

## 6.6. MAJOR COMMUNITY GRANTS SECOND ROUND

**REPORT AUTHOR** Community Development Officer

**MANAGER** Manager Community Services

**DEPARTMENT** Community Services

### RECOMMENDATION

**That Council:**

1. Approves the allocation of \$38,000 from Council's Community Grants Program 2024-2025 to fund the recommended applications listed in the table of the report; and
2. Delegates authority under section 257(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with the grants.

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Douglas Shire Council allocation under Councils Community Grants Program, is \$60,000 each financial year and generally available once a year to receive and assess applications, aligned to the Community Grants Policy and Guidelines. Due to unspent funds in the 2024/2025 round an opportunity presented to re-open for a second round within the same financial year.

Following an assessment of seven applicants, across Community Activities and Events and Facilities Stream, those recommended for funding are contained in the table below. Applications presented provide a range of opportunities for community connection, encourages, and strengthens community building and assist in providing some much-needed activities more specifically for young people, families, and First Nation community members. Total remaining funding available under the Community Grants Program 2024/2025 is \$41,500 with a maximum allocation of up to \$10,000 (GST EXC) per applicant.

### BACKGROUND

The aim of the Community Activities and Events Stream is to support local not for profit organisations to deliver self-sustainable local community, cultural, sporting, and environmental activities in the Douglas Shire Region. Of the remaining funds, applicants for consideration outlined below would award a total of \$38,000 to not-for-profit based organisations

The aim of the Community Facilities Stream is to support not for profit organisations to undertake projects that improve the quality, sustainability and or accessibility of a council facility to enhance community participation. Planning and design for a proposed facility improvement is also considered.

Assessment of eligible applicants were graded according to evidence of the following:

- Community benefit which includes social, economic, and environmental
- Evidence of Community Support and demonstrated a broad range of community diversity and reach;

- Alignment with goals and themes of the Corporate Plan;
- Expected levels of participation and reach during project activities, ensuring that all projects would add value to community events and activities;
- All projects need to demonstrate good value for money and can be delivered within the timeframe proposed.

## COMMENTS

Applications recommended for funding:

Organisation	Project	Funding Requested (GST excl)	Funding Recommendation (GST excl)
Douglas United Football Club Incorporated	Solar Power installation	\$8,000	\$8,000
Goobidi Bamanga Community Advancement Cooperative Society Limited	NAIDOC, 50yr Celebrational events	\$10,000	\$10,000
Douglas Shire Community Services Association	Light up the Park- Promoting Community Connectedness	\$10,000	\$10,000
Mossman & District Show Society Incorporated	Mossman Show Ball	\$10,000	\$10,000

## PROPOSAL

That Council:

1. Approves the allocation of \$38,000 from Council's Community Grants Program 2024-2025 to fund the recommended applications listed in the table of the report; and
2. Delegates authority under section 257(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with the grants.

## FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding for Council's Grants program is provided for in 2024-2025 operational budget with a total allocation remaining of \$41,500 (GST Exc).

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Risks in relation to allocating public funds through Council's funding include disputes and failure to acquit funds although processes are in place to ensure that this risk is minimal.

## 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 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 which promote and encourage environmental and sustainability for programs, projects and activities which align with Council's strategy and policy, with applicants considering measures of minimal impact to the environment.
- Social:** The objectives of Council Grants Program are to support eligible organisations, groups, and individuals with financial and In-kind assistance to help deliver community programs, events and activities which will provide positive outcomes in consideration of arts, culture, sporting, and recreation enabling social participation and interaction.

## 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 liveability of our beautiful Shire.

**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 3 - Leading Environmental Stewardship

Our visitors and residents deeply value the unparalleled environment in which we live. We recognise our responsibility in protecting and preserving our natural world for generations to come. We understand the strong link between the environment and the economy: they are interdependent. Douglas Shire will be at the forefront of environmental protection by developing strategies, setting policies, and working with all stakeholders to become the envy of and to inspire locations across Australia and the World.

**Goal 2 - We will implement programs that reduce and offset our environmental footprint.**

### **Operational Plan 2024-2025 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:

**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.

### **CONSULTATION**

**Internal:** Grant Assessment Panel, Council Officers as required  
Council Workshop 16 April 2025

**External:** Grant applicants

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Council's Community Grants, round two was advertised on the Council Website, Facebook page and shared throughout Council's local networks. Two Information sessions and two grant writing workshops were held in different locations around the Shire with the aim to increase capability, compliance, understanding of the guidelines and improve the opportunity for successful applications.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil