

6.3. COMMUNITY GRANTS 2023-2024

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DEPARTMENT	People and Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Approves the allocation of \$38,000 from Council's Community Grants Program 2023-2024 to fund four recommended applications listed in the body of the report, and**
- 2. Delegates authority under s 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise all matters associated with these approvals.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Community Grants Program 2023-2024 launched on 8 September 2023, with an initial Expression of Interest (EOI) stage, closing 6 October 2023. Based on an initial assessment of the EOI, those eligible were invited to submit a formal grant application which opened 13 October 2023 and closed 10 November 2023.

In total, nine EOIs were received, requesting a total of \$87,595 (GST exc) in funding from an available pool of \$60,000. Following an assessment of the EOI, four applicants were eligible to proceed. This report provides recommendations on the applications formally submitted and assessed in accordance with Council's Community Grants Policy, Grant Guidelines and Assessment Criteria.

BACKGROUND

The grants program is open to individuals (under eligible auspice), incorporated community not for profit groups and organisations. Assessment recommendations were based on meeting mandatory eligibility requirements and the following 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 process includes an internal assessment panel comprising three Council officers from Community Development, Finance, and Frontline Services.

All officers involved in the grants program, are required to declare any conflict of interest at the commencement of the assessment phase, in accordance with Councils Community Grants Policy. No Council Officers or panelists declared a conflict of interest in any applications.

Applications were assessed on the objectives of the funding program, eligibility criteria and weighted according to the assessment matrix. Assessment information is provided in the grant Guidelines to assist applicants prepare competitive applications.

Following the panel assessment process, further input and consideration was provided from Council's Grants Officer and Manager People and Community Services from the basis of the recommendations in this report.

Council's Property and Building Facilities Services provided input for applicants under the Facilities Grant stream given the proposed works are either on or within council facilities.

COMMENTS

Grant applications and recommendations were discussed at a Council Workshop held 28 November 2023.

A. Applications Recommended for Full or Part Funding

B. Table1:

Organisation	Project	Funding Requested (GST excl)	Funding Recommendation (GST excl)
Alexandra Bay Sporting Club Inc.	Renew Shade Sail	\$10,000	\$10,000
Mossman Junior Rugby League Club Inc.	Canteen Power Upgrade	\$8,000	\$8,000
Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (Auspice)	Community Cultural Music Concert	\$10,000	\$10,000
Alexandra Bay Sporting Club Inc.	Tai Chi health & social connection program	\$10,000	\$10,000

Five further applications were received and deemed ineligible. Applications were deemed ineligible if they did not meet all aspects of the community grants eligibility criteria.

Council Officers contacted each ineligible applicant to offer advice on reworking programs to fit Council's eligibility criteria or referrals to more suitable grant opportunities.

PROPOSAL

That Council approves the allocation of \$38,000 from Councils' Community Grants Program 2023-2024 to fully or part fund recommended applications.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding for Councils' Grant Program is provided for in the 2023-2024 operational budget, with a total allocation of \$60,000.00 (GST exc). Council Officers have recommended funding applications to the value of \$38,000 (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) include disputes and failure to acquit funds.

Officers 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 which 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.

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.*

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

***Goal 4** - We will promote arts and cultural programs and events that bring vibrancy to the community and compliment the tourist experience.*

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.*

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:

Funder Council often partly funds services, events, or community organisations through grants, donations, subsidies, and in-kind support. Council will apply robust governance to ensure that such funding is fair, appropriate, and acquitted.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Grants Assessment Panel, Council Officers as required
Workshop with Councillors 28 November 2023

External: Grant Applicants

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council's Community Grants Program 2023-2024 was advertised on Council's Website, Facebook page and throughout Council's local networks. Potential applicants are encouraged to speak with relevant Council Officers from the People and Community Services Department before applying, to ensure compliance with the funding guidelines and an application written with the best chance of success.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil