



# FRRR

Foundation for Rural  
Regional Renewal

## Leeton

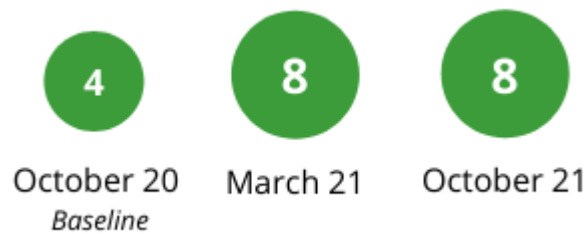
Data Collection # 3

October 2021

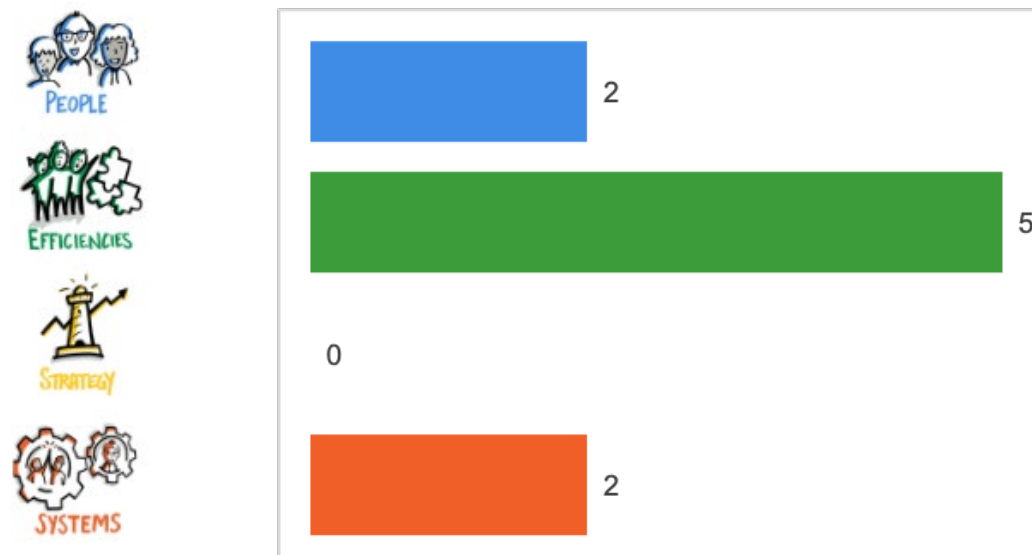
## Investing in Rural Community Futures

### Overview

#### Participating NFP's



#### IRCF Projects Funded by strategic pillar

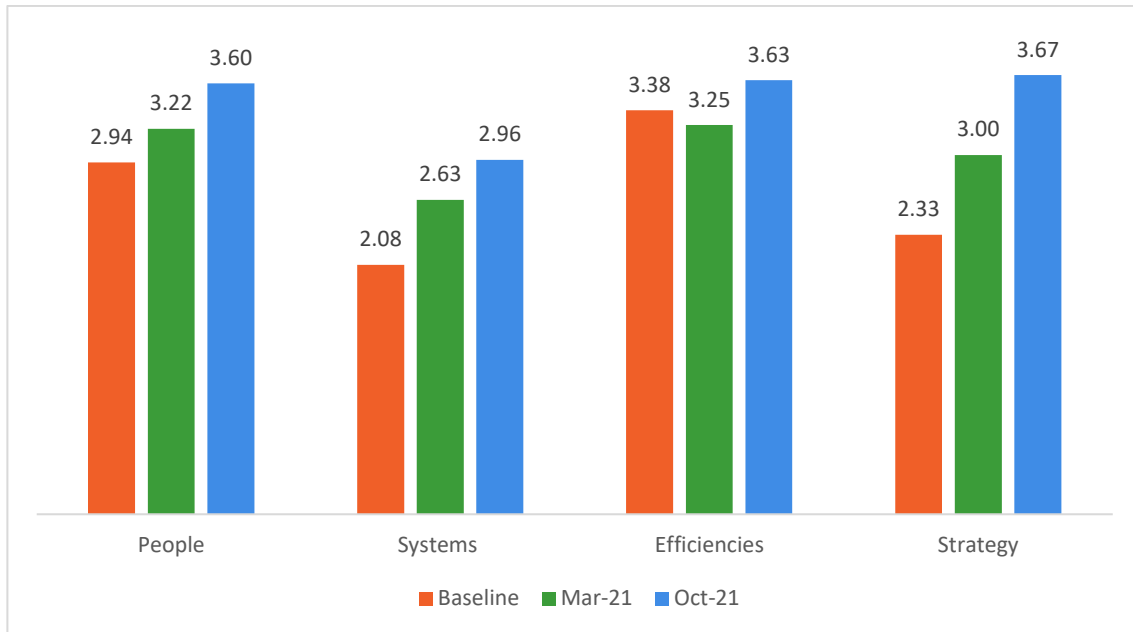




## Progress Against Pillars compared to baseline

October 2020 – October 2021

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



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.

### Note on data collection tools during this period:

Due to Covid restrictions there were no Community Workshops (Harwood) held in this data collection period

### Funds Leveraged Since Project Start<sup>1</sup>

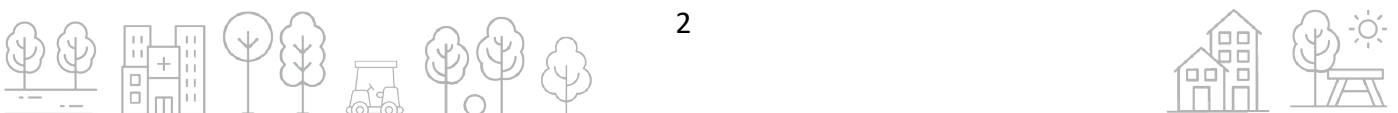
**Leeton leveraged funds**  
**\$44,800**

### Total FRRR Funding Contribution Since Project start

**FRRR contribution**  
**\$476,106**

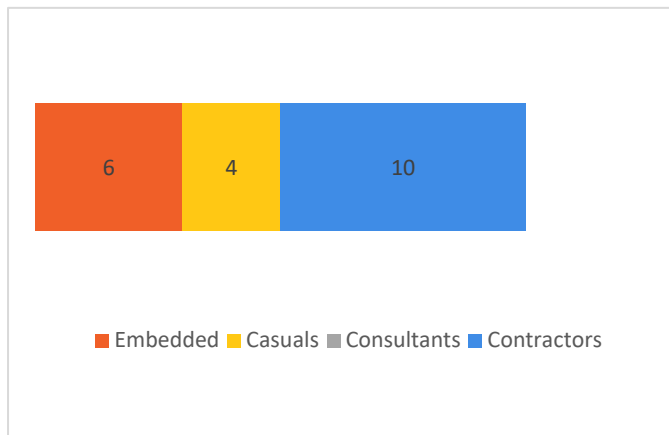
Additional Toolbox Funding  
**\$9,950**

<sup>1</sup> 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 - 20



*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.

### Areas of greatest capacity building need:

While a number of NFP's have developed **Strategic Plans**, several would benefit from learning how to review existing Strategic Plans and if they don't have them developing new ones.

Support for **Business Planning** (where appropriate) would also be well received.



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;"><b>People</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">PEOPLE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Systems</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">SYSTEMS</p>
<p><b>Governance</b></p> <p>Two NFP's actively work on their own internal governance systems, while noting there is still work to be done on their governance.</p> <p>An IRCF funded project was for governance and grants training for NFP's.</p> <p><i>'We did the governance training with Leeton Connect. We didn't know what governance was before then' (Leeton Art Society)</i></p> <p><b>Stakeholder Engagement/ Collaboration</b></p> <p>One NFP noted that what they are doing is 'relational work' and what they started in 2020 is just now starting to yield results.</p> <p><b>Confidence with using computers/ internet</b></p> <p>A mix of IT skills but overall there is reasonable capacity across all NFP's In many cases, key individuals take care of the IT or are an internal champion for others.</p> <p><b>Use of volunteers</b></p> <p>Levels of volunteerism limited by Covid restrictions. Some have good volunteer systems and have become Covid ready.</p> <p>One NFP has developed a formalised volunteer structure which they are keen to share across to other NFP's.</p> <p><i>Volunteers are central, ours are well trained, very good volunteers and they were already trained up for Covid. We were going to do an on-line course.</i></p> <p><i>(Leeton Show Society)</i></p>	<p><b>Policy and Procedures</b></p> <p>Most have policies of some type. One NFP noted that their Chair had foresight and set them up with policies when the NFP started. Some NFP have drafts of policies or need existing ones reviewed.</p> <p><i>We have put together a lot of policies and procedures and shared governance training with others. Other NFPs have used some of our policies and procedures for their own systems. (Leeton Connect)</i></p> <p><b>Equipment, machinery, tools to deliver on the organisation's vision</b></p> <p>Most have the equipment they need. First grants covered equipment and building upgrades. Additional is still required in some cases.</p> <p>One NFP had applied to IRCF for equipment and been turned down, for which they were disappointed.</p> <p><b>Financial Management</b></p> <p>A mix but overall NFP's noted reasonable capacity in this area. Some noted using Xero, Receipt Bank etc</p> <p>Some NFP's said they outsourced their financial management.</p>





**Efficiencies**



**Partnerships with other organisations or programs**

Examples of submitting joint funding applications with other organisations.

Many partnerships were noted with Leeton, such as with Council, other businesses, Leeton Rapid Relief, Regional Development Australia, local Aboriginal Land Council, local museums and art galleries + more

**Shared Business Systems**

Co-location and shared office facilities was a strong story here from Council and local businesses- providing both public visibility, shared staff members, access to equipment.

**Strategy**



**Mission and Goals**

All NFP's were clear on their purpose, mission and goals.

One NFP said,

*'In terms of time, the IRCF has helped us sit down and consider, 'what do our activities look like?'*

**Organisational Planning Tools and Processes**

Several NFP's noted that they have recently finished a new Strategic Plan, or need to do a Strategic Plan. One NFP has held a board fundraising workshop.

Recognised the need to get a Business Plan on paper.

**Grassroots problem solving in new and different ways and creativity**

One NFP noted that they have been using their mission and values to help guide problem solving.

