

# Information sheet

## QRC and industry provision of funding and corporate support

### Who is QRC

The Queensland Resources Council (QRC) is a not-for-profit non-government organisation representing companies that have an interest in exploration, mining, minerals processing, and energy production. It is the resource industry's key policy-making body in Queensland, working with all levels of government, interest groups and the community.

QRC represents 71 full-member companies including companies with interests in coal, base and precious metals, mineral sands, uranium, coal-seam gas and electricity throughout Queensland. QRC policies and work programs are developed through board-level committees as well as other working groups and committees, which are open to all members.

For more information about QRC, our role and our members, visit our website at <http://www.qrc.org.au>.

### QRC's social policy activities

QRC takes an active role in social policy and community development issues affecting resource companies and the communities in which they operate.

The 'livability' of resource communities has been identified as a key priority area for industry. We recognise that social services and infrastructure such as health, education and housing are crucial to enhancing the sector's capacity to attract and retain a skilled resources sector workforce, as well as maintaining the sector's social license to operate.

As per QRC's strategic plan, QRC's role is to work closely with government and industry to secure these essential services for the communities in which member companies operate. This includes developing and implementing policies with, and on behalf of, the broader resources sector, liaising with government on key social and community development issues, and providing industry representation at relevant forums.

Social policy work is undertaken by QRC's Community Development Adviser, and is directed by a Social Policy Working Group overseen by a committee of the QRC Board.

QRC's Social Policy Working Group is made up of key company representatives responsible for community matters, and currently includes representatives from Ensham Resources, BMA, Xstrata Copper, Zinifex, Xstrata Coal, Anglo Coal, Peabody Energy, Rio Tinto Coal, Wesfarmers and Rio Tinto Alcan.

## **Contributions and funding by the mining and resources industry and QRC's role**

**QRC itself is a not-for-profit industry body, and as such does not provide funding or support for community projects or other organisations.** In addition, QRC does not influence the allocation of any community funding offered by individual companies. Notwithstanding this, QRC takes an active role and interest in the work and community programs of our member companies, and is committed to promoting these contributions and finding ways to add value to existing programs.

Many QRC member companies contribute to local communities, offering financial and in-kind support to community development projects in the rural and regional communities in which they operate. The provision and allocation of such support is at the discretion of the individual company and often the specific sites, and therefore the projects supported vary considerably across the industry.

Currently, resource industry companies are supporting a broad array of projects, such as providing funding for state-wide medical research programs and relevant charities, funding a local development or tourism officer, supporting construction and provision of local medical facilities, sponsoring local races and other events, and providing defensive driver training for local school students.

More detailed information about the programs and organisations currently being supported by each individual company is generally included in publicly available documents such as company sustainability reports. These reports and additional information, including contact details of appropriate staff managing the community support programs, are often available on individual company websites, which can be accessed by following the member links from the QRC website (<http://www.qrc.org.au/>).

Due to the number of approaches we receive, QRC is not in a position to promote individual bodies or organisations seeking funding/support from resources companies to our members. However, depending on the nature of the request, QRC may be able to circulate information about an organisation and project seeking support, including relevant contact details, for our member companies to consider and follow up with the organisation at their discretion.

QRC also recommends you consider the following points and tips before approaching resource companies to request support or funding.

### **Tips for seeking funding from companies**

- *Each company develops and manages its own program of community involvement/sponsorship/funding.* Therefore to seek funding or support, it is necessary to contact each individual company. Note that QRC cannot provide specific contact details of individuals within companies, however this information is generally available on company websites as referred to above. QRC itself does not provide such funding, and nor does it seek to influence company spending on community programs.
- *The structure of community support programs, including timeframes and application processes, differ between companies.* Companies also have different (and changing) focuses and priorities. An understanding of company priorities and program structure may assist an application for funding, and can also be researched through company reporting, such as sustainability reports or specific community funds reports, which are often available on the internet.
- *Approach the company with a specific request or project.* Usually companies will be more receptive to specific projects and costs with clear actions and outcomes, rather than broad programs with many different activities. Companies may also be keen to assist in assisting organisations to finish existing projects, rather than start additional projects.

→ *When seeking funding, the project should be relevant and provide some form of benefit (often via the local community) to the company. These may include:*

- *direct benefits to local communities in which companies operate, through creating more liveable communities for workers and their families, for example funding training for childcare staff, scholarships to support midwifery training, supporting establishment of recreational facilities*
- *assistance in developing long-term community capacity and sustainability, for example funding a community/business development officer, or tourism manager*
- *direct benefits to the companies' operation, for example companies are more likely to fund, say, traineeships in the trades than rural grazing trials*
- *exposure for the company, such as promoting the company name at events or in newsletters. This helps spread the message about companies as responsible corporate social citizens.*

→ *Preferably funding should be for a project or program, rather than administration or other overhead costs. This ensures tangible benefits for the sponsoring company.*

→ *There are different types of support that companies can provide – this may not involve giving a sum of money. Rather, companies can offer other types of support, such as providing employees to volunteer at events, offering venues, or matching employee donations.*

***If you would like to discuss funding and corporate support within the resources industry further, please contact QRC's Community Development Adviser, Elizabeth Yeo, on 3316 2513 or 0409 752 606.***