

Local Buying Community Foundation Update: 2014-2015

The **Local Buying Community Foundation (LBCF)** is a critical element of the **BMA Local Buying Program (BLBP)**. The Foundation aims to enhance the economic sustainability of communities within BMA's immediate operational footprint and the broader Bowen Basin region. Through programs and initiatives that target local business training and development needs, the Local Buying Community Foundation is assisting to build and develop local capacity and capability. For all approved transactions processed through the BMA Local Buying Program, BMA makes a financial contribution to the Local Buying Community Foundation.

The key areas of focus for the Foundation include:

Building Sustainable Futures (BSF) – focusing on wider business economic and community development. This includes (but not limited to) business grants (new, growth, innovation), employment, scholarships, regional promotion and awareness.

Building Sustainable Business Communities (BSBC) – focusing on local business training and development. This includes (but not limited to) industry training, regional economic analysis and education for businesses.

Governance over the Local Buying Community Foundation is provided by the **Community Foundation Advisory Committee (CFAC)**, a collaborative stakeholder committee consisting of representatives that have diverse skills, business expertise and economic development. Membership of the committee includes local, regional and industry stakeholder representation from across the Bowen Basin.

Committee Membership (July 2014 – June 2015)

Vincent Cosgrove (Chair)	BMA	Suzanne Mitchell	BMA
Jessica Simpson	BMC	Cr Anne Baker	Isaac Regional Council
Cr Paul Bell	Central Highlands Regional Council	Sandra Hobbs	Central Highlands Development Corporation
Erica Fredericksen	Moranbah Business Representative	John Crooks	Dysart Business Representative
Brownyn Reid	Emerald Business Representative	Dr Manu Nithianantha	Blackwater Business Representative
Travis Hoban	Medium Business Representative		

The Local Buying Community Foundation is facilitated by **Tracey Cuttriss-Smith, C-Res Manager** on behalf of BMA.

The Local Buying Community Foundation has four funding rounds per financial year that are tabled at the quarterly Community Foundation Committee Meetings.

Funding rounds for July 2014 – June 2015:

- **29 August 2014**
- **28 November 2014**
- **27 February 2015**
- **29 May 2015**

All applications are assessed against the following criteria:

- * *Impact* within and across communities;
- * *Sustainability*;
- * *Cost Effectiveness*;
- * *Leverage* of funds from other sources;
- * *Practicality/Achievability*; and
- * *Project Agility/Flexibility*.

Local Buying Community Foundation Major Events

The Local Buying Community Foundation funds workshops and networking events in communities throughout the year to assist with the Foundations objective of Building Sustainable Business Communities and encourage relationships to form between industry and local businesses. These workshops and networking events are coordinated by BMA and C-Res.

- March Emerald (Full Day Workshop and Networking Event)
- June Moranbah (Full Day Workshop and Networking Event)
- September Blackwater (Networking Event)
- December Dysart (Networking Event)

C-Res Community Development Officers supporting LBCF

One of the major roles of the C-Res Community Development Officer's is to promote the Local Buying Community Foundation and assist organisations with the planning and delivery of projects funded by the Foundation. To achieve this objective, C-Res have two dedicated Officers in the Bowen Basin:

- Meike Hamilton (based in Moranbah) servicing Moranbah and Nebo
- Renae Taylor (based in Emerald) servicing Blackwater, Capella, Dysart and Emerald

To view previous Local Buying Community Foundation Reports, Application Forms and Funding Guidelines visit www.localbuying.com.au/community

For more information:

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