

7.8. RADF ROUND TWO 2025-2026

REPORT AUTHOR Community Development Officer

MANAGER Manager Community Services

DEPARTMENT Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee funding recommendations for Round Two 2025-2026 totalling \$5,000 (excluding GST).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is requested to review and consider endorsement of the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee's recommendations and associated feedback for applicants in Round Two, 2025.

BACKGROUND

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.

COMMENTS

If endorsed by Council, this will allow outcome letters to be issued and funds to be allocated in accordance with Committee recommendations.

PROPOSAL

That Council endorses the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee funding recommendations for Round Two 2025-2026 totalling \$5,000 (excluding GST).

Table 1.

Project	Comments	Funding Requested
From Land To Sea: The People's Journey. Fine art exhibition of archival photographs honouring Wujal Wujal elders.	The Committee supports the project and recognises its contribution to cultural and artistic development within Douglas Shire.	\$5,000 ex GST

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with delivering the RADF Program have been allocated within Council's 2025-2026 operational budget, covering the period to 30 June 2026. The total funding

available for the 2025-2026 RADF Program is \$94,149 consisting of a \$30,000 contribution from Arts Queensland, \$25,000 from Council and \$44,149 carried forward as surplus from the 2024-2025 Program. Additional costs associated with program administration and support are provided in-kind by Council. 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. Failure to Acquit Funds

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

- Requests for extension of project timelines and/or Outcome Report deadlines are to be submitted in writing to the Council officer administering the RADF program.
- In consultation with the RADF Committee, Council may grant extensions to project timelines and/or Outcome Report due dates on a case-by-case basis when requests are deemed justified.
- 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 the awarded projects.

2. Conflict

There may be a risk of conflict arising between applicants and/or the RADF Committee, Council officers, 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 officers and RADF Committee members to obtain feedback about their application or to view the minutes of assessment meetings.

To mitigate the risk of conflict, minutes will clearly document RADF Committee comments with suggestions on where applications could be improved for future submissions.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic:	The RADF program is jointly funded by Arts Queensland and Council contributions.
Environmental:	Nil.
Social:	The RADF program supports arts and cultural activities that provide public value for the Douglas Shire community, builds local and cultural capacity, cultural innovation, and community pride.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

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 an environmental conscious.

1.2 - Encourage and grow creative opportunities across the arts.

1.3 - Be culturally sensitive, inclusive and improve Council's cultural competency.

Operational Plan 2025-2026 Actions:

1.2.1 - Develop an Arts and Culture Program for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027.

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.
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CONSULTATION

Internal: Council Workshop 11 November 2025

External: RADF Advisory Committee, Arts Queensland, RADF applicants – as required.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engagement was conducted with the RADF Advisory Committee to determine suitability of the Round Two 2025 RADF Program applicants via the RADF Program Guidelines and Eligibility Criteria per the Arts Strategy and Arts General Policy.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil