

## 5.7. COUNCIL GRANTS PROGRAM MAJOR GRANT ROUND 2022-23

<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Pauline Thomas, Acting Grants Officer
<b>MANAGER</b>	Lisa Golding, Manager People and Community Services
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	People and Community Services

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Approves three grants under the Major Grants Round 2022-23 for full or partial funding as described in the body of the report, totalling \$16,520 (GST Exc); and**
  - 2. Delegates authority under s 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise all matters associated with the above approvals.**
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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Major Grants Program 2022-23 was launched on 1 August 2022 and the application period closed at 4:30pm Friday 30 September 2022. The In-kind, sponsorship and Micro Grants streams for assistance are open year-round until their respective budgets are exhausted.

Nine Major Grant applications were received, requesting a total of \$49,639 (GST Exc) in funding from an available pool of \$60,000. This report provides recommendations in relation to the applications submitted.

### BACKGROUND

The grants program is open to eligible individuals, groups and organisations (commercial and not for profit), on the basis that the primary objective is not directed at making a profit, and the projects;

- address a community need
- align with Council plans and strategies
- benefit the community or are in the public interest, and
- provide community, economic, social or environmental outcomes.

The Major Grant round opened 1 August 2022 for projects commencing in the 2022-23 financial year seeking assistance from \$1,001.00 (GST Exc) to \$10,000.00 (GST Exc).

The Grants Program was advertised on the Council's website and Facebook page and throughout the Council's email networks. Information sessions were held throughout the Shire and applicants were encouraged to speak with a Council Officer from the People and Community Services Department before submitting an application. This helps ensure compliance with the funding guidelines and an application written with the best chance of success.

Major Grant applications closed at 4:30pm on Friday 30 September 2022, with 9 Major Grant applications received, requesting a total of \$49,639 (GST Exc) from an available pool of \$60,000.

The assessment panel was comprised of three Council officers from Community Development, Procurement, and Finance. Panel members were advised to declare personal interests at the commencement of the assessment meeting to ensure the assessment process was equitable and transparent. One panelist declared a personal interest in one application. Each assessment panel member reviewed each application prior to the assessment meeting. At the assessment meeting preliminary scores and comments were discussed. An average score was taken based on the three panel members' scores for each application.

Applications were assessed on the objectives of the funding program, eligibility criteria and weighted according to the assessment matrix. This assessment information was provided in the Grants Frequency Asked Questions publication which supplemented the Grant Guidelines to assist applicants prepare competitive applications.

The assessment process with further input from Council Officers including the Grants Officer and Manager People and Community Services form the basis of the recommendations in this report.

## COMMENTS

Grant applications and Officer recommendations were discussed at Council Workshops on 25 October and 8 November 2022, to allow further information to be sought from applicants between workshops as necessary.

Panel funding recommendations were based on the following Grant Program Policies and Guidelines and Assessment Criteria:

- Evidence of community need
- Evidence of community support
- Community benefit (social, economic and environmental)
- Alignment with funding priorities and themes and goals in Council's Plans and Strategies
- Expected level of participation and reach during project (audience, participants – local/regional/state/interstate/international)
- Level of contribution from applicant and/or others with cash and/or in-kind towards overall project costs.

The Assessment Matrix listed the above six criteria, each scored on a scale from 0 to 3; with the maximum score being 18. This scoring matrix was included in the Guidelines, along with examples of support material, to assist all applicants prepare high scoring applications.

The Guidelines recommend applicants contact Council Officers to discuss their project prior to submitting.

**Table 1. Applications that did not meet the eligibility criteria and were not recommended for funding**

Organisation	Project	Funding Requested (GST excl)	Reason
Douglas FM	Radio Station	\$10,000	Did not meet the eligibility criteria.
Port Douglas Tennis	Shade Sail	\$2,550	Did not meet the eligibility criteria
Wonga Beach School P&C	P&C Markets	\$7,065	Did not meet the eligibility criteria
Rainforest Rescue	Regenerating our World Heritage Daintree Rainforest	\$11,544	Did not meet the eligibility criteria
Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club	Irrigation	\$10,000	Did not meet the eligibility criteria
Qld Youth Orchestra	Big Band in FNQ	\$10,000	Did not meet the eligibility criteria

**Table 2. Applications recommended for full or part funding**

Organisation	Project	Funding Requested (GST excl)	Funding Recommendation (GST excl)
Port Douglas Tennis Club	Pickle Ball Court and Program	\$5,190	\$5,190
Reuben Dwyer	Indigenous Artist Recording	\$10,000	\$10,000
Low Isles Preservation Society	Education Centre	\$10,000	\$1,330
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,520</b>

## PROPOSAL

That Council approves funding or part-funding of the grant applications listed above in the 2022-23 Council Major Grants round, as per the grant panel's recommendations.

## FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the Council Grants Program is provided for in the 2022-23 operational budget, with \$60,000.00 (GST Exc) allocated to the Major Grant Round. Council Officers have recommended funding applications to the value of \$16,520 (GST Exc).

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

All applicants and proposed projects must meet all eligibility criteria listed in the Eligibility Checklist and Program Guidelines. Risks in relation to allocating public funds through Council's funding programs (including the Council Grants Program, Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) and Resource and Performance Agreements) including disputes and failure to acquit funds.

Officers will apply these principles when considering risk management implications.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

**Economic:** Funding streams include assisting eligible applicants develop programs, projects or activities that provide economic and industry development opportunities and benefits to the Shire.

Grant-funded programs may build financial and resource capacity of clubs through increased membership and volunteer numbers and skills development.

Grant-funded programs that encourage increased visitation to the Shire and/or require local goods and services provide economic flow-on benefits to local businesses and the community.

**Environmental:** Funding categories include Environment/Sustainability for programs, projects and activities.

In order to align with Council's Events Strategy and general policy, applicants should consider measures and practical examples of how their potentially grant-funded events/activities will minimally impact the environment (e.g. use of recycle bins, minimising single-use plastic).

**Social:** The objective of the Council Grants Program is to support eligible organisations, groups and individuals with financial (grants, sponsorship) and non-financial (in-kind) assistance to help develop and deliver community programs, activities and events which provide artistic, cultural, sporting, recreational, environmental outcomes and enable social participation and interaction.

Programs and projects funded by Council will be required to adhere to workplace, health and safety and public health directives in relation to COVID-19.

## CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

### Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

#### Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

Douglas Shire Council embraces the diversity of our communities and values the contribution that all people make to the Shire. We recognise that it is a core strength of the region. We acknowledge our past so that it may guide us in the future. We recognise the wrongs done to our Indigenous community and we actively seek to reconcile so that we may all benefit from and enjoy our Shire. We acknowledge early European settlers who forged an agricultural base for our economy and we welcome all new arrivals as part of our broader community.

**Goal 1 - We will celebrate the diversity of our community and ensure that all infrastructure, programs, and services are underpinned with inclusiveness and accessibility.**

## **Theme 4 - Inclusive Engagement, Planning and Partnerships**

In delivering for our communities, economy and environment, Douglas Shire will ensure open and transparent engagement and communication. We will develop robust strategic plans and we will partner with our community and key stakeholders.

**Goal 1** - *We will implement transparent decision making through inclusive community engagement and communication.*

**Goal 3** - *We will recognise the critical role that our partners play in planning and delivering vital programs and services.*

## **Theme 5 - Robust Governance and Efficient Service Delivery**

Strong governance and financial management are the foundations of the way in which Council will conduct its business and implement the initiatives of the Corporate Plan.

**Goal 1** - *We will conduct Council business in an open and transparent manner with strong oversight and open reporting.*

## **COUNCIL'S ROLE**

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances, and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

<b>Funder</b>	Council often partly funds services, events or community organisations through grants, donations, subsidies and in-kind support. The Council will apply robust governance to ensure that such funding is fair and appropriate.
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## **CONSULTATION**

<b>Internal:</b>	Grants Assessment Panel, Council Officers as required. Council workshops 25 October and 8 November 2022
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<b>External:</b>	Grant Applicants
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## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil