



**Date:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019  
**Time:** 9.00am  
**Location:** Administration Centre  
10 Furneaux Street  
Cooktown

**AGENDA AND BUSINESS PAPERS**  
**Late Reports**  
**Ordinary Council Meeting**  
**20 February 2019**

**Linda Cardew**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Order Of Business**

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## 7 MAYORAL MINUTE

### 7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - RESTORATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

**File Number:** D19/2583

**Author:** Cr Peter Scott, Mayor

**Authoriser:** Linda Cardew, Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:** 1 LGAQ Federal Election 7 Point Plan 2019 

#### BACKGROUND

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) has launched its 2019 Federal Election advocacy campaign. The central focus of the campaign is the restoration of the value of the Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of total Commonwealth taxation revenue. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) also endorsed restoration of Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent as its focus. To leverage the advocacy campaign, the LGAQ is seeking the formal backing of all Queensland councils.

Local councils raise just three percent of all the taxation revenue in Australia but manage 33 percent of public assets. The Federal Government collects 80 percent of taxes and manages 11 percent of public assets. While the provision of Financial Assistance Grants is welcome, the decline in the local government share of taxation revenue from Canberra over the past two decades from one percent in 1996 to 0.55 percent in 2018 is unsustainable.

The LGAQ is calling for Canberra to return this money to local communities faster and in a way that better meets local needs and creates jobs. The success of the State Government's Works for Queensland program, which offered untied funding to councils to deliver essential community projects and infrastructure while boosting local jobs, is being promoted as an example of how restored Financial Assistance Grants could work for all Queensland communities.

Queensland currently receives around \$480m in Financial Assistance Grants, with \$2.46b nationally. Restoration of Financial Assistance Grants to one percent would mean additional \$400m for Queensland and an additional \$2b nationally.

Discussions on the restoration of Financial Assistance Grants occurred at the LGAQ's ROC Assembly on 7 February with Senator Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Regional Services, Sport, Local Government and Decentralisation and Stephen Jones MP, Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government. The LGAQ President has also held meetings in Canberra on 12 February with the Deputy Prime Minister, and advisers to the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Leader of the Opposition.

As Mayor, I now urge Council to consider how restoration of Financial Assistance Grants to one percent could benefit Cook's communities through additional services or facilities, or what facilities and community services will have to be foregone if Financial Assistance Grants are not increased.

The LGAQ's Federal Election 7 Point Plan has been provided to Council. Further information about the restoration of Financial Assistance Grants to one percent and other election priorities is attached and is available on [www.lgaq.asn.au/election2019](http://www.lgaq.asn.au/election2019)

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council resolves to:

1. express appreciation to the Federal Government for the ongoing provision of Financial Assistance Grants for community projects; and
2. endorse restoration of the value of the Federal Government's Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of total Commonwealth taxation revenue; and
3. consider how Cook Shire Council can best support the LGAQ's advocacy through a community-driven campaign to federal representatives and candidates on the benefits of restoration of Financial Assistance Grants.

## 14 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - REPORTS

### 14.13 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SUPPORT PROGRAM GENERAL POLICY

**File Number:** D19/390

**Author:** Grants Officer

**Authoriser:** Lawrence Booth, Director Community, Economy and Innovation

**Attachments:** 1 **Community Grants and Support Program General Policy**   
2 **Community Grants and Support Program Guidelines** 

#### PRECIS

This document provides a new Community Grants and Support Program General Policy, aiming for a more effective and streamlined method of assisting local community groups and organisations.

As part of new procedures, it is proposed by the Community, Economy and Innovation Department, that the Chief Executive Officer be given the delegation to approve Sponsorship and In-kind Support requests in accordance with a Council-approved Policy.

#### BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Changes were implemented during 2017/18 to the Grants Policy and Community Grants Program so as to formalise requests for sponsorship and in-kind support. The intention was to reduce out-of-round requests for funding by formalising the process with an application form, and an assessment and acquittal procedure, including a requirement for proper acknowledgement of Council contributions.

Three funding streams were developed: Donations, Sponsorship and Small Grants. Donations and Sponsorship were intended to be used in lieu of in-kind support for requests such as hire of water trucks, road closures and fee waiving. These changes were made so as to provide greater transparency of Council's community support spending and to support local contractors and businesses where possible. In practice, this has not proved to be the best approach, as ad hoc requests are still being received outside of the Application process.

Under the revised process, three Councillors were appointed to the Grants Assessment Committee. In practice, because of being a small community, it has proved challenging for Councillors to assess grants, as they can often have a direct association with the group making the application.

After thorough consideration and consultation, a simplified and streamlined Grant Policy has been developed which encompasses:

- Community Grants
- Sponsorship and In-kind Support

As detailed in the attached guidelines document, the Community Grants and Support Program will include two rounds of competitive Community Grants each financial year, together with open-round Sponsorship and In-kind Support for each financial year, or until approved budgets are expended.

Community Grant applications will be to a maximum value of \$5,000 ex GST per application, with no more than 50% of an application eligible as in-kind support.

Sponsorship will be to a maximum of \$3,000 ex GST, and In-kind Support to a maximum of \$2,000 ex GST. These can be applied for separately or can be made up of a maximum of \$3,000 sponsorship application and up to \$2,000 in-kind support, to a total of \$5,000 ex GST per application.

In-kind support will only be offered by Council where:

- a local supplier is unavailable to provide the requested product or service; and
- products or services are listed in Council's current fees and charges.

Requests for Council products or services outside of these parameters may be assessed on a case by case basis at the Chief Executive Officer's discretion.

The proposed assessment panel for Community Grants will be the Grants Committee which will consist of one Councillor, all Directors and relevant Department of Community, Economy and Innovation Officers.

It is proposed that the Chief Executive Officer be given the delegation to approve Sponsorship and In-kind support requests that have been assessed and recommended by the Community, Economy and Innovation Department. A monthly report will be provided to Council with details of approved Sponsorships and In-kind Support.

### **LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN**

*Key Strategy Priority: Community* – A sense of common purpose, whilst retaining local diversity, with the goals and aspirations of individual communities reflected in localised strategy and planning.

*Strategy 3:* Encourage the building of strong partnerships with community, private sector and government so as to build community capacity and develop strategies to encourage and support leadership and self-responsibility in the community.

*Objective 3a:* Opportunities and partners are identified to advance services and facilities for all Shire communities through increased community capacity, leadership and self-responsibility.

### **CONSULTATION**

The Community, Economy and Innovation Department has taken community feedback from the previous round into consideration, consulted with the other relevant staff including Waste, Environmental Health and Finance Departments and the Executive Leadership Team.

Once the Policy is adopted the Community, Economy and Innovation Department will commence engaging with the community to ensure they are aware of the changes in this Policy and other relevant Policies.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, BASIS, LEGAL RISKS)**

The following legislation has been considered in the development of the documents:

*Local Government Act 2009* as amended

*Local Government Regulation 2012* as amended, Sections 164 & 194

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This Policy supersedes the:

- Community Small Grants Policy
- Community Sponsorship Policy
- Community Donations Policy

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (BUDGETARY)**

Council has approved the following budgeting allocation in the 2018/19 Budget:

Community Grants Budget \$40,000

Sponsorship Budget \$20,000

In-kind Budget \$15,000 (currently donations budget)

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council resolves:

1. To adopt the Community Grants and Support Program General Policy, which supercedes the Community Small Grants Policy (adopted in July 2018), and
2. Pursuant to S.257 of the Local Government Act Queensland (2009) to provide a delegation to the Chief Executive Officer to approve Sponsorship and In-kind support requests in accordance with:
  - i. Recommendations from the Community, Economy and Innovation Department; and
  - ii. Community Grants and Support Program General Policy, Guidelines and procedures.

**16 CONFIDENTIAL SECTION****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 275 of the Local Government Regulation 2012:

**16.14 Tender for works - JS Love Building - Coen**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 275(e) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with contracts proposed to be made by Cook Shire Council.