

# Shed Extension

## Tumbarumba Men's Shed

Snowy Valleys Council

Funding requested: \$238,000

**Summary:** The Tumbarumba Men's Shed has been highly successful in the community and completed several major projects. Of note was the restoration of NSW Railway's Guards' Van in conjunction with the local historical society. The high community profile is very welcome but an unfortunate outcome is that the limited size of the work area is now restricting membership numbers. The Men's Shed 'home' is a modest unheated/uncooled 'colourbond' steel shed. Excluding the tea/meeting room and toilet, the currently available workspace is 12.4 metres by 10 metres. The 'Shed Extension' project will add an identical shed that will approximately double the workspace. The existing shed is also not adequately insulated. The project will fully insulate the entire structure to assist with the extremes of weather in Tumbarumba. The project includes the provision of a small kitchen so that the facility can also be used by emergency relief organisations. During the major bushfires of 2019/2020, the Men's Shed was used by personnel coordinating the distribution of livestock fodder - a major concern in this small rural community. The expansion of the shed will make the facility more multipurpose. A major challenge with the current limited workspace is meeting Work Health and Safety (WHS) provisions. The large wood and metal working machines require safe working limits around the machines. To achieve this, the Men's Shed currently has to move machines outside (onto an improper work area) or simply limit the amount of concurrent work typically to about 6 members.

**Community value:** The Tumbarumba Men's Shed plays a vital role in supporting community wellbeing, particularly for individuals experiencing loneliness, social exclusion, or mental and physical health challenges. By expanding its workspace, the Shed can safely accommodate more members and increase its capacity to deliver small projects that assist disadvantaged locals. The Shed fosters education and skills development through hands-on building and manufacturing activities, encouraging experimentation and learning. It has successfully completed significant projects, such as restoring a rail carriage that now attracts tourists and benefits local businesses. The expanded facility will also include a small kitchen, making it suitable for emergency relief use, as demonstrated during the 2019/2020 bushfires when it supported fodder distribution efforts. This multipurpose space will enhance community resilience and provide long-term benefits. With a growing membership and proven impact over its first decade, the Shed's expansion will strengthen local industry, support community groups, and promote social connection. It will continue to serve as a hub for learning, wellbeing, and community engagement for years to come.



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