

Policy Title	Policy Type
Community Grants Policy	Statutory

1. Purpose and Scope

To provide Council with direction in the administration of Council's grants programs.

This policy applies to all grants programs administered by Gympie Regional Council. These include:

- Community Development Grants (community organisations)
- Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Grants (individuals, community organisations, business)
- Environmental Grants (community organisations)
- Event Grants (community organisations)
- Service Grants (provision of service assistance to community organisation)
- Concession Grants (concessions in relation to rates and service charges for community organisations)

Council may establish other grant programs or grant categories for specified grant rounds to respond to emerging community needs or issues.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with supporting guidelines for specific grants programs, budget allocations and rating concession resolutions.

2. Related Legislation/Documents

All grants guidelines approved by Council for the financial year

Local Government Regulation 2012

Revenue Statement for the financial year

3. Definitions

To assist in interpretation of this policy the following definitions apply:

Service Grant means where Council provides a service to a community organisation and meets the cost of that service

Concession Grant means where Council provides a concession on rates and/or charges in relation to a property that is owned or leased by a community group.

4. Policy Statement

Council grants provide financial assistance to eligible community organisations to deliver projects which respond to community need, align with relevant Council strategies and plans and enhance the social, environmental, economic and cultural wellbeing of the Gympie region. Businesses and individuals are eligible for RADF grants.

Grant applications must meet the specified eligibility criteria outlined in Council's endorsed grant guidelines. Eligibility relates to applicant type (e.g. individuals, community organisations, businesses), project type, funding amount and project delivery timeframes. For community organisations to be eligible under the relevant guidelines, they must:

- be an incorporated not-for-profit community organisation, or have an auspice arrangement with an incorporated not-for-profit organisation (including not-for-profit co-operatives and companies limited by guarantee)
- hold public liability insurance at a level that meets the requirement of the risk matrix in the Insurance Coverage for External Parties Policy
- have no outstanding debt with Council
- be based in, or provide direct benefits to, the Gympie region
- show a need for financial support

Applications are assessed against the eligibility and assessment criteria detailed in each respective grant program guideline. The grant approval process is also outlined in each respective grant program guideline.

Grant assistance will take the form of a financial payment only for community grants, RADF grants and environmental grants. Events grants may be in the form of financial and/or service provision assistance.

Guidelines will determine the number of applications per organisation/business/individual per round. Two rounds will be offered for community grants, RADF and environmental grants each financial year.

Grants funds should not be seen by organisations/business/individuals as recurrent funding. Council reserves the right to change its direction on grant funding based on priorities, strategy and cost base.

Grants funding offered to applicants that are not registered for Goods and Services Tax will be paid the GST exclusive amount of the approved application.

Officers will provide grants recommendations to Council for consideration and approval by resolution.

Direct contact with or lobbying of elected members of Council by applicants in relation to grant applications is prohibited and will disqualify the application.

Applicant contact with Local Government Workers should be restricted to clarification in relation to categories, eligibility or definitions. Lobbying of Local Government Workers in relation to the grants is prohibited and will disqualify the application.

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. The related legislation/documents are amended or replaced.
2. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of Council
3. As initiated by the CEO or Executive Team.
4. Periodic Review within 3 years from date of adoption.

6. Delegations

The delegation under this policy is included in the delegation schedule Council to CEO.