



5 June 2024

## Community at the heart of Hunter Water's 2024 Love Water Grants

Hunter Water has announced the 18 recipients of its 2024 Love Water Grants program, awarding over \$125,000 for the program's fifth year. The announcement follows a significant number of applications in various areas, from schools and pre-schools to community groups and organisations.

The one-off grants, valued at up to \$10,000, primarily support water conservation and efficiency initiatives and projects with an education, environmental, or sustainability focus.

Minister for Water, Housing, and Homelessness, Rose Jackson, commended the Lower Hunter community for its inventive water-saving initiatives.

"The overwhelming response of 71 applications underscores the local community's dedication to finding innovative solutions to preserve our most precious resource.

"In light of the current economic environment, supporting our community is more vital than ever. The array of projects—from infrastructure upgrades to community garden initiatives—all contribute to water conservation efforts and will significantly benefit the residents of the Lower Hunter region," Minister Jackson added.

Survivors R Us, a non-profit organisation that raises awareness of family and domestic violence while working to minimise the effects of abuse, homelessness, and unemployment, is one of this year's grant recipients. The organisation will use the funding to make water-efficient upgrades to its bathroom amenities, restoring the dignity of those using the service, while also improving the organisation's overall water usage.

Ann-Maria Martin, who founded the organisation in 2018, is thrilled and grateful to receive a Love Water Grant.

"We've worked with Hunter Water previously at some of our events, and we are excited to continue our partnership. It's so important that the people who visit us feel safe and welcome. By making these upgrades to our bathroom facilities, we will be taking steps to provide dignity and comfort to our community.

"Thanks to the funding, we will be able to install water-efficient appliances that can help us not only save water but also save on our water bill. We are so grateful and know that the Love Water Grant will make a real difference to the people we support," Ms Martin said.

Hunter Water Managing Director, Darren Cleary, said the Survivors R Us project captured what the Love Water Grants program is all about.

"Supporting our community is at the heart of Hunter Water, and the Survivors R Us initiative promises significant water savings and enhanced facility functionality, fostering positive community outcomes.

"Well done to all of the successful recipients and thank you to all of the applicants. We're proud to support our community as we work together to ensure a sustainable and resilient water future," Mr Cleary said.

For further details on the Love Water Grants program, visit [www.hunterwater.com.au/grants](http://www.hunterwater.com.au/grants).



# Media Release

## Hunter Water

| Organisation   | Project   | LGA            | Funding   |
|--|---|----------------|-----------|
| Kurri Kurri Men's Shed                                       | Planter boxes and irrigation                      | Cessnock       | \$6,000   |
| Dungog District Community of Schools                         | Water surveying education program                 | Dungog         | \$10,000  |
| Vacy Country Carnival  | Water tank and solar pump                         | Dungog         | \$8,000   |
| Hunter New England Health                                    | Water tank for existing gardens (Yallarwah Place) | Newcastle      | \$7,600   |
| Rutherford Technology High School                            | Wicking beds for STEM education program           | Maitland       | \$4,850   |
| Survivors R Us   | Bathroom upgrades, including showers and toilets  | Lake Macquarie | \$3,500   |
| Glen William Public School                                   | Water tank and vegetable garden                   | Dungog         | \$9,785   |
| Canvas Events PR Marketing Co.                               | MeetPats for local events                         | Lake Macquarie | \$9,360   |
| Cessnock West Public School                                  | Water tanks (part of larger school upgrades)      | Cessnock       | \$10,000  |
| Gresford District Community Group                            | Water tank and gutter repairs                     | Dungog         | \$7,000   |
| Cooks Hill Surf Life Saving Club                             | Replacing old taps at the clubhouse               | Newcastle      | \$2,700   |
| Merewether Surf Life Saving Club                             | Water tank for equipment wash down                | Newcastle      | \$5,415   |
| Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving Club                           | Replace showerheads, taps and dishwasher          | Port Stephens  | \$4,637   |
| Maitland Community Preschool                                 | Wicking garden beds and Aboriginal mural          | Maitland       | \$8,700   |
| RDA Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter (Riding for the Disabled) | Repair stormwater system, such as downpipes       | Port Stephens  | \$10,000  |
| Arcadia Vale Public School                                   | Water tank pump and garden irrigation             | Lake Macquarie | \$ 2,850  |
| Charlestown East Public School P&C Association               | Water tank and native garden                      | Lake Macquarie | \$7,560   |
| Newcastle Rowing Club  | Water tank for equipment wash down                | Newcastle      | \$10,000  |
|  |   | Total:         | \$127,957 |

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