

7.11. NORTH QUEENSLAND RESILIENCE PROGRAM (NQRP), COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, ARTS, AND WELLBEING PROGRAM FUNDING APPROVALS 2026-2027.

REPORT AUTHOR	Disaster Resilience Officer
EXECUTIVE	General Manager Corporate and Communities
DEPARTMENT	Corporate and Communities
TEAM	Disaster Management Unit
DATE	29 September 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Approves additional grant funding of \$17,500 under the North Queensland Resilience Program (NQRP), Community Resilience, Arts, and Wellbeing Program Funding 2026/27 to the following projects:**
 - a) **The Rhythm 2 Recovery (R2R) Drumming Project**
 - b) **The Living Library Project (extended)**
2. **Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to finalise any matters relating to the grant administration.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 26 May 2026, Council endorsed the North Queensland Resilience Program (NQRP), Community Resilience, Arts, and Wellbeing Community Funding Program project recommendations for 2026/27. Thirteen (13) new initiatives were endorsed, with twelve (12) recipients finalising their signed funding agreements with Council and receiving grant funding by July 2026.

One initiative declined the grant funding; therefore \$10,000 was retained within the NQRP budget.

Two (2) Council initiatives were previously assessed and approved, allocating \$55,000 towards Living Library project, led by Council's Library Services and a Youth Storytelling project, a collaboration with Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and Desert Pea Media.

Monash University is partnering with Council (pro-bono) to lead a research project, '*The Douglas Shire Council Community-led Granting Evaluation*.' Given the significance of the funds allocated by local government to community-led initiatives across the shire.

This report provides recommended projects for additional grant funds allocated from NQRP Community Resilience, Arts, and Wellbeing Community Funding Program 2026/27 across two projects as funds remain available within the budget.

To date, including the additional grant request, within this report a total allocation of \$359,800 will be directly allocated to community-led recovery and resilience building projects across the Shire from a total budget of \$455,000, that being 79% of the budget.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS / RESOLUTIONS

At the Ordinary Meeting held on 26 May 2026, it was resolved that Council:

1. *Endorses recommended funding proposals under the North Queensland Resilience Program (NQRP), Community Resilience, Arts, and Wellbeing Community Funding Program 2026-2027.*

REPORT/BACKGROUND

All twelve newly funded projects are progressing well, with early evidence of a range of impacts and new connections. As part of capturing outcomes and impacts from this funded program, Monash University is collaborating with Council to undertake a research project in Community-led Local Government granting.

Given the significance of the funds allocated by local government to community-led initiatives across the shire, it is important to capture the model, approach, impacts and outcomes for both community and Council.

Recommended projects (total \$17,500)

Project 1:

The Rhythm 2 Recovery (R2R) Drumming Project: *A collaborative approach to youth resilience and training*, an original project proposal revisited. This project had previously been identified as eligible and was assessed and supported by the Community Advisory Group (CAG). At the time of assessment, the project did not adequately demonstrate a strong enough need/commitment from local stakeholders to implement the program into services/community following the training, therefore not recommended for funding.

Given funds remain available within the budget, further evidence has been provided demonstrating a strong level of interest and commitment to participate in the training and deliver R2R Drumming within the shire by a range of local service providers, community and health practitioners and schools.

The R2R Model provides professionals with a fun and effective, trauma informed, therapeutic framework for using the healing power of rhythm to support human development. Rhythmic and reflective activities are designed to engage participants, individuals, families, or groups in a fun and friendly learning experience and delivers concrete developmental outcomes.

The proposal seeks grant funding, \$15,000, to support the delivery of R2R training across the shire, including a community drumming workshop.

Project 2 (extended):

The Living Library Project: Douglas Shire Library Services continues to progress with a potential launch of local stories of resilience in October 2026. To finalise this project and

complete the mentoring capacity building aspect, whereby library staff are trained in interviewing/videography skills, a further \$2,500 grant funding has been requested.

Total request for consideration of further grant funding across two projects is \$17,500 and is supported by the CAG.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The funding program is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Any costs associated with support or guidance towards funded initiatives from Council staff are within their role and current budget.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Risk	Mitigation
Community members participating in funded initiatives experience heightened emotions based on previous experiences including extreme weather events.	Successful applicants are offered training and/or mentoring to support the delivery of their project(s) to ensure their approaches are trauma informed. Information on additional available support services will be provided for themselves and participants.
Rhythm 2 Recovery Training numbers low	Interested/committed stakeholders engaged prior and part of capturing evidence of need within community.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

In keeping with Douglas Shire Council's environmental priorities, all successful applicants must demonstrate a clear commitment to environmental stewardship throughout the planning, delivery, and evaluation of their funded activities. All projects supported under this program are expected to minimise negative environmental impacts and where possible contribute to positive environmental outcomes.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The allocation of funds to support locally led place-based resilience initiatives will have a significant positive impact across the shire. Social benefits include.

- Creation of positive strategies for disaster preparedness and recovery.
- Project ideas are based on community needs and interests driven from the community.
- Local voices in the design and delivery are key to the projects and enable the communities to strengthen their own resilience together.
- Connection with local custodians of the land and highlighting cultural diversity of community.
- Creation of legacies for long-term, sustainable opportunities that can continue to strengthen community connection and individual resilience.

CORPORATE AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Liveability

To deliver community activities to promote safe, healthy, inclusive and socially engaged communities with environmental conscious.

1.1 - Deliver community initiatives that support healthy, inclusive and socially engaged communities.

1.2 - Encourage and grow creative opportunities across the arts.

1.9 - In accordance with Queensland Disaster Management doctrine, continuously review and enhance Council's disaster management prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in collaboration with community and agencies.

Theme 4 - Recovery and Resilience

To partner with community to build resilience against natural disasters creating a strong sense of social capital.

4.1 - Support our community's journey of recovery and rebuilding after natural disasters.

Operational Plan 2026-2027 Actions:

1.5.2 - Deliver community resilience activities to support community to plan, prepare and recover from disasters.

4.4.4 - Deliver Community Resilience and Wellness Arts program incl. Indigenous interpretation across the Douglas Shire.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

This initiative is undertaken in accordance with the *QLD Disaster Management Act 2003*, *Disaster Management Regulation 2014*, and the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011*. The allocation and acquittal of funds is in alignment Council's Procurement Policy. Local Government Act 2009.

CONSULTATION

Internal consultation:

- Douglas Shire Library Services

External consultation:

- Community Advisory Group (CAG)
- External Grant Applicant (Sole applicant with an ABN)

CONCLUSION

Further allocation of available grant funding under the North Queensland Resilience Program (NQRP), Community Resilience, Arts, and Wellbeing Community Funding Program 2026/27 ensures funds continue to support community resilient building initiatives.

Resilience building initiatives provide an essential tool that helps communities be prepared for disasters and supports them to respond and recover better when they occur.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil