

Policy Title: **Grants to Community Organisations**

Policy No: 102

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Responsible Officer: General Manager – Corporate and Community Services

Adopted Date: General Meeting – 19/07/2017

Review Date: 19/07/2019

VERSION	MEETING APPROVED	MEETING DATE	HISTORY
1	Policy & Planning Meeting	05/12/2012	Biennial Review
2	General Meeting	17/03/2015	Biennial Review
3	General Meeting	22/09/2015	Amendment
4	General Meeting	15/12/2015	Amendment
5	General Meeting	19/07/2017	Biennial Review

Authorities: Sections 194 and 195 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

INTRODUCTION:

It is Council’s intention to establish a transparent and flexible approach to providing grants to community organisations. Council views such organisations as integral to the social and economic fabric of the region. It is important that Council supports the opportunities provided by community groups, along with providing a fair and consistent policy framework.

OBJECTIVES:

Compliance

Council’s policy is established to meet the requirements of sections 194 and 195 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Firstly, contributions are made to community activities that are in the public interest. Secondly, the community organisation meets the criteria stated in Council’s Community Grants Policy 102 and related policies.

Transparency and sustainability

Council values the need to provide a clear and transparent framework for assistance to community organisations. It is important to understand the full cost and resources attributed to such assistance. Maintaining budget control over community grants is a fundamental component of the policy intent.

Policies are established that state criteria for entitlements, along with providing separate and distinct types of assistance. It is also important to encourage community organisations to help build capacity and sustainability.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Council's assistance to vital services forms a fundamental element to the Community Grants Policy. For example, an annual budget allocation is provided for *Lifeflight*, *Rotary House* and school bursaries. Council considers these services as critical to the North Burnett community.

A preference exists to provide 'in-kind' assistance to community groups, as opposed to cash donations, however, limited cases of the latter may apply.

Community groups should be encouraged in all activities they undertake. Community events and activities exist as fundraising opportunities and Council supports this concept. Fundraising opportunities for other clubs or associations are also encouraged, for example, another community group conducting various activities such as cleaning or rubbish removal.

Council also supports community groups being self-sufficient. That is, collecting equipment, marquees or bins prior to an event for example. It is Council's intent to provide limited resources during an event such as rubbish collection or cleaning amenities, as this is a core service. Such costs will be attributed to the in-kind support offered by such events.

Forms of Assistance

Council provides grants and waivers through the following related policies:

Policy 119 - Lifelong Community Grants

Council identifies and maintains lifelong community grants arrangements with organisations and services bringing a positive impact to the North Burnett. There is no application process for these contributions.

Policy 120 - Cultural and Sports Performance Grants

Council recognises the value of individuals participating in cultural and sports activities and supports local high level achievers. Individuals may apply for this cash grant.

Policy 121 - Major Events Grants

Council supports identified local major events through its tourism budget. These are Council nominated events with an application process.

Policy 113 – Not-for-Profit Community Organisations and In-kind Support

Council is strongly supportive of its community and events by way of in-kind support of Council Services – Local Not-For-Profit organisations can access a range of free or at cost Council Services.