

COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY

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Responsible Officer: Director Community and Corporate Services
Department: Community & Corporate Services

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9	Reviewed and amended – Resolution OM-161/22	14 December 2022	Review April 2023
10	Reviewed and amended – Resolution OM-051/23	26 April 2023	Review April 2027

1 BACKGROUND

This policy provides the overarching corporate framework for the establishment and administering of all financial assistance of donations and grants to Community Organisations provided by Council.

This policy sets out the minimum requirements regarding the provision of Council financial and in-kind assistance of donations and grants to community organisations, that such organisation must comply with to ensure that Council complies with the requirements of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

2 DEFINITIONS

Section 194 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* provides Council the power to give a grant to a Community Organisation in the public interest and consistent with this Policy.

Community Organisation is defined as per the dictionary schedule of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:

- a) an entity that carries on activities for a public purpose; or
- b) another entity whose primary object is not directed at making a profit.

Public Purpose for the purpose of this policy is defined as any activity that:

- a) Encourages physical activity through participation in sporting, recreational and social pursuits; or
- b) Fosters an understanding and appreciation of the region's heritage and cultural diversity; or
- c) Promotes and encourages environmental protection and sustainability; or
- d) Supports and builds relationships with disadvantaged or vulnerable groups in our community; or
- e) Provides economic benefits to the region including promoting employment opportunities; or
- f) Encourages and promotes educational opportunities and initiatives; or
- g) Promotes the Goondiwindi Regional Council area as a region of opportunities for families, lifestyle and business.

3 POLICY OBJECTIVE

- a) To provide corporate guidelines and criteria on the provision of grants and donations to community organisations in accordance with Section 194 and 195 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.
- b) To meet the annual reporting requirements as per Section 189 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.
- c) To align our granting activities with the Goondiwindi Regional Council Corporate Plan.
- d) To ensure that the administration and assessment of Council grants are transparent, equitable, inclusive, in the public interest, compliant with relevant legislation and consistent with the principles that underpin the Local Government Act 2009.
- e) To ensure Council achieves value for money in all granting activities.
- f) Support for active, vibrant and engaged communities.

4 SCOPE

This policy applies to all grants made to community organisations as per the terms and conditions of eligibility as outlined within each of Council's funding guidelines, and where applicable other Partnering Arrangements.

The current funding grant guidelines are offered by Council:

- Community Grants Program Guidelines
- Community Donations Program Guidelines
- COVID-19 Community Grant Program Guidelines
- Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Guidelines
- Goondiwindi Cinema Gift Cards Guidelines

5 POLICY

Goondiwindi Regional Council is committed to supporting community organisations to make a positive and on-going contribution to the Goondiwindi Regional Council communities through the provision of a community grants program and other Partnering Arrangements. Council acknowledges the valuable contribution of community organisations to deliver community, cultural, economic, sporting and recreation outcomes in line with the strategic direction of Council's Corporate Plan.

Each of the funding programs has specific priorities and guidelines, these are defined in the each of the Community Grants Guidelines documents and/ or set out in individual Partnering Arrangements.

Organisations or groups may be eligible to apply for a Community Grant providing they satisfy the specific eligibility criteria of the particular grant they are applying for as set out in the Grant's guidelines.

6 AUTHORITY TO APPROVE GUIDELINES AND FUNDING

All new funding programs and individual Grant guidelines must be approved at an Ordinary Council meeting. The Chief Executive Officer can approve minor edits to the individual Grant guidelines, evidence of approval must be in writing.

These guidelines will include details of any delegated financial authority for the Chief Executive Officer or delegate.

7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All Officers or Councillors involved in the assessment and/ or determination of applications must adhere to the requirements detailed in the Local Government Act 2009, relevant Code of Conduct and policies with regard to any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

8 CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

All Grants awarded by Goondiwindi Regional Council are subject to the following conditions:

The grant money cannot be used for any other purpose than that for which the grant is awarded.

- a) If a community organisation wishes to modify the intended use of the grant they must submit a written request to Council prior to the activity commencing. The outcome of the request to alter the intended use of a community grant will only be provided to the applicant in writing.
- b) Funds that cannot be used for the specified purpose must be returned to Council.
- c) The grant recipient will obtain the appropriate permits/ approvals, insurance covers etc. relating to the project for which the grant is awarded.
- d) Where required, the recipient will properly acquit the grant as soon as practicable after the completion of the project/event. If the acquittal is not received, future applications, or the amount provided by Council when considering future applications may be affected.
- e) Acknowledgement of Council's support is required.

- f) Applicants give permission for Council to use the grant information for promotional and public information, including (where deemed appropriate by Council) the use of photographs, publications, annual reports and placement of permanent ceremonial plaques acknowledging Council's financial contribution.