

6.14. GROWING REGIONS GRANT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SUCCESS

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DEPARTMENT	Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to Commit \$750,000.00 (GST-exclusive) in the 2024-2025 Capital Works Program as Council's co-contribution to the Growing Regions Program – Round 2 (Adventure Playground application).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council recognises the importance of providing recreational opportunities for both residents and tourists. By committing \$750,000.00 as a co-contribution to the Growing Regions Program (GRP), Council is assisting and promoting the importance of physical activity, social interaction, and tourism to the region. The success of these three areas, greatly assists the economic growth in Port Douglas and the wider Douglas Shire area.

The \$750,000.00 commitment from Council, as a 50% co-contribution, is required to enable Council to submit an application to the Growing Regions Program – round 2 for the Adventure Playground.

Stage 2 of GRP opens Monday 27 November 2023 and closes on Monday 15 January 2024. Council is likely to find out if the application is successful around mid to late March.

BACKGROUND

Douglas Shire Council applied to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts under the Growing Regions Program Round 1 as an Expression of Interest, which closed on the 1 August 2023 for a \$750,000 Grant for an Adventure Playground.

Council was notified on the 24 November 2023 that they had been successful with the Expression of Interest and can proceed to stage 2.

COMMENTS

Council has been invited by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts under the Growing Regions Program Round 2, to apply for \$750,000.00 grant as part of an equal contribution to the cost of constructing a new playground in Port Douglas. As Council has resolved to build a new playground at Rex Smeal Park (Special Meeting on 21 November 2023), Council staff have been advised by the funding body to proceed with the application at a new location for the Adventure Playground in Port Douglas.

Since the previous budget for the initial Expression of Interest to the GRP has been repurposed to an alternative new playground in Rex Smeal Park, a new budget commitment is required for the 2024-2025 financial year to progress the application to round 2.

If the \$750,000.00 is not committed for the application, then the application cannot progress.

PROPOSAL

The Council resolves to commit \$750,000 (GST exclusive) to the 2024-2025 Capital Works Program as Council's co-contribution to the Growing Regions Program – round 2 submission for the Adventure Playground application.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The \$750,000.00 is required to be allocated in Capital Works program for the 2024-2025 financial year. The \$750,000.00 would be spent on the Adventure Playground if Council is successful or reallocated if Council is not.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Playgrounds are a key aspect of any recreational space and thus increase the attractiveness of an area increasing the value and requirement of real estate. This in turn has a flow on effect to local businesses.

Environmental: Playgrounds add substantially to any park's ambiance and aesthetics. Well-designed playgrounds and surrounding landscaping enhance this area of the park.

Social: The incorporation of play equipment into a park, represents an excellent opportunity to enhance community well-being, stimulate and nurture healthy brain function, motor skill development, enhance communication skills, foster a deep sense of community, and increases inter-personal connections in the community for parents, carers and children.

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.

Goal 2 - We will deliver programs and services that protect and enhance the livability of our beautiful Shire.

Goal 3 - We will develop programs that promote health, well-being and safety in the community.

Theme 2 - Fostering Sustainable Economic Growth

A robust economy is at the heart of a thriving community and enables investment in environmental protection. While our remoteness is a key attribute, it also presents challenges for attracting new business and investment. We must also meet the challenges of fierce competition in the tourism sector. Council will partner with industry to build, diversify, and promote the Douglas economy. Council will design and deliver infrastructure, strategies and services that support the local economy and businesses.

Goal 1 - We will build appropriate infrastructure and deliver services that connect and support businesses.

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.

Operational Plan 2023-2024 Actions:

New project arisen during the financial year.

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:

Builder/Owner	Council makes a significant investment every year in the infrastructure that underpins the Shire through its capital works program. Council will manage its assets with appropriate frameworks and deliver its projects through robust project management.
Custodian	Council owns and manages infrastructure, facilities, reserves, resources, and natural areas. In fulfilling its role as custodian, Council will be mindful of the community, the economy, the environment, and good governance.

Service Provider Council provides many services to the community from roads and waste services to libraries and recreational facilities. Services evolve over time, and it is the Council's mission to ensure that these services are appropriate, delivered efficiently, and designed with the customer at the centre.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Infrastructure Department and all business division Leaders. Councillor briefing workshops around playgrounds and designs October 31 and November 14 2023.

External: Previous consultation with the community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Previous consultations have taken place with the community in 2022. More community consultation may be required to determine the new location of the Adventure Playground if the grant is successful.

ATTACHMENTS

1. EOI Grant Success Email [6.14.1 - 2 pages]

From: Mail@business.gov.au <Mail@business.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 24 November 2023 12:06 AM
To: Grants <grants@douglas.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Growing Regions Program - Round 1 expression of interest

This email was automatically generated. Please do not reply to it.

DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

Your reference no: GRIEOI000062

Growing Regions Program - Round 1 - Successful expression of interest

Your Growing Regions Program - Round 1 expression of interest was successful and you are invited to submit an application for the next stage.

To apply you must submit a [New Application](#) via this link to the business.gov.au portal. You must use this link as it is connected to your expression of interest.

You can complete your application in stages. When you next return to the portal you will need to log in again and follow the prompts. Do not use the above link a second time if you have already started the application. Return by logging in via the general [business.gov.au portal](#) link.

Application closing dates are published on the grant opportunity page on [business.gov.au](#).

Before applying you should refer to the Growing Regions Program - Round 1 grant opportunity guidelines available on [business.gov.au](#). The guidelines detail the application requirements, assessment criteria and assessment process.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Stage Two of the Growing Regions Program - Round 1 will open for applications on Monday 27 November 2023 and close on Monday 15 January 2024. You must use the above link to access the Stage Two application form in the business.gov.au portal for the first time.

If you have any questions, you can email us at Growing.Regions@industry.gov.au and a member of the team will be in contact with you.

If you need any help accessing or submitting your application form you can contact us through [business.gov.au](#) or on 13 28 46.

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

business.gov.au 13 28 46 (8am - 8pm local time, Monday to Friday)

We recognise the First Peoples of this nation and their ongoing connection to culture and country. We acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world's oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.