

# 2025 New Zealand and Australia Rabo Community Fund Impact Report



**Over \$1.5M spent**  
directly funding community initiatives across New Zealand and Australia

## New Zealand Highlights



**Held 17**  
New Zealand  
Rabo Client Council  
Meetings

**Hosted 32**  
Rabobank Workshops  
reaching **744** farmers  
and growers

**Held 19**  
Australian  
Rabo Client Council  
Meetings

**Hosted 31**  
Rabobank Workshops  
reaching **721** farmers  
and growers



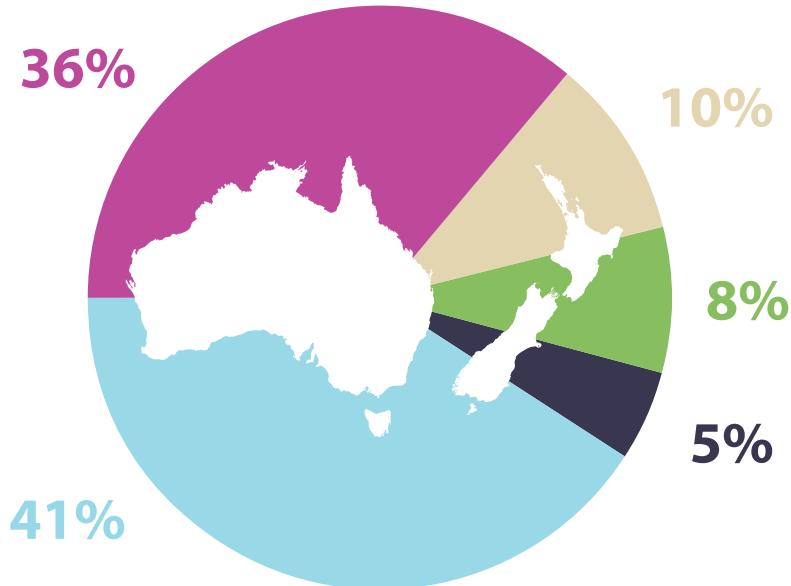
**Supported 46** local  
and national initiatives  
that are helping rural  
communities thrive

**Proudly supported**  
**20** Community Hub  
competition winners  
who each received  
**\$5,000** in funding

**Supported 36** local  
and national initiatives  
that are helping rural  
communities thrive

**Proudly supported**  
**12** Rural Community Hubs  
who each received  
**\$10,000** in funding

## Budget Allocation Across Themes



 <b>Rural Wellbeing</b>	 <b>Long-term Industry Capacity and Agricultural Education</b>	 <b>Rural / Urban Connection</b>
 <b>Natural Disaster Resilience</b>	 <b>Environmental Sustainability</b>	 <b>Adaption / Disruption</b>

## Support provided across New Zealand in 2025:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ag Pathways Programme (N)</li> <li>● Agribusiness in Schools (N)</li> <li>● Alfredton Community Hall (L)</li> <li>● Blessed Box (L)</li> <li>● Catchment Communities Aotearoa (N)</li> <li>● Colville Junction Charitable Trust (L)</li> <li>● Community Hub Initiative (N)</li> <li>● Donalds Farm 'Inspiring Futures Event' (L)</li> <li>● Farm 2 Future Camp (L)</li> <li>● Farmers Wellbeing Cricket Match (L)</li> <li>● Financial Skills Workshops (N)</li> <li>● Garden to Table (N)</li> <li>● George the Farmer (N)</li> <li>● Grassroot Dairy Graduate Trust (N)</li> <li>● Grow Board Game (N)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Growing Future Farmers (N)</li> <li>● Harvesting Health Event (L)</li> <li>● Hindon Community Hall (L)</li> <li>● Kereru Hall Society (L)</li> <li>● Lee Stream Board Hall Incorporated (L)</li> <li>● Lions My Free Health Check (L)</li> <li>● Maniototo Area School (L)</li> <li>● Meet the Need (N)</li> <li>● Meet the Need Golf Tournament (L)</li> <li>● Millers Flat Renovation Project (L)</li> <li>● Nelson Creek Community (L)</li> <li>● Peak Safety Agricultural First Aid Courses (L)</li> <li>● Piroa Conversation Trust (L)</li> <li>● Rural Mamas Collective (L)</li> <li>● Rural Riders (N)</li> <li>● Rural Support Trust (N)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Safer Farms (N)</li> <li>● Simpson Park &amp; Sporting Complex (L)</li> <li>● Sports &amp; Healthy Living Lincoln University (N)</li> <li>● Succession Planning Workshop (N)</li> <li>● Surfing for Farmers (N)</li> <li>● Surfing for Farmers Surfboard Giveaway (N)</li> <li>● Taranaki Environmental Education Trust (L)</li> <li>● Tawera Community Trust (L)</li> <li>● Te Puke Community Garden (L)</li> <li>● Telford Career Advisor Taster Camp (L)</li> <li>● The Whole Story Comic Book (N)</li> <li>● Tiaki Maniototo Tunnel House Project (L)</li> <li>● Weber Community Hall (L)</li> <li>● Whanake House Dairy Farm Training Programme (L)</li> <li>● Whangarei A&amp;P Society Farm Intern Programme (L/N)</li> </ul>
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## Support provided across Australia in 2025:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advancing Beef Leaders (N)</li> <li>● Agristart (L)</li> <li>● Australian Skin Cancer Foundation (L)</li> <li>● BackTrack (Disaster Recovery Work) (N)</li> <li>● BlazeAid (L)</li> <li>● Boys to the Bush (N&amp;L)</li> <li>● Business Transition &amp; Succession Planning Information Sessions (N)</li> <li>● CRRUP Limited (L)</li> <li>● Cleve Running Festival (L)</li> <li>● Cream of the Crop (L)</li> <li>● Croppa Creek Parents &amp; Citizens Association (L)</li> <li>● Fat Farmers (N)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Financial Skills Workshops (N)</li> <li>● FinWell Support Limited (L)</li> <li>● Future Farmers Network - Future Horticultural Leaders Forum (L)</li> <li>● George the Farmer (N)</li> <li>● GroWQ Association Inc (L)</li> <li>● Gwydir Industries (L)</li> <li>● Heart of Australia (N)</li> <li>● Kick off Ya Boots / ifarm well (L)</li> <li>● LifeFlight - First Minutes Matter Workshop (L)</li> <li>● Little Treasures Foundation (L)</li> <li>● Motherland (L)</li> <li>● MSCAN @ Young Beef Producers Forum (L)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mulgildie QCWA (L)</li> <li>● Orroroo Rural Womens Day Long Lunch (L)</li> <li>● Rabo Rural Community Hubs Program (N&amp;L)</li> <li>● Rural Child Health – Little Learnings Library (L)</li> <li>● Royal Flying Doctors Service (L)</li> <li>● Shelford Drought Event (L)</li> <li>● St John Ambulance Western Australia (L)</li> <li>● Teacher Meat Evaluation Capability Workshop (L)</li> <li>● Texas Inglewood School Excursions (L)</li> <li>● Watershed Landcare Incorporated – Green Day 2025 (L)</li> <li>● Wheen Bee Foundation (N)</li> <li>● Zoe Lamont Workshops (N)</li> </ul>
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(L): Local Client Council Community Initiative

(N): National Community Fund Initiative

## New Succession Planning workshops popular with farmers and growers



In June, we launched Planning for Succession, the third and latest offering in our Rabobank Workshop Series. This free one-day workshop has proven a hit with Kiwi farmers and growers and, over the last six months, we've hosted 18 workshops across the country, attended by 473 farmers.

The new workshops are open to both Rabobank clients and non-clients and aim to provide attendees with an understanding of business transition and succession, giving them the confidence to start and progress their own farm succession plan.

Given the strong interest in the 2025 workshops, Rabobank has now announced a new series of **Planning for Succession** workshops will be rolled out throughout 2026.

The first two modules in the Rabobank Workshop Series – **Understanding Financial Performance** and **Taking Control of Your Numbers** – ran throughout 2025.

In total, 14 workshops were held across New Zealand, attracting 293 farmers and growers.

*"In several instances, we had multiple generations from the one family attending the workshop, and these family groups were able to really dig into the key components of the discovery phase."*

*"I heard some great conversations amongst the family groups that attended, and these groups were able to put more of the key issues on the table and to make some excellent progress."*

Course facilitator, Lawrence Field

## Ag Pathways expands into new regions

More than 70 farmers from across the North and South Islands spent a day-and-a-half learning new business management and planning skills at Rabobank Ag Pathways Programmes held in Invercargill, Ashburton and Hawera earlier this year.

First run in 2015, the Ag Pathways Programme was developed by Rabobank's Lower South Island Client Council and aims to develop young farmers skills and contacts to advance their careers in the agricultural sector. This year's Ag Pathways in Invercargill was the ninth edition of the programme in the Otago / Southland region.

The ongoing success of Ag Pathways in the Lower South Island prompted Rabobank's Client Councils in other areas to replicate the programme, and Ag Pathways has run in a number of new regions over recent years.



*"The agenda was well rounded with sessions that targeted the very things I was keen to learn more about. Things like communication, financial management, business planning, farmer journeys to farm ownership, leadership, governance and succession."*

Eli Vollebregt, Hawera Ag Pathways participant

## Catchment Communities Aotearoa (CCA) lead sponsorship



**In July, we announced a new lead sponsorship of Catchment Communities Aotearoa (CCA) – the voice of more than 200 catchment groups across New Zealand.**

Its mission is to champion sustainable land and water management through collaboration, innovation and local leadership.

As part of our new agreement, Rabobank provided CCA with funding for 2025 and has committed sponsorship for another two years.

The sponsorship was initiated by our Client Council network, which identified the important role catchment groups play in strengthening rural communities and asked us to look at how we could further support these groups.

## Rabo Community Hub Competition sees \$100k distributed to rural halls, clubrooms and marae

**Twenty rural community hubs across New Zealand have now received \$5,000 to upgrade their facilities having been selected as the winners of Rabobank's 2025 Community Hub Competition.**

The competition – which ran throughout March – was open to all rural community halls, clubrooms and marae across New Zealand and attracted well over 500 entries.

Running for the first time this year, the competition was developed by Rabobank after our Client Councils identified the vital role rural community halls, clubrooms and marae play in providing a suitable location for rural communities to come together.

The bank's four regional Client Councils took on the challenging task of selecting the five competition winners from their respective regions.



*"There were so many great entries, and it was fantastic to read in the entry forms about the huge variety of community groups that are utilising their local community hub for all sorts of different events. Many of the nominated halls, clubrooms or marae, have been around a long time, and it's clear that some of these buildings have played a big role in the history of their local area. As a Council, we did find it incredibly difficult to select the winners. Ultimately, we went with hubs which are being widely used by local community members, and where we felt the \$5,000 of funding would make a meaningful difference to the upgrade of their facilities."*

**Mark Chrystall, Rabobank Lower North Island Client Council Chair**

## Safer Rides – strong uptake of discounted Crush Protection Devices

**The Safer Rides initiative, which offered farmers heavily discounted Crush Protection Devices (CPDs) for quadbikes, has made a significant impact in raising awareness and action around farm vehicle safety, according to a new report.**

Findings from the programme – which was proposed by Rabobank staff members and received funding from the Rabo Community Fund – show that more than 130 farm businesses installed CPDs through the scheme.

Launched in June 2024, Safer Rides proved so popular it was oversubscribed within 36 hours, with the 110 initial \$400 vouchers quickly snapped up.

Safer Farms then secured further funding to extend the scheme, with retailer discounts taking the cost of installation down by as much as 75%.



The strong uptake highlights that farmers want to address the risk posed by these farm vehicles and removing cost barriers makes a significant difference in bringing about positive change.

With the programme having proven successful, Safer Farms is now exploring a second phase of Safer Rides.



## Supporting farming families hit hard by storm

**Rabobank's Lower South Island Client Council was at the forefront of a farmer-led initiative to support families impacted by damaging winds that hit the Otago and Southland regions in late October.**

The storm flattened trees causing extensive damage to farm fencing and left many farming families without power for more than a week.

The Council was instrumental in developing an initiative which saw representatives from a number of rural organisations head up driveways to deliver care packages to those in the worst affected areas.