

### 5.3. COUNCIL GRANTS PROGRAM MAJOR GRANT ROUND 2021-22

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**DEPARTMENT** People and Community Services

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves \$52,000.00 for the Council Major Grants round 2021/2022 to fully or part fund the grant applications as listed below per the Grants Assessment Panel and Council Officers recommendation.

Organisation	Project	Funding Requested (GST excl)	Funding Recommendation (GST excl)
Alexandra Bay Sports Club	Tai Chi for Health Program	\$10,000	\$10,000 Providing that participants pay a contribution of \$5.50 per session to ensure program sustainability and equity with other Council funded exercise programs.
Daintree Life	Stage 2 Beach Restoration Planting Myall Beach North, Cape Tribulation	\$10,000	\$10,000
Douglas Historical Society	Five Additional Historic Photoposts in Port Douglas	\$6,650	\$6,650
Douglas Hockey Association	Beach Hockey Player and Spectator Sun Shade Marquee	\$2,000	\$2,000
QLD-Youth Orchestra	Summer Swing and Cool Jazz: QYO Big Band interactive performances and workshops	\$10,000	\$7,200
Mossman Botanic Garden	"Many Voices" video project for the Mossman Botanic Garden launch	\$9,900	\$5,000
Mossman Community Centre	Mossman Support Services – She Shed	\$10,000	\$8,500
Rainforest Rescue	Regenerating our World Heritage Daintree Rainforest Project	\$10,000	\$2,650

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Council Grants Program for 2021-22 was launched on 2 August 2021 and the round for the Major Grants stream closed 4:30pm Friday 24 September 2021. The In-kind, sponsorship and Micro Grants streams for assistance are open year-round until their respective budgets are exhausted.

Fourteen (14) major Grant applications were received, requesting a total of \$108,000 (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 2 August 2021 for projects commencing in the 2021 – 2022 financial year seeking assistance from \$1,001.00 (GST Exc) to \$10,000.00 (GST Exc).

The Grants Program was advertised on Council's website and Facebook page and throughout Council's local 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, to ensure compliance with the funding guidelines and an application written with the best chance of success.

Major Grant applications closed 4:30pm on Friday 24 September 2021, with fourteen (14) Major Grant applications received, requesting a total of \$108,000 (GST Exc) from an available pool of \$60,000.

The assessment panel comprised three Council officers from Community Development 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. No panelists declared personal interest in any applications.

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 Frequency Asked Questions publication which supplemented the 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.

## COMMENT

Grant applications and Officer recommendations were discussed at a Council Workshop held on 16 November 2021 during which two Councillors declared conflicts of interest for one application.

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 recommended applicants contact Council Officers to discuss their project prior to submitting.

### Applications Recommended for Full or Part Funding

Table1:

Organisation	Project	Funding Requested (GST excl)	Funding Recommendation (GST excl)
Alexandra Bay Sports Club	Tai Chi for Health Program	\$10,000	\$10,000 providing that participants pay a contribution of \$5.50 per session to ensure program sustainability and equity with other Council funded exercise programs.
Daintree Life	Stage 2 Beach Restoration Planting Myall Beach North, Cape Tribulation	\$10,000	\$10,000
Douglas Historical Society	Five Additional Historic Photoposts in Port Douglas	\$6650	\$6650
Douglas Hockey Association	Beach Hockey Player and Spectator Sun Shade Marquee	\$2000	\$2000
QLD-Youth Orchestra	Summer Swing and Cool Jazz: QYO Big Band interactive performances and workshops	\$10,000	\$7,200
Mossman Botanic Garden	"Many Voices" video project for the Mossman Botanic Garden launch	\$9,900	\$5,000

Organisation	Project	Funding Requested (GST excl)	Funding Recommendation (GST excl)
Mossman Community Centre	Mossman Support Services - Sheshed	\$10,000	\$8,500
Rainforest Rescue	Regenerating our World Heritage Daintree Rainforest Project	\$10,000	\$2,650

Applications were deemed ineligible if they did not meet all points of the community grants eligibility criteria.

### Applications that did not meet the eligibility criteria and were not recommended for funding

Table 2.

Organisation	Project	Funding Requested (GST excl)	Reason
Kurranji Gallery	Kurranji Gallery - Infrastructure Resouces Facilitating Delivery of Authentic Indigenous Culture	\$10,000	Did not meet the eligibility criteria.
Marine Rescue Douglas Shire Inc.	Solar System Installation	\$6,385	Did not meet the eligibility criteria.
Mossman Squash and Tennis Club	Removal of trees to make way for Tennis Shed / Clubhouse	\$4,565	Did not meet the eligibility criteria.
Wonderland Entertainment and Leisure	Port Douglas Laughs Festival "Laugh Your Arts Off"	\$10,000	Did not meet the eligibility criteria.
Wonga Beach State School P and C	Growing a Community Hub	\$9,300	Did not meet the eligibility criteria.
C & K Port Douglas Community Kindergarten	Create new creek bed area for children	\$10,000	Did not meet the eligibility criteria.

Two more applications for funding were received but not considered as they were received weeks after the Major Grant Round closing date.

### PROPOSAL

That Council approves funding or part-funding of the grant applications listed above in the 2021/22 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 2021-22 operational budget, with \$60,000.00 (GST Exc) allocated to the Major Grant Round. Council Officers have recommended funding applications to the value of \$52,000 (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 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 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.

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 (eg 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:

**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 and appropriate.

### **CONSULTATION**

**Internal:** Grants Assessment Panel, Council Officers as required.

**External:** Grant applicants.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil