

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS POLICY

QUALITY CONTROL			
TRIM REFERENCES	12/114 – D17/3599		
RESPONSIBLE POSITION	General Manager		
APPROVED BY	Council		
REVIEW DATE	April 2021	REVISION NUMBER	2
EFFECTIVE DATE	ACTION	MINUTE NUMBER	
24/02/2016	Adoption	45180	
22/02/2017	Public Exhibition	45461	
26/04/2017	Adoption	45524	
28/11/2018	Adoption of amendment	45959	

1. INTRODUCTION

Council acknowledges the contribution made by our community towards the betterment of Broken Hill and the contribution of volunteers towards the objectives of Council.

This policy aims to provide support to individuals and groups through a program of Community Assistance Grants.

This policy allows for considered and transparent decisions to be made regarding the distribution of community resources.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for Council to provide grants for community events, projects, services or activities, known 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.

3. POLICY SCOPE

The policy applies to all applications for Community Assistance Grants.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

4.1. General Principles

Council commits itself to the following principles:

- 4.1.1. Accountability, transparency and equity – The policy provides a framework for the transparent and merit-based provision of support and a system of accountability for the recipient.
- 4.1.2. Alignment with Council strategies – The policy aligns with Council priorities outlined in the Broken Hill Community Strategic Plan and Councils Delivery Program.
- 4.1.3. Value for money – The policy ensures Council considers the value for money received in return for Councils investment.

4.2. Scope of Program

- 4.2.1. The total amount available under the Community Assistance Grant Program will be determined annually by the elected Council in connection with the Operational Plan and Delivery Program.
- 4.2.2. Community Assistance Grants may comprise cash/and or value in kind.
- 4.2.3. Council may decide to offer to an applicant a Community Assistance Grant in an amount less, or in a combination different to, what is applied for.
- 4.2.4. A monetary figure will be allocated to all value in kind awarded under the Community Assistance Grant Program, in accordance with its true cost to Council. This amount will be included in the total amount of Community Assistance Grant allocated to any successful applicant.
- 4.2.5. Any amendments to the total budget allocated to the Community Assistance Grant program must be approved by the elected Council.
- 4.2.6. Only single year commitments may be approved under this policy.

4.3. Existing Commitments

- 4.3.1. The following existing committed donations do not meet the requirements for inclusion in a competitive process because they are initiatives instigated by Council and also they are not auspiced by a community organisation, therefore the following annual committed donations will be made:

Name of Organisation	2015/2016 Commitment	Purpose
Local Schools	\$100 per school (\$1,000.00 total)	Donation towards presentation night
David Bowler Memorial Award	\$2,500.00	Co-contribution towards award

- 4.3.2. All other previously committed annual donations will not be made and these organisations must apply to one of the competitive rounds of Community Assistance funding due to their organisation meeting the eligibility criteria to apply.

4.4. Program Structure

- 4.4.1. Council will hold up to two competitive rounds for Community Assistance Program each financial year.
- 4.4.2. Council will advertise the details of each round of the Community Assistance Program on Councils website and in the local media.
- 4.4.3. Council may decide to host a public information session in connection with a competitive round to provide information to prospective applicants about the program.

4.5. Eligibility and Assessment

4.5.1. Eligibility Criteria

Council will not support applications that do not meet all of the following Eligibility Criteria:

- a. Applicant must be an incorporated community association/organisation, or a registered not-for-profit association/charitable organisation with an ABN or ACN. Applications will not be accepted from individuals, businesses, government agencies, political parties or lobby groups.
- b. Applicants must lodge a completed application using Council's standard Community Assistance Grant Program Application Form in accordance with any published Guidelines.
- c. Applications must be received on or before the advertised due date.
- d. Applicants must provide evidence that they have appropriate insurances in place.
- e. The event/project/service/activity must be scheduled to occur within the same financial year the application is made and support is received.
- f. The funds received through Community Assistance Grants must not be used to raise funds on behalf of another group.
- g. Applicants may not have received any other sponsorship support from Council within the same financial year, regardless of whether it was for a different event/project/service/activity.
- h. Applicants must have complied with, to Council's satisfaction, the conditions of any previous grant, support or Community Assistance Grant received from Council.
- i. The event/project/service/activity must be consistent with the community values defined in the Community Strategic Plan.
- j. The event/project/service/activity must apply uniformly to all persons in the Broken Hill Local Government Area or to a significant group of persons within the area.
- k. The Applicant must be capable of obtaining all regulatory approvals for the event/project/service/activity.

- I. If a public information session is scheduled in connection with a round of Community Assistance Grant funding, a representative of the Applicant must attend, or otherwise meet with the relevant Council Officer in advance of the application deadline.

4.5.2. Assessment Criteria

Applications that satisfy the Eligibility Criteria set out in clause 4.5.1 will then be assessed against the following Assessment Criteria, which will be weighted according to Councils strategies:

- a. Social benefit to the community in the fields of arts, culture or environment.
Considerations include: number and age of participants; skills and knowledge developed by applicants.
- b. How the project will support an identified need within or develop community strengths.
Considerations include: alignment to community strategic plan and delivery program outcomes; the relevant impact on the Broken Hill community through the implementation of the initiative.

4.5.3. Assessment of Applications

The Relevant Council Officer will receive applications and undertake a preliminary assessment against the Eligibility and Assessment Criteria set out in sections 4.5.1 and 4.5.2.

It is open to the Council Officer to amend estimates and projections included in the application prior to assessment based on information available to Council or Council's past experience. Any changes should be notified to the applicant with the reasoning documented.

If the applicant does not agree with amendments suggested by the Relevant Council Officer, the application will still be presented to the Community Assistance Grant Panel for assessment with information from the Relevant Council Officer as to why amendments are recommended.

The weighting allocated to each assessment criterion will be determined and approved by the Community Assistance Grant Panel prior to applications being called. These weightings must be made available to applicants upon request.

Following a preliminary assessment, the Relevant Council Officer will present all applications to the Community Assistance Grant Panel with a recommendation on eligibility.

The Community Assistance Grant Panel will be convened to assess applications. The Community Assistance Grant Panel's assessment must be recorded on an evaluation form and retained in Council's records management system. The evaluation form will be signed by all members of the Community Assistance Grant Panel.

Each member of the Community Assistance Grant Panel must comply with Councils Code of Conduct, in particular, the provisions covering Conflicts of Interest.

The Community Assistance Grant Panel will make recommendation to the General Manager.

The General Manager approves and provides Council with a report for information subsequent to the awarding of grants.

The event/project/service/activity must be suitable for Council's involvement and consistent with Council's community values defined in the Community Strategic Plan.

4.5.4. Agreements, Payments and Acquittals

Successful applicants and Council must sign an Agreement, containing Council's terms and conditions for the Community Assistance Grant prior to any monies being released.

Payments will be made in accordance with the agreement following receipt of invoice.

All invoices must be received before the end of the financial year in which Community Assistance Grant was awarded and the event/project/service/activity implemented.

Council will not be liable for any amounts over and above the Community Assistance Grant amount as set out in the Agreement.

Successful applicants must provide acquittal information to Council in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.2. Roles and Responsibilities

The following Council Officers are responsible for the implementation and the adherence to this policy:

- General Manager
- Chief Operating Officer
- Governance Officer

5.3. Communication

This Policy will be communicated to the community and staff in accordance with Council's Policy, Procedure and Process Framework and Council's Business Paper process. Following adoption by Council the Policy will be made available on Council's website.

5.4. Associated Documents

The following documentation is to be read in conjunction with this policy:

- Code of Conduct
- Statement of Business Ethics

6. REVIEW

Review of this policy will incorporate relevant legislation, documentation released from relevant state agencies and best practice guidelines.

The standard review period will be within each term of Council following the Local Government Elections, or as required to ensure that it meets legislation requirements and the needs of the community and Council. The responsible Council officer will be notified of the review requirements three (3) months prior to the expiry of this policy.

The General Manager is responsible for the review of this policy.

7. LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following:

Council employees shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with proper execution and management of Council's Community Assistance Grants Policy. Council's Code of Conduct provides guidance for recognising and disclosing any conflicts of interest.

8. DEFINITIONS

Agreement means the agreement entered into by Council and applicant whose application for Community Assistance Grant has been successful.

Council means Broken Hill City Council.

Community Assistance Grant means Financial Assistance provided by Council as a financial contribution or Value in Kind, to support an event, project, service or activity.

Community Assistance Grant Panel means the panel comprising:

- The Mayor (or nominee)
- The "Our Community" Portfolio Councillor (or alternate)
- An additional Councillor
- The Broken Hill Australia Day Citizen of the Year
- Two independent persons

Financial Assistance means payments given to individuals or organisations that are not commensurate with a reciprocal benefit received by Council.

Guidelines means any guidelines published in connection with Council's Community Assistance Grant program in any year.

Relevant Council Officer means the Council employee responsible for administering the Community Assistance Grant program.

Value in Kind means goods or services supplied by Council in connection with a Community Assistance Grant, including the waiver or discounting of fees and charges for Council facilities.