



21 December 2020

## Christmas comes early for Love Water Grants recipients

Twenty community groups, businesses and organisations have received an early Christmas gift, with a share in more than \$120,000 as part of Hunter Water's largest ever Love Water Grants program.

The one-off grants are valued up to \$10,000 and will help fund a range of water conservation and efficiency projects, as well as education, environmental and sustainability initiatives.

Minister for Water, Property and Housing Melinda Pavey said Hunter Water's Love Water Grants program was a great initiative in supporting the region during a challenging 2020.

"I'm proud to support Hunter Water's Love Water Grants program, which will help fund 20 worthy initiatives across the Lower Hunter.

"It's been a tough and challenging year for many with COVID-19. We're pleased to be able to work together and assist these local groups and organisations in continuing their valued community work, while also helping them to make smart water choices," said Mrs Pavey.

Hunter Water Managing Director Darren Cleary said it's clear from the number and quality of applications that the community is embracing the Love Water message.

"Water conservation and efficiency is front of mind for many in our community, and we're proud to partner with these grant recipients to deliver a variety of great projects. These include things like upgrading irrigation and water system infrastructure, installing rainwater tanks and establishing community gardens to name a few.

"We received a record number of quality applications this year. While we unfortunately haven't been able to fund all of the projects in round one of the program, we're exploring what other opportunities Hunter Water may have to assist.

"We'll also have round two of our Love Water Grants program opening early next year so we look forward to supporting even more worthy initiatives that will help our community make smart water choices and bring us together," said Mr Cleary.

Round two of the Love Water Grants program opens in February 2021. For more information, visit [www.hunterwater.com.au/grants](http://www.hunterwater.com.au/grants)



# Media Release

## Hunter Water

### 2020 Love Water Grants recipients

Organisation	Project summary	Grant amount
Blacksmiths Public School	An aquaponics project to help teach students how this system of growing vegetables can save water.	\$3,300
Cessnock City Council	The installation of a water fountain at Bridges Hill Park to provide an adequate water and refill station for park users and visitors.	\$10,000
Charlestown East P&C Association	The installation of a 10,000L rainwater tank to help increase the students' knowledge of water use and service the school's garden, leading to reduced drinking water consumption.	\$5,630
Charlestown Eastlakes Presbyterian Church	The installation of two water efficient raised garden beds and a 2,000L water tank to conserve drinking water. As well as planting a native garden and building bench seats made from recycled railway sleepers for pedestrians.	\$4,351
Eastlakes U3A Inc	The installation of a new, and larger water tank, the erection of three compost bays and the planting of a native garden that will increase the bio-diversity of the immediate area.	\$7,195
Elmore Vale Public School	The installation of an irrigation system to improve water efficiency practices for the school vegetable garden.	\$2,588
Feedback Organic	An upgrade of existing watering system infrastructure and a community awareness campaign to promote better water usage habits.	\$10,000
Maitland City Council	The installation of 2-4 portable drinking water stations to provide clean drinking water for the community, reduce the use of single-use plastic water bottles and promote bringing a reusable bottle.	\$10,000
Maryville Community & Throsby Friends	To create multiple 'green spots', including weekly composting bins, raised garden beds and buddy benches.	\$4,000
Medowie Christian School	The installation of water tanks to capture rainwater for use in agriculture areas.	\$9,722
Paterson Sports Ground Reserve Committee	The installation of a 32,000L water tank for watering the grounds to help minimise the reliance on town water.	\$6,570
St Bede's Catholic College Chisholm	The installation of sustainable water infrastructure to help collect rainwater for use on the school gardens.	\$2,500
St Brigid's Raymond Terrace	The installation of water tanks to use for school gardens and to connect to filtered water stations for students. As well as the installation of a metered sprinkler system to reduce the use of less effective watering techniques.	\$5,310
Sugarvalley Neighbourhood Centre	An education program aimed at promoting the importance of saving water and the installation of a 3,000L water tank to water the community garden.	\$2,825
Teralba Public School	The installation of water tank pumps and the revitalisation of existing garden beds to make more water efficient.	\$4,300
Toronto Centenary Hub Community	The re-establishment of existing community gardens to help raise awareness of the importance of water conservation, management and stewardship through education and practical application.	\$8,400
Trustees of Church Property for the Diocese of Newcastle	The installation of a 2,200L water tank to reduce run off into the storm water drains, save potable drinking water and help water the permaculture garden on site aimed at growing fruit and vegetables to share with those in the community facing hardship.	\$9,845
Vacy Sportsground	The installation of a 32,000L water tank to help provide water efficient irrigation on site.	\$5,000
Whitebridge High School	The installation of water tanks to flush toilet systems, helping to save potable drinking water.	\$5,000
Wyeec Hub	The installation of three 25,000L water tanks to help support the laundry and shower operations.	\$9,000