including any invoices and evidentiary support, what outcomes the project helped to achieve and a few photos showing the project in action. This helps show the impact of the funding and supports the continuation of the grants program.

Applicants also agree to take part in Wests Group Macarthur marketing activities related to the project, including the sharing of project information and images across platforms used by the Wests Group Macarthur Marketing team.

Opportunity to meet eligibility criteria through ClubGRANTS Program

Where appropriate, applicants may be invited to submit an online application through the Wests Group Macarthur ClubGRANTS Program. This may include applying under ClubGRANTS Category 1, which runs at the same time and is assessed by the Campbelltown or Camden Local Committee, made up of other licensed venues, local councils and the Department of Communities and Justice.

Judging Panel 2026

The 2026 Judging panel is made up of senior Wests Group Macarthur representatives including internal sustainability committee, and external representative, Levi Gibson - Principal Consultant of Rana Environmental.

Application Process

All applicants must complete the online application form.
Attach all quotes and any other supporting documentation.
Submit applications no later than 11:59pm, Friday 1st May 2026

Notification of Outcome

Once funding recommendations are finalised, all applicants will be notified in writing via the applicant. Funding will take place within 30 days of notification. Details of successful projects will be published on the Wests Group Macarthur website in collaboration with applicant.