

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

June 3, 2025

ITEM 12

BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 97/25

SUBJECT: DRAFT COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS POLICY FOR
PUBLIC EXHIBITION D25/24625

Recommendation

1. That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 97/25 dated June 3, 2025, be received.
2. That Council notes the Community Assistance Grants Policy has been amended in accordance with Council Resolution of the 28 May 2025 Council Meeting minute no. 47872 to allow more opportunity for registered not-for-profit community organisations to acquire a Community Assistance Grant from Council.
3. That the draft Community Assistance Grants Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days during which time Council will accept submissions from the public.
4. That a further report be presented to Council at the conclusion of the public exhibition period outlining submissions received, and any resultant amendments to the Policy, with a view to adopting the draft Community Assistance Grants Policy.

Executive Summary:

Council is committed to assisting local community not-for-profit organisations in the delivery of services/activities/programs that align with the objectives of Broken Hill's Community Strategic Plan. To facilitate this Council holds two rounds of Community Assistance Grant (CAG) funding each year to provide "one-off" financial grants. The grants program complies with Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The Community Assistance Grants Panel met on 21 May 2025 to assess and recommend the awarding of grants for Round 1 of 2025/2026 to the General Manager.

In recommending the awarding of grants, the Panel also recommended amendments to the Community Assistance Grants Policy to allow the opportunity for more local not-for-profit community organisations to acquire a grant from Council.

These recommendations were presented to the May Ordinary Council Meeting where they were adopted and Council also resolved to make further amendments.

The Policy has been amended and is now presented to Council for endorsement for public exhibition.

Report:

Council's Community Assistance Grants Policy provides a framework for Council to provide grants for community events, projects, services or activities know as Community Assistance Grants that align with the objectives of Broken Hill's Community Strategic Plan.

The framework aims to ensure that the allocation of Council's limited resources is undertaken in a fair, transparent, accountable and ethical manner. Council recognises that there can be difficulties in meeting community expectations with the increasingly limited financial resources available. Council also recognises that it is accountable to the community for the management and disbursement of its funds and that it must be done in a manner that maximises the benefits to the community and is seen as fair and equitable.

The Community Assistance Grants Panel met on 21 May 2025 and conducted its evaluation of the applications received for Round One of 2025/2026 and presented its recommendations to the General Manager for the awarding of grants. The Panel also recommended to the General Manager a number of amendments to the Community Assistance Grants Policy to allow the opportunity for more local not-for-profit community organisations to acquire a grant from Council.

The recommended amendments were:

1. limit organisations to receive a grant to once biennially in the financial year rather than every financial year, in order that the opportunity exists for more not-for-profit community organisations to benefit from receiving a Community Assistance Grant.
2. cap grants to \$5,000.00 in order that Council's Community Assistance Grant funding can be allocated to more not-for-profit community organisations.
3. that not-for-profit community organisations who receive government funding are not eligible to apply for a Community Assistance Grant.

These amendments were presented to the 28 May 2025 Council Meeting along with the outcome of the awarding of grants for Round 1 2025/2026.

Council added further addendums to its resolution for this item to allow In One Accord to receive an exemption to amendment 1 in order that they can apply annually for a grant towards Carols by Candlelight event; and for a MOU to be granted to the Broken Hill Repertory Society for an annual 100% rates subsidy, and Council resolved:

ITEM 17 - Broken Hill City Council Report No. 92/25 - DATED May 21, 2025 - COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS AWARDED IN ROUND 1 OF 2025/2026 AND RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS POLICY D25/22437

During the discussion of Item 17, Councillor Turley declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in the Broken Hill Repertory Society as she is a patron and remained in the Council Chambers and exercised her vote on the matter.

RESOLUTION

Minute No. 47872

Councillor R Algate moved
Councillor H Jewitt seconded

Resolved

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) | 1. That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 92/25 dated May 21, 2025, be received.

2. That Council notes the Community Assistance Grants awarded for Round One of 2025/2026 which were recommended by the Panel on 21 May 2025, and approved by the General Manager under delegation on 21 May 2025.

3. That Council notes that the Community Assistance Grants budget for Round One is not fully expended with \$1,307.10 remaining |
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unspent which will be rolled over to Round Two of 2025/2026.

4. That as per the Grant Panel recommendations, the Community Assistance Grants Policy and associated Grants program literature be amended as follows, to give the opportunity for more local not-for-profit organisations to acquire a grant from Council:
 - 1) include a clause to cap the amount of grants awarded to \$5,000.00 for successful organisations for each round of funding.
 - 2) include a clause that limits an eligible organisation from receiving a Community Assistance Grant to once biennially in the financial year (rather than once every financial year) with the exception of In One Accord to be eligible to apply once every financial year for a grant towards the annual Carols by Candlelight event.
 - 3) include an eligibility clause that prevents organisations who receive government funding from applying for a Community Assistance Grant.
 - 4) that Council enters a Memorandum of Understanding agreement with the Broken Hill Repertory Society (who historically receives a grant for rates relief every financial year) for an ongoing annual financial assistance grant for a 100% rates relief.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

These amendment have been made to the Community Assistance Grants Policy (see highlighted changes attached) and is presented to Council for endorsement for the draft Policy to be placed on public exhibition. Following the public exhibition process the draft Policy along with any submissions received will be presented to Council for consideration of adoption.

Community Engagement:

The Draft Community Assistance Grants Policy will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days during which time Council will accept submissions from the public.

Strategic Direction:

Key Direction:	4	Our Leadership
Objective:	4.1	Openness and transparency in decision making
Strategy:	4.1.5	Support the organisation to operate within its legal framework

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 1993, Section 356 and Section 377

Council's adopted Community Assistance Grant Policy.

Financial Implications:

Nil.

Attachments

1. [!\[\]\(9bfa69b6b0f097b09744337d04f22d78_img.jpg\)](#) Draft Community Assistance Grants Policy

LEISA BARTLETT
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

JAY NANKIVELL
GENERAL MANAGER