
Policy: COMMUNITY GRANTS

SP-POL-03

Division: Planning

Responsible Officer: Community Planner

1. INTRODUCTION

Council conducts a Community Grants Program as a means of contributing to the achievement of specific strategies of the Community Strategic Plan.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to provide a basis for the operation of Council's Community Grants Program.

3. POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies only to Council's Community Grants Program and to no other grants program that Council may conduct.

4. POLICY PROVISIONS

Grants made under the Community Grants Program will be for projects or initiatives which contribute to the achievement of one or more of the following strategies of the Regional Community Strategic Plan 2016-2036:

- CO1: Facilitate and encourage equitable access to community infrastructure and services, such as health care, education and transport.
- CO2: Encourage and facilitate active and creative participation in community life.
- CO3: Foster and encourage positive social behaviours to maintain our safe, healthy and connected community.
- CO4: Recognise and celebrate our diverse cultural identities and protect and maintain our community's natural ... heritage.
- CO5: Maintain our rural lifestyle.
- EN1: Protect and enhance the existing natural environment, including flora and fauna native to the region.
- EN3: Protect and rehabilitate waterways and catchments.
- IN4: Maintain and update existing community facilities and support the development of new community infrastructure as needed.

There is an upper limit of \$4,000 for each Community Grant and the grant must not total more than 50 per cent of the cost of the project or initiative.

Applications for Community Grants must be received by Council by the annually specified due date.

4.1. Eligibility

Not-for-profit community organisations and groups which are incorporated associations based in the Yass Valley Local Government Area are eligible to apply for Community Grants.

If projects which are the subject of grant applications require Development Consent, the Consent must have been granted prior to the application being lodged.

Grants are not available for the retrospective financing of projects or initiatives.

Organisations and groups which have not satisfied the conditions of previous grants are not eligible to apply for further grants.

4.2 Assessment of Applications

Applications will be assessed and ranked on the basis of:

- Clear articulation of:
 - the objective of the project or initiative
 - its design characteristics
 - its implementation steps and
 - how it will contribute to the achievement of the relevant CSP strategy/ies.
- Clear specification of a budget relating to each element of the project or initiative.
- The demonstrated capacity of the applying organisation to successfully undertake the project or initiative.
- Whether there is an alternative source of funds

Applications will be assessed by a panel appointed by Council. The panel will make a recommendation to Council for consideration.

The Community Grant awarded to any applying organisation will reflect the availability of funds.

4.3 Conditions of Funding

Community Grants must be expended on the relevant projects and initiatives in the financial year that they are received and an acquittal report lodged with Council.

5. REVIEW

The review of this policy will take account of relevant legislation and State Government policies, best practice guidelines and Council plans and priorities.

This policy will be reviewed following each general election of Council and the Director Planning is responsible for arranging completion of the review.

6. LEGISLATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following:

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- Regional Community Strategic Plan 2016-2036

7. DEFINITION

A Community Grant is a financial contribution by Council towards the costs of a project or initiative which has been approved for funding via the selection criteria and processes of Council's Community Grants Program.

8. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Community Planner will invite and receive applications and prepare the report on their assessment.

The Community Planner will convene a panel of 2 Councillors to review and assess applications against the assessment criteria.

Council will determine whether the recommendations of the panel are accepted.

9. HISTORY

<i>EMT Review Date</i>	<i>Report to Council</i>	<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Exhibition Period</i>	<i>Adoption</i>	<i>Rescission Date</i>
13/03/2019	27/03/2019	48	1-29/4/2019	30/04/2019	
11/09/2019	23/10/2019	245	N/A	23/10/2019	

Document No: SP-POL-03	Created/Revised: 11/09/2019	Review date: 2023
Version No: 2	Author: Community Planner	Doc Type 30
File Name: Community Grants Policy	Approved by: Council Meeting 23/10/2019	