

Community Grants - Council Policy

Effective Date	<i>Council Policy</i>
Policy Owner	<i>Communities Department</i>
Link to Corporate Plan	<i>Active Vibrant Communities</i>
Review Date	<i>July 2020</i>
Related Legislation	<i>Local Government Act 2009</i> <i>Local Government Regulation 2012</i> <i>Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982</i> <i>Associations Incorporation Act 1981</i> <i>Corporations Act 2001 Cmth</i> <i>Public Sector Ethics Act 1994</i>
Related Documents	<i>Community Grants Guidelines</i> <i>Western Downs Regional Council Employee Code of Conduct</i> <i>Disclosures (Conflicts of Interest and Prescribed Personal Interests) - Council Policy</i> <i>Fraud and Corruption Control - Council Policy</i> <i>Fraud and Corruption Control Plan</i> <i>Chief Executive Officer to Staff & Contractors Delegations Register</i>

Policy Version	Approval Date	Adopted/Approved
1	19 December 2012	Adopted Ordinary Meeting of Council
2	19 March 2014	Amended Ordinary Meeting of Council
3	6 August 2014	Amended Ordinary Meeting of Council
4	17 June 2015	Amended Ordinary Meeting of Council
5	4 November 2015	Amended Ordinary Meeting of Council
6	2 March 2016	Amended Ordinary Meeting of Council
7	17 August 2016	Amended Ordinary Meeting of Council
8	23 January 2019	Amended Ordinary Meeting of Council
9	20 May 2020	Amended Ordinary Meeting of Council

This policy may not be current as Council regularly reviews and updates its policies. The latest controlled version can be found in the policies section of Council's intranet or Website. **A hard copy of this electronic document is uncontrolled.**

Community Grants - Council Policy

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework which guides the administration of Council's grants programs in a manner that is aligned to Council's corporate strategic priorities and in accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, *Local Government Act 2009* and *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982*.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the supporting guidelines and agreements for the specific funding programs.

This policy outlines Council's approach to providing grants to community organisations and individuals and recognises the valuable contribution they make towards active, vibrant and engaged communities across the Western Downs.

2. OUTCOME

The Community Grants - Council Policy will ensure that:

- Granting activities achieve the strategic priorities of Council's *Corporate Plan 2017-2022*
- 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*
- Council achieves value for money in all granting activities
- Provide a framework which will guide the provision of consistent grant administration and assessment processes across Council
- Provide support for active, vibrant and engaged communities

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all grants made to community organisations and individuals and includes the programs under the Community Grants Guidelines and individual partnering arrangements. The current Grant programmes are listed on Council's website <https://www.wdrc.qld.gov.au/living-here/grants-funding/>.

This policy does not apply to rate concessions/remissions.

4. POLICY

Western Downs Regional Council is committed to supporting community organisations to make a positive and ongoing contribution to the Western Downs 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 outcomes, priorities and guidelines which are defined in the *Community Grants Guidelines* document or set out in individual Partnering arrangements. These specific terms and conditions are reviewed annually.

Organisations and individuals eligible to apply for a Community Grant must satisfy the specific eligibility criteria of the particular grant they are applying for as set out in the Grant's guidelines.

Delegations

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. A Community organisation is defined in the Regulations as

- (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.



The relevant delegated Council Officer has authority to approve grants up to \$2,000.00 as detailed in the Chief Executive Officer to Staff & Contractors Delegations Register

Conflict of Interest Provisions

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.

Risk

Council Officers will undertake and document a risk assessment for Council's Community Grants Program annually.

Review

The Community Grants program will be reviewed annually to ensure that it is achieving efficient and effective outcomes in line with annual performance measures.

