

28 September 2023

ACEN Australia New England Social Investment Program (SIP)

Congratulations to recipients of the recent round of the New England Solar Uralla Grants program which was celebrated at a small gathering at Alma Park.

Uralla Grants has been ACEN Australia's voluntary social investment contribution to support the community during the construction period of New England Solar Stage 1, and under the stewardship of a Community Reference Group (CRG) has invested \$200,000 since 2021 to community groups, businesses, organisations.

Stage 1 of New England Solar is now generating clean, renewable electricity into the National Electricity Market (NEM), and in the coming months will be complete. There is still plenty more to deliver however as part of New England Solar which was approved by the NSW Government in 2020.

ACEN Australia is pleased to announce that through the New England Solar and Battery projects, we will continue its support with a further \$7M+ to be invested into the community. It is our voluntary contribution to help build and maintain thriving and resilient communities.

The ACEN Australia New England Social Investment Program (SIP) will be active from 1 January 2024. Funding is allocated for the next 25+ years. Initial funding for three years will be administered via two streams with \$300,000 available in 2024.

Funding guidelines, application form including eligibility and assessment criteria will be available November 2023. Community Reference Group membership applications will open November 2023.

See overleaf for more information or visit www.newenglandsolar.com.au

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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New England Solar

Renewable Energy from ACEN

Social Investment Program

Through the New England Solar and Battery projects, ACEN Australia is continuing its support of the New England region, with more than \$7M to be invested. **It is our voluntary contribution to help build and maintain thriving and resilient communities.**

At ACEN Australia, we understand the importance of sharing in the benefits that renewable energy projects in New England offer.

Over the last two years, the New England Solar Uralla Grants program has been very well received and invested \$200,000 in funding to community groups, businesses and organisations through the stewardship of a Community Reference Group (CRG). The collective mix of skills and local knowledge by the CRG has guided this investment to support vital community projects and events. Thank you.



The ACEN Australia New England Social Investment Program (SIP) will be active from 1 January 2024. Funding is allocated for the next 25+ years. Initial funding for three years will be administered via two streams, and reviewed thereafter.

New England Solar grants, sponsorships and donations

2024 \$150K | 2025 \$150K | 2026 \$150K

- Refreshed version of existing Uralla Grants, and aligned with ACEN Australia's business wide SIP program
- Funding available for groups within Uralla Shire, Dangarsleigh, Kellys Plains, and Anaiwan communities:
- Six monthly funding rounds by application
- Administered by ACEN Australia and a Community Reference Group

Funding guidelines, application form including eligibility and assessment criteria available November 2023

CRG membership applications open November 2023

New England Solar Future Fund

2024 \$150K | 2025 \$150K | 2026 \$130K

- Contribute to strategic, regional long term investments
- Focus on leveraging co-funding with other partners
- Funds may be hosted in a term deposit fund with 20% of available funds retained at any one time to enable accumulating resource plus interest
- Administered by ACEN Australia
- Applications through invitation

An initial investment activity being explored is the funding of a Community and Climate Resilience 'Connector' role for Uralla and surrounds for three years. This part-time role, in collaboration with ZNet Uralla would provide on-the-ground support to community to access available subsidies, loans and grants for energy efficiency upgrades to households, business and community facilities, as well as other community building initiatives.

Appointment of a dedicated ACEN Australia resource to govern the Social Investment Program and a conduit for community feedback to ACEN