

CAROONA COAL PROJECT COMMUNITY FUND



BHP BILLITON BUSINESSES AIM TO MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES, NOT ONLY BY PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, BUT ALSO BY SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS THAT HELP TO CREATE A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL FABRIC.

About the BHP Billiton Carooona Coal Project Community Fund

In April 2006, BHP Billiton was formally granted an exploration licence by the Department of Primary Industries to undertake exploration for coal reserves in the Carooona area over a period of five years. As part of the licence arrangements, BHP Billiton's Coal Mines Australia Pty Ltd, a 100 per cent owned subsidiary of BHP Billiton, committed to the development of a Community Fund that aims to support the company's longer term plan for community involvement and investment in the local and regional area.

The BHP Billiton Carooona Coal Project Community Fund is an annual investment of A\$1m for up to five years. The A\$5 million consists of both cash and in-kind contributions to the community.

The community fund is available to benefit community members of both the Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains Shires.

In October/November 2006 BHP Billiton's Carooona Coal Project, in conjunction with Coakes Consulting, engaged the assistance of key community representatives across a range of sectors to determine community needs and priority areas for investment.

The most common areas of need raised during consultation were:

- Improving access to health services
- Skills development training in mining and non mining sectors
- Support for local businesses
- Support programs for the indigenous community
- Support for local community group initiatives
- Preservation of water resources

Following community consultation, BHP Billiton Carooona Coal Project used the community needs analysis to develop Community Fund Focus Areas which would deliver tangible and sustainable community outcomes.

There are two types of applications for financial support available through the Carooona Coal Project Community Fund; one for applications over A\$5,000 that fall into the priority focus areas, and one for applications for sponsorship between A\$500 and A\$5,000

Preference for sponsorship will be given to programs that support the priority focus areas.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND (applications over A\$5,000)

Program funding under the Community Fund is required to meet community needs in at least one of the following priority focus areas:

- Education and Training
- Indigenous Development
- Health
- Community Development
- Environment

Application Process

Community Partnership Fund Projects over \$5,000 are assessed bimonthly.

Applications should be received at least three months prior to the commencement of the project to be given consideration.

Applications are assessed by the internal BHP Billiton Assessment Committee quarterly and applicants notified in writing within 60 days of receipt. In some instances it may be necessary to obtain additional information from applicants to assist in the assessment.

Applicants should complete a *Community Partnership Application Form*.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss project proposals with the Community Relations Coordinator prior to making application.



Preferences for Community Partnership Fund Applications

- Projects that can demonstrate deliverable and measurable outcomes in a relevant priority focus area/s and contribute to priority focus area objectives
- Projects that will benefit the communities of Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains Shires
- Projects or initiatives from organisations that have a proven track record of achievement and satisfactory project management
- Programs that can demonstrate satisfactory information on its financial management and status
- Projects that are directed at solving problems in a sustainable way rather than providing short term relief from symptoms or long term dependency
- Projects that become self sustaining over a period of time or will continue to provide benefits to the community after the project funding is completed or funding has ceased
- Projects that can demonstrate Federal, State or Local Government support and integration into local Sustainability, Community Development or Social Plans
- Projects that assist BHP Billiton Carooona Coal Project to achieve its social and business objectives
- Priority capital works programs where additional funding has been sourced
- Projects that will have a significant impact in addressing a priority issue or make a real difference to the community

LOCAL SPONSORSHIP between A\$500 and A\$5,000

In addition to the Community Fund, the Caroona Coal Project has established a local sponsorship fund for applications between \$500 and \$5000.

Priority Funding Areas for local Sponsorship include:

- Education and Training
- Indigenous Development
- Health
- Community Development
- Environment
- Enhancing the liveability and sustainability of the Community



Preferences for Local Sponsorship

- Projects that will assist/support the BHP Billiton Caroona Coal Project designated communities of Liverpool Plains and Gunnedah Shires
- Programs that will involve the wider community
- Programs that will support the priority focus areas
- Programs that can demonstrate tangible outcomes
- Programs that will build a sense of community and enhance the liveability and sustainability of designated communities



Application Process

Applicants should complete a *Local Sponsorship Application Form*.

Local Sponsorship applications between A\$500 and A\$5,000 are assessed bimonthly by the internal BHP Billiton Assessment Committee.

Applications should be received at least three months prior to the commencement of the project to be given consideration.

Applicants will be notified in writing within 60 days receipt of an application. In some instances it may be necessary to obtain additional information from applicants to assist in the assessment.



Initiatives that will not be supported, either through the Community Partnership Fund or Local Sponsorship include the following:

- Capital appeals for vehicles or equipment or for refurbishment or maintenance of such items
- Applications from individuals
- Applications from political organisations or campaigns
- Applications from religious organisations for religious purposes
- Applications seeking retrospective funding

For more information on the focus area guidelines and objectives please refer to the Community Fund 'Priority Funding Focus Areas' brochure located at www.caroonacoal.bhpbilliton.com.

Alternatively application information can be obtained from the Caroona Coal Project Office, corner Hawker and Nowland Sts, Quirindi, NSW 2343 Australia.

For further information or to submit applications for the Community Partnership Fund or for Local Sponsorship please contact:

Tania McShane
Community Relations Coordinator

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Caroona Coal Project

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY ASPECT OF THE BHP BILLITON CAROONA COAL PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT THE PROJECT TEAM.

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