

Policy: Community Funding to support local Economic Development (Grants)

Policy Type

Council

Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the provision of community funding to support local Economic Development.

Policy Statement

- (1) Council provides up to two per cent of the annual rates income to a budget for grants, donations, sponsorships and subsidies. To ensure that these funds are distributed in a rational way, eligibility, selection and evaluation criteria are required for the assessment and prioritisation of applications to be funded.
- (2) The funds allocated to applicants are to assist in the provision of activities and services that support local Economic Development and facilitate opportunities for local business, local activity centres and industry to thrive, and the objectives of the Local Economy outcome of the Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030. This program is divided into two (2) categories (A-B) to encourage and cater for a range of applications and activities.

Community Funding Category	Description	Open for Applications	Maximum amount available per application	Approval
Category A – Economic Development Grants	One-off projects, programs or activities that support local economic development	<u>Once</u> a year	\$5,000	Delegated Authority
Category B – Economic Development – Minor & Major	Major funding proposals, minor funding and requests outside of established categories.	Upon enquiry and invitation to apply	Dependent on funding type (in alignment with Council decision Policy ‘Grants, Donations and Sponsorships – Community Organisations	Council decision

			and Individuals')	
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- (3) The categories are described in further detail in the associated 'Community Funding Guidelines for Economic Development' that outlines the relevant selection and evaluation criteria, and limitations of each funding category.
- (4) Applicants for funding to be distributed from the Grants and Donations budget are required to apply and address the relevant criteria in one of the funding categories. Assessment and approval will be done according to the category and be done under the relevant delegated authority or recommendation by the Grants and Donations Committee to Council, and applicants cannot bypass these processes.
- (5) An applicant may successfully apply for and receive funding from two different Community Funding categories per financial year, provided they meet the criteria for the particular category. This funding can be granted from either of the following categories:
- two different business categories from this policy, or
 - seven different categories from the Community Funding for Community Organisations & Individuals (Grants, Donations & Sponsorships) policy

This is provided they meet the criteria for the particular category; however, the applications cannot be for the same project. Applicants that have been successful in previous years are eligible to apply provided all previous funding has been satisfactorily acquitted.

Strategic Link	Strategic Community Plan
Category	Business, Economy & Technology
Lead Business Unit	Business and Economic Development
Public Consultation (Yes or No)	No
Adoption Date: (Governance Purpose Only)	8 September 2026
Next Review Due: (Governance Purpose Only)	September 2028
ECM Doc Set ID: (Governance Purpose Only)	9778000