MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 7 September 2023

Bowen Rail Company sowing the seeds for a healthier local community

Queens Beach State School’s kitchen garden program is blooming thanks to a new grant from Bowen Rail Company (BRC) to support the region’s littlest green thumbs.

The Bowen state school was one of four recipients of the latest round of funding from BRC’s Community Partnership Program, which is designed to assist not-for-profit organisations and community groups with the purchase of small assets that can make a big difference.

Queens Beach is part of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program and teacher Bec Trask said the children learned about food through hands-on gardening, harvesting, and cooking.

“Thanks to the grant we’ve been able to expand the garden and have a bigger variety of fruit and vegetables for the kids to cook with,” Ms Trask said.

“That’s been a huge benefit to the students and the program, and it wouldn’t have been able to happen without Bowen Rail Company’s support.”

BRC General Manager Brendan Lane said the Community Partnership Program was one of the ways the organisation gave back to the community, which had so strongly supported the company as it established itself in Bowen.

“We’ve gone from having five or six staff in town in 2020 to well over 150 today as we safely run our rail operation from right here in Bowen,” Mr Lane said.

“As we have grown, so too has our connection to our community. We now have kids who go to school here, we have elderly parents who live here, and all of that drives the desire our people have to give back to Bowen.

“That’s why we’re so excited to see our Community Partnership Program used to support the delivery of activities and services that make a tangible contribution to this place we’re so lucky to live and work in.”

Bowen Rail Company’s Community Partnership Program was launched in 2022 and is awarded bi-annually in November and May.

In addition to the Queens Beach State School, other recipients from the May 2023 round included the Bowen Neighbourhood Centre, which BRC assisted to fit out its large meeting room with audio visual equipment to support community groups and small businesses to hold meetings and conferences.

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Mr Lane said the Bowen Cricket club also received a grant to install lighting around the cricket nets so play can continue safely into the evening and Bowen Flexi Care used its grant to purchase new power tools including a leaf blower, lawn mower and whipper snipper for clients to use on gardening days.


For more information about the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program visit [www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/](http://www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/)

ENDS

*Photo file attached with release.*

**Photo caption:** Queens Beach State School teacher Bec Trask (back left) with BRC’s Lienca Nell (back right) and students with a haul from their kitchen garden.

*A video news release and audio grabs for radio are available [here](http://www.bowenrail.com.au/sustainability/community/).*

**EDITORS’ NOTES:**

**About Bowen Rail Company**

- Headquartered in Bowen, North Queensland, BRC combines world-leading technology with clever solutions to transport Queensland’s high-quality resources for export to the world.
- BRC’s GT46C-ACe Gen III locomotives help its local workforce work more efficiently, safely, and with a smaller environmental footprint.
- BRC’s first customer was [Bravus Mining and Resources’](http://www.bravus.com.au) Carmichael mine.
- BRC operates on the Carmichael Rail Network, a 200km railway connecting the Carmichael mine 160km northwest of Clermont in central Queensland to the Newlands Rail System.
- BRC transports high quality coal from Carmichael to the [North Queensland Export Terminal](http://www.nqet.com.au) north of Bowen. Here, Carmichael coal is exported to nations around the world where it is used alongside renewables to help lift people out of energy poverty while at the same time reducing emissions intensity as the world transitions over coming decades to a low carbon future.
- The Carmichael Rail Network was built as part of the Carmichael mine and rail Project, through which more than A$2 billion was paid to regional Queensland contractors and businesses.
- Both Bowen Rail Company and Bravus Mining and Resources are part of the Bravus group of Australian businesses delivering integrated energy and infrastructure services.

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