

7.9. FINANCIAL SUPPORT - JABALBINA YALANJI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RUGBY LEAGUE EVENT

REPORT AUTHOR	Manager Community Services
EXECUTIVE	General Manager Corporate and Communities
DEPARTMENT	Corporate and Communities
TEAM	Community Services
DATE	29 September 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Repeals resolution 7.16 of its Ordinary Council Meeting on 27 July 2026, which resolved:**

That Council:

- 1) Approve \$10,000 (excluding GST) financial and in-kind contribution for the 2026 National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Nines Rugby League Carnival and associated memorial event on the basis that:***
 - a) Funds are expended for costs directly associated with the hosting of these events to be held at Coronation Park, Mossman over the weekend of 12 September 2026; and***
 - b) Adherence by the event organisers to any Council terms, conditions and requirements that would normally apply relevant to the provision of such financial support.***
 - 2) Delegates authority under Section 257(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2009 to the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to negotiate, finalise and execute any matters associated with the funding.***
- 2. Approve the re-purposing of previously approved funds up to \$10,000 (excluding GST) financial and in-kind contribution for an alternate Rugby League event on the basis that:**
 - a) Funds are expended for costs directly associated with the hosting of the event and provide identified and measurable social, community and cultural benefits to the community**
 - b) Final approval shall be at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) pending a revised budget submission from Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation**

- c) **Adherence by the event organisers to any Council terms, conditions and requirements that would normally apply relevant to the provision of such financial support**
 - 3. **Delegate authority under Section 257(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to negotiate, finalise and execute any matters associated with the funding.**
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 July 2026, Council approved a \$10,000 financial contribution to a proposed National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Nines Rugby League Carnival.

Despite considerable effort and planning by Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (Jabalbina) the event had to be cancelled.

Jabalbina have now approached Council with a proposal for an alternate event that would have the feature match as an Eastern Kuku Yalanji representative team proudly represent Country against an Italian Rugby League representative team in a sanctioned rugby league fixture.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS / RESOLUTIONS

At the Ordinary Meeting held on 27 July 2026, it was resolved:

That Council:

- 1) *Approves \$10,000 (excluding GST) financial and in-kind contribution for the 2026 National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Nines Rugby League Carnival and associated memorial event on the basis that:*
 - a) *Funds are expended for costs directly associated with the hosting of these events to be held at Coronation Park, Mossman over the weekend of 12 September 2026; and*
 - b) *Adherence by the event organisers to any Council terms, conditions and requirements that would normally apply relevant to the provisions of such financial support.*
- 2) *Delegates authority under Section 257(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2009 to the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to negotiate, finalise and execute any matters associated with the funding.*

REPORT/BACKGROUND

The original event that Council agreed to support was created in response to significant loss and trauma felt by the local indigenous community in recent months and a determination to pay tribute to and honour those lost loved ones.

Unfortunately, due to additional Sorry Business which resulted in four (4) teams removing themselves from the carnival, and the loss of an elder on 5 September 2026, organisers were unable to proceed with the event.

However, there is still a desire to provide an opportunity for healing, community connection, cultural celebration and local pride.

The new event is proposing to feature a match between an Eastern kuku Yalanji representative team against an Italian Rugby League representative team. Historically, successful similar events have occurred in other areas of the region, including an event between the Queensland Italian Rugby League team and the Cardwell Axemen in 2025.

The new event will not include the in-memoriam component that was proposed to take place at Mossman Shire Hall or camping at Coronation Park.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council's contribution for funding of the event will be allocated from the current Community Development 2026/27 operational budget.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There is a potential risk of misuse of funds. Council mitigates this risk by having a clear agreement with event organisers specifying the use of funds and a robust acquittal process.

Another potential risk is event cancellation. This risk will be mitigated in the funding agreement with provision for the funds to be refunded if the event does not proceed.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Waste generated at the event will be managed by event operators and in accordance with Council conditions and expectations.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Community and cultural events contribute positively to social cohesion, cultural preservation, and community wellbeing. These events strengthen community identity, support reconciliation, and promote positive social connections that enhance overall community resilience and build community pride.

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 an environmental conscious.

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

communities.

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

Operational Plan 2026-2027 Actions:

New project arisen during the financial year.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

- *Local Government Act 2009*

CONSULTATION

Internal Consultation:

- Events Officer
- Manager Community Services

External Consultation:

- Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation

CONCLUSION

The proposed re-allocation of funds to support the community rugby league event between the Eastern Kuku Yalanji representative team and the Italian representative team represents a valuable investment in community connection, cultural celebration, and social inclusion. The event will provide an opportunity for participants and spectators to engage in positive community activities while fostering cultural exchange, mutual respect, and understanding between diverse cultural groups.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil