



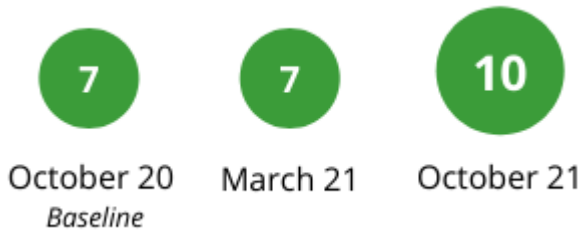
FRRR
Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal

Junee
Data Collection # 3
October 2021

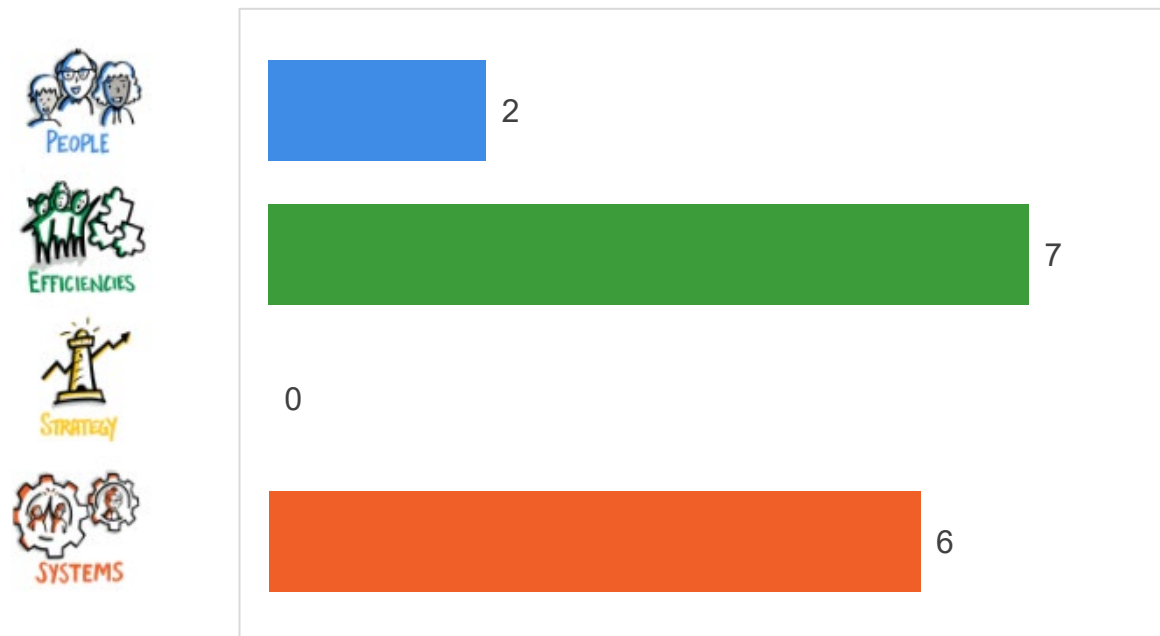
Investing in Rural Community Futures

Overview

Participating NFP's



IRCF Projects Funded by strategic pillar

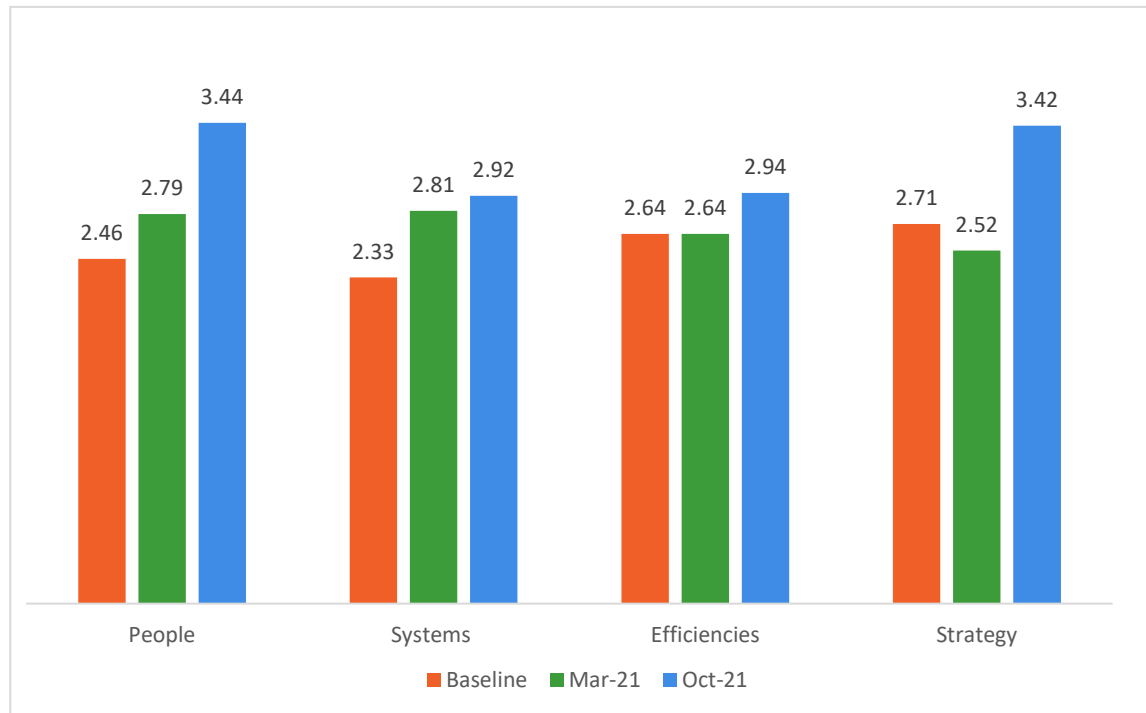




Progress Against Pillars compared to baseline

October 2020 – October 2021

Average of responses from self-assessment survey completed by all participating NFPs in Junee



As part of this evaluation, the change and impact on the capacity and sustainability of the individual NFP organisations involved in the program is being measured by using a series of tools. One of these tools is an organisational self-assessment for committees to collectively discuss the current health of their organisation. It was designed specifically for the program looking at the four pillars of People, Systems, Efficiencies, Strategy. The assessment measures each pillar using a five-point scale out of 12 areas of organisational competency, giving organisations a score out of 60. We use an average of this score across the funded organisations to monitor the overall health of these organisations and to track any impacts the program may have. All funded organisations take part in the self-assessment.

Funds Leveraged Since Project Start¹

Junee leveraged funds
\$903,100

Total FRRR Funding Contribution Since Project Start

FRRR contribution
\$564,032

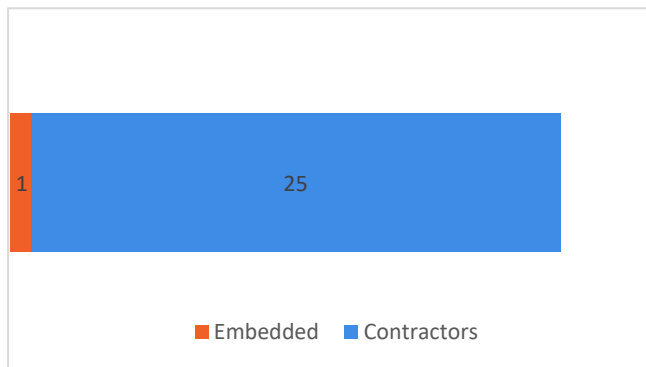
An example of how IRCF investment in an embedded position (the Community Liaison Officer - CLO) enabled a co-operative effort that brought benefit to the community is: At roadmap discussions, several NFPs noted that video conferencing facilities were not available in the community. The CLO wrote a submission to Junee Rotary which resulted in a contribution of \$200,000 (over 20% of the total \$903,100) and video conferencing facilities have now been installed at the Junee Ex-Services Memorial Club.

¹ This is an estimated figure provided by NFP's. 'Leverage' was described to NFP's in their interviews as 'what additional non-IRCF funding has your organisation secured as a result of the IRCF funded projects - either direct additional grant funds secured or increased capability (ie fundraising) which then secured funds or funding which the NFP directly related in any other way to their involvement with IRCF'.





People Employed through IRCF funds – total 26



*NFP's have engaged people in a range of roles to help them realise their projects. This ranges from **Embedded** salaried staff (either FT or PT), **Casual** employees, **Consultants** and **Contractors** like tradespeople.*

Note on data collection tools during this period:

Due to Covid restrictions there were no Community Workshops (Harwood) held in this data collection period. In Junee, three NFP's in Junee did not engage in this data collection period and no external stakeholder breakfast was held.

Areas of greatest capacity building need:

As a result of Covid restrictions in 2021, many NFP's in Junee would benefit from learning or developing **strategies to recover from the related disruption and isolation**. This could be in the form of deliberate networking/re-connecting related activities or simply by general recognition of the impact of Covid on their activities.

There is also value in including strategies on service / program delivery and governing / managing differently in the **'living with Covid' scenario**.

As new NFP's enter the program or new members join, **grant writing** skill development continues to be requested.





Results at October 2021

This section reports on the evaluation Theory of Change against the four strategic pillars - People, Systems, Efficiencies and Strategy.

<p style="text-align: center;">People</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">PEOPLE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Systems</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">SYSTEMS</p>
<p>Governance</p> <p>For some NFP's Board meetings haven't been possible - <i>'Covid has meant no meetings, so I feel like I haven't progressed anything with governance'</i></p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement/ Collaboration</p> <p>The community is tight knit and many NFP's feeling quite interconnected.</p> <p>Covid has impacted on networking and there is a need to rebuild once lock down stops. There is a sense of feeling a bit fractured at a networking level.</p> <p>The Community Facilitator role in partnership with one of the other funded community roles has been central in bridging new NFPs to IRCF and encouraging collaborations.</p> <p>Confidence with using computers/ internet</p> <p>IT levels are mixed. Some orgs have very low IT access and skills, while others who have professional/ experienced boards, IT capacity is high.</p> <p>There is a willingness to build capacity from those not so confident.</p> <p>Digital based projects such as, an upgrade of a CMS (Content Management System) platform will have a significant impact for both clients and staff.</p> <p>Use of volunteers</p> <p>Covid continues to impact volunteering and ability to deliver some programs. There is diversity in use of volunteers</p>	<p>Policy and Procedures</p> <p>One NFP is looking forward to the support of a consultant to help with policies and procedures.</p> <p>Accreditation requirements have placed extra governance compliance responsibilities on one Board.</p> <p>Equipment, machinery, tools to deliver on the organisation's vision</p> <p>Many NFP's reported feeling self-sufficient in relation to equipment and some not really prepared to share equipment as it is quite specialised.</p> <p>In general organisations appear to have what they need. Materials on order have been delayed due to Covid.</p> <p>Financial Management</p> <p>Diverse capability. Some are comfortable using Excel spreadsheets and others have embraced Xero or MYOB.</p>





Efficiencies



Partnerships with other organisations or programs

The data shows an openness from those with halls, rooms to rent to want to share these with other community groups as fee for service but also to help.

Some don't have partnerships now, but can see a need for this in their grant applications.

Shared Business Systems

There is more of a willingness to share facilities, halls etc rather than equipment.

The continued absence of a local newsletter is still mentioned as a barrier to communication about opportunities such as jobs.

Strategy



Mission and Goals

Several NFP's identified the need to update their strategic plan, mission and goals or have secured Toolbox funding to engage a consultant.

One NFP noted that having secured funding for the strategic plan is contributing to a feeling of better governance and planning.

Organisational Planning Tools and Processes

Security of land tenure (have own land) was noted by one NFP as key to their financial sustainability and ability to plan into the future.

One NFP discussed risk scenario planning which they haven't done before.

One NFP is keen to use the evaluation process to help them set their own goals

One org clearly linked getting a strategic plan with becoming financially sustainable.

Grassroots problem solving in new and different ways and creativity

Original program NFP's are reporting learnings about how they do things differently now. Some report being more streamlined in how they do their core business.

One NFP is keen to think differently about growing non-grant funds but is finding some other community organisations a bit set in their way and they just continue to apply for grants for everything.

