CRICKET AUSTRALIA

ORIGIN COMMUNITY CRICKET FUND GUIDELINES 2026/27



origin

COMMUNITY CRICKET FUND

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FUND OVERVIEW

Cricket Australia, in partnership with Origin Energy, is committed to developing community cricket facilities that are resilient, incorporate cleaner energy solutions and reduce Cricket's impact on the environment.

The Origin Community Cricket Fund (OCCF) provides funding for community cricket facility projects, with a focus on climate resilience, developing cleaner energy solutions and delivering upon Australian Cricket's strategic priorities.

Following the development of the National Community Cricket Infrastructure Strategy (NCCIS), Australian Cricket will utilise the OCCF as one of the funding programs to facilitate the successful delivery of NCCIS objectives and targets. Strategic Response 6 within the NCCIS provides a clear framework to guide the planning and development of projects which focus on improving climate resilience and sustainability for facilities in strategic priority areas across Australia.

The OCCF will contribute $900,000.00 across 2026/27 and 2027/28 into community facility projects representing a strong partnership between Cricket and Origin Energy to develop community infrastructure that supports cleaner energy solutions.

The OCCF is open to all clubs, associations, schools, councils and cricket facility managers, acknowledging the important role that these partners play in providing facilities for community cricket across Australia.



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OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the OCCF are to:

- Improve the climate resilience, sustainability and quality of cricket infrastructure across Australia.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to deliver infrastructure that aligns with Australian Cricket's strategic objectives.
- Advance energy independence within community cricket, applying Origin's ambition to lead the energy transition through cleaner energy solutions for Australian Cricket's clubs and facilities.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

The OCCF provides funding in the following two categories:

Category	Funding Amount	Types of Projects	Maximum Grant Amount
Origin Community Cricket Fund — Minor	$10,000 - $30,000	• EV charging stations • Hot water systems (including heat pumps) • Lighting upgrades for pavilions (converting to energy efficient systems e.g. LED) • Shading of playing, training or spectator areas (natural or built)	Up to 100% of the total project cost
Origin Community Cricket Fund — Major	$30,001.00 - $100,000.00	• Solar panel installation (including battery systems) • Battery systems • Water harvesting (including Water Tanks) • Playing field irrigation and drainage • Lighting upgrades for playing fields and training nets (converting to energy efficient systems e.g. LED)	

Note 1: Cricket Australia & Origin Energy reserves the right to propose an amended funding amount based on the proposed outcomes of the project and available funding.

Note 2: Grants from the OCCF are subject to GST. If your club/organisation is registered for GST, you will be paid the grant amount, plus GST. If your club/organisation is not registered for GST, you will be paid the grant amount only (no GST applies). Please take this into consideration when calculating your funding request.

Applications for more than $100,000 will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In addition to aligning to OCCF funding conditions, projects under this category will generally be multi-faceted and provide multiple benefits to Cricket.

FUNDING CONDITIONS

Projects submitted to the OCCF must meet the following conditions:

Align with **Cricket Australia's** Community Cricket Facility Guidelines.*
Projects must be able to demonstrate alignment with Australian Cricket infrastructure priorities.
Projects must be able to demonstrate a positive environmental impact.
Applications must relate to permanent facility development or upgrade projects. Equipment, temporary facilities and/or planning projects are not generally eligible for funding.
Cricket Field of Play or Training floodlighting projects (outdoor and indoor facilities) must align with AS 2560.2 (Australian Standard for cricket lighting).
Retrospective proposals will not be supported (i.e. projects that have already commenced) **
Correspondence from the local council or land manager must be provided acknowledging their consent for the project.
Adoption of Australian Cricket's Child Safety Framework.
Funding beneficiary must provide a post-completion acquittal on the funded project/s.

*Please contact your local State & Territory Infrastructure Contact prior to submitting your application if your project does not/is unable to meet recommended facility guidelines.

**The OCCF does not generally support projects that have already commenced construction, however, should circumstances require prior commencement (e.g. the facility has been damaged and requires immediate rectification works) it is recommended applicants contact Cricket Australia to discuss project eligibility.



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WHAT WILL AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING

The OCCF program is focused on supporting projects that deliver improved climate resilience for facilities, positive sustainability outcomes or reduces Cricket's environmental impact whilst delivering upon Australian Cricket and Origin's strategic priorities.

The table below provides an overview of the types of projects that will and will not be considered for funding:

Eligible projects	• Water harvesting (including water tanks) • Hot water systems – heat pumps • Solar panel installation (including battery systems) • Battery systems • Playing field irrigation and drainage • Lighting upgrades for pavilions, training nets and playing fields (converting to energy efficient systems e.g. LED) • Shading of playing, training or spectator areas (natural or built) • EV charging stations
Non-eligible projects	• Sporting equipment (temporary nets, stumps, pitch covers) • Projects with no clear environmental benefit (e.g. fences, sightscreens, pitches or nets) • Temporary facilities (including temporary shade) • Projects that have already commenced construction* • Routine maintenance works and/or maintenance equipment • Projects where works have been covered by insurance • Facilities with limited or no benefit to cricket

*The OCCF does not generally support projects that have already commenced construction, however, should circumstances require prior commencement (e.g. the facility has been damaged and requires immediate rectification works) it is recommended applicants to contact your local State & Territory Infrastructure Contact to discuss project eligibility.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The OCCF assessment criteria provides a framework for assessing infrastructure projects. Applicants should ensure all assessment criteria is addressed when submitting an application.

No.	Criteria	Weighting
1	The project aligns with both Australian Cricket Strategic Priorities and Origin Energy Objectives.	30%
2	The project results in outcomes that deliver increased climate resilience for the facility, improved environmental and financial sustainability and supports a reduction in Cricket's current environmental impact.	30%
3	The project's scope and methodology incorporate environmentally friendly initiatives and are well defined.	20%
4	The project demonstrates support by partners, including local government and other land managers, and confirms financial contributions.	10%
5	This project will facilitate players, volunteers, and supporters to have brilliant experiences.	10%





HOW TO APPLY

Applications to the OCCF must be submitted via an online application form. Cricket Australia in partnership with Origin Energy will announce when the OCCF is open for applications.

The level of documentation expected to be provided with your application varies for minor and major funding categories. The minimum documentation in addition to the completed application form is:

- **Minor category** – plans/design documentation, cost estimate/quote, photos of the existing facility, consent from the land or asset manager.
- **Major category** – plans/design documentation, cost estimates/quotes, photos of the existing facility, letters of support, confirmation of other funding sources (as required), consent from the land or asset manager.

Applications that are not supported with the minimum required documentation will not be considered for funding. For further information, contact your local State and Territory Infrastructure Contact.

COMMUNITY CRICKET FACILITY GUIDELINES

It is a condition of funding that all projects submitted to the OCCF align with **Cricket Australia's** Community Cricket Facility Guidelines.

STATE AND TERRITORY CONTACTS

State/Territory	Name	Email
Australian Capital Territory	Lauren Coates	lauren.coates@cricketact.com.au
New South Wales	Cara Doyle	cara.doyle@cricketnsw.com.au
Northern Territory	Tim Shaw	tim.shaw@ntcricket.com.au
Queensland	Tom Gibson	tom.gibson@qldcricket.com.au
South Australia	Andrew Edwards	aedwards@saca.com.au
Tasmania	Alison Turner	alison.turner@crickettas.com.au
Victoria	Callum Dean	cdean@cricketvictoria.com.au
Western Australia	Brodie Green	brodie.green@wacricket.com.au

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