

5.3. RADF 2022-23 COUNCIL BUDGET ALLOCATION

REPORT AUTHOR	Jordin Steele, Arts and Culture Officer
MANAGER	Lisa Golding, Manager People and Community Services
DEPARTMENT	People and Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council;

- 1. Accepts Arts Queensland's Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) 2022-2023 Funding offer of \$30,000 (exc GST).**
- 2. Notes that \$25,000 (exc. GST) as Council's funding contribution for the 2022-2023 RADF program is included in the 2022-2023 draft budget.**
- 3. Delegates authority under s 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise any minor amendments in relation to administering the Regional Arts Development Fund program for 2022–2023.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a Queensland Government and Local Government partnership to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland. Arts Queensland (AQ) has decided to review key elements of RADF and approved the rollover of all 2021-2022 RADF Funding Agreements through to 14 September 2023.

AQ has offered the Douglas Shire up to \$30,000 for the 2022-2023 program, removing the need to apply for funding in 2022. To meet the requirements of the Funding Agreement, Council must still contribute a minimum of 30% toward the program and provide confirmation of this funding amount by 31 May 2022. This report is for Council to approve AQ's funding offer and approve Council's contribution of \$25,000 towards the 2022-2023 program.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a Queensland Government and Local Government partnership to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland. RADF promotes the role and value of arts, culture and heritage as key drivers of diverse and inclusive communities and strong regions. RADF invests in local arts and cultural priorities, as determined by local communities.

In previous years, eligible Councils have been able to apply for tiered funding based on their population size. In 2021-2022, the Douglas Shire received Tier 2 funding of \$30,000 and contributed \$25,000 towards the RADF program.

On 11 April 2022, Council received notification Arts Queensland (AQ) has decided to review key elements of RADF and will draft proposed revisions for Council consideration in the first half of 2022 (Attachment 1). To allow for adequate consultation and a considered transition into revised RADF reliver, AQ has approved the rollover of all 2021-2022 RADF Funding Agreements through to 14 September 2023.

AQ has offered the Douglas Shire up to \$30,000 for the 2022-2023 program, removing the need to apply for funding in 2022. To meet the requirements of the Funding Agreement, Council must still contribute a minimum of 30% toward the program and provide confirmation of this funding amount by 31 May 2022.

COMMENTS

The RADF 2021-2022 Round was unusually under-subscribed with only seven applications. Assuming ratification of the RADF Committee's funding recommendations, Council will have an additional \$21,617 surplus to roll over into the 2022-2023 RADF Round. With Council's continued contribution of \$25,000 the 2022-2023 RADF Round will have a total of \$76,617.

PROPOSAL

The proposal is for Council to:

1. Approve Arts Queensland 2022-2023 Funding offer of \$30,000 and;
2. Approve Council's 2022-2023 RADF funding contribution of \$25,000.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The 2021-2022 Arts Queensland Funding Agreement expires 15 September 2022, by which time funds are to be disbursed or committed. Upon confirmation of funds, AQ will prepare for a Deed of Variation to be issued detailing the extension and final 2022-2023 funding contributions. Other costs associated with the RADF program are met by Council as in-kind.

The RADF Liaison Officer is responsible for administering the RADF Program and reporting to Council. The RADF Committee is responsible for assessing applications after the RADF round closes. A Council officer will be responsible for transferring funds to successful applicants on the return of signed funding agreements

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The risks in relation to allocating public money through the RADF program are:

1. The failure to acquit funds.

Risk Management procedures in relation to outstanding RADF Outcome Reports consist of the following:

- Requests for extension of project timelines and/or Outcome Report deadlines are to be submitted in writing to the appropriate Council officer;
- Council grants extensions of project timelines and/or Outcome Report deadlines on a case-by-case basis when such requests are deemed to be justified; and
- A Council Officer contacts grantees who have obtained extensions on projects on a regular basis to monitor progress.

At times grantees may face circumstances beyond their control which impact on project timelines so Council officers will try to support artists and organisations in such situations to achieve the original outcomes of awarded projects.

2. Conflict

There may be a risk of conflict arising between applicants, the RADF Committee, Council staff, or elected members. Applicants will be encouraged to contact the Council officer about any disagreement or conflict with the grant application. Applicants will have the right to request a meeting with Council staff or RADF Committee to obtain feedback about their application or to view the minutes of assessment meetings.

To mitigate this risk Minutes will clearly document RADF comments as to why an application should or should not be funded, with suggestions on where application could be improved for future submissions.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: The RADF program supports arts and cultural activities that provide public value for the Douglas Shire community, builds local cultural capacity, cultural innovation, and community pride.

Environmental: Nil

Social: The RADF program supports arts and cultural activities that provide public value for the Douglas Shire community, builds local cultural capacity, cultural innovation, and community pride.

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

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:

- Advocate** Council makes representation on behalf of the community on important issues, funding opportunities, projects and programs. Council will use its influence to seek the best outcomes for the community.
- Agent** On occasion, Council delivers services or builds infrastructure on behalf of other levels of government or organisations.
- 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: Nil

External: RADF Committee

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engagement was conducted with the RADF Committee to determine suitability of the RADF 2022-2023 program amount.

ATTACHMENTS

1. RADF 2021-22 - Reporting Schedules - Fund Realignment [5.3.1 - 2 pages]



Our reference: MN02877-2022 / ACT22/565

Office of the
Director-General

11 APR 2022

Department of
**Communities, Housing
and Digital Economy**

Ms Rachel Brophy
Chief Executive Officer
rachel.brophy@douglas.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Brophy

REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND REALIGNMENT AND 2021-22 EXTENSION

I refer to the 2021-2022 Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Funding Agreement between Arts Queensland and Douglas Shire Council.

Program realignment

Reflecting almost 30 years of State and Local Government partnership, RADF has strengthened cultural capacity, increased access to the arts, and improved community wellbeing across Queensland.

In response to recent feedback, Arts Queensland (AQ) seeks to enhance the delivery of RADF initiatives by implementing reform that will:

- reduce red tape and streamline program administration with multi-year agreements
- support the delivery of medium-to-longer-term strategic initiatives
- provide a foundation for strategic investment opportunities
- better align with the State Government's *Creative Together 2020-2030* priorities with local objectives.

AQ is currently reviewing key elements of RADF and will draft proposed revisions for Council consideration in the first half of 2022.

Consultation activities seeking Council endorsement of RADF amendments will commence in April 2022, with Councils to be notified of approved changes by May 2022.

Please note that any revisions to the delivery of RADF will be implemented in the 2023-24 funding year.

Changes to the 2022-23 application process

To allow for adequate consultation and a considered transition into revised RADF delivery, AQ has approved the rollover of all 2021-22 RADF Funding Agreements through to 14 September 2023.

This means that Douglas Shire Council will be eligible to receive up to \$30 000 for its 2022-23 program, removing the need to apply for funding in 2022.

Changes to reporting process

In addition, 2021-22 Progress Reporting requirements will be removed and replaced with the following interim milestones:

Milestone	Due Date
Submission of 2022-23 RADF Program	1 May 2022
Invoice and Payment of 2022-23 Funding	1 June 2022
Submission of 2021-22 Outcome Report	17 October 2022
Submission of 2022-23 Outcome Report	16 October 2023

Formalising these changes

We will be in contact in March 2022 to discuss the extension of your 2021-22 RADF Funding Agreement and 2022-23 funding request.

Following approval of your requested 2022-23 funding allocation, AQ will issue a Deed of Variation formalising the changes to your Funding Agreement.

AQ acknowledges Douglas Shire Council's ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality arts and cultural initiatives to local communities and looks forward to our continued partnership.

If you have any questions about the above or require any assistance in relation to this matter, please email regionalartsservices@arts.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Clare O'Connor
Director-General