

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS POLICY

Gympie Regional Council is committed to working in partnership with the community to encourage, develop, support and sustain a wide range of local, quality, recreational, cultural, environmental, economic, social and community initiatives that support the development of strong local communities.

Council will provide financial assistance to incorporated, not-for-profit community organisations and eligible individuals to support the provision of programs and services which respond to identified community need, contribute to the building of stronger communities, meet relevant guidelines and are in accordance with Council's strategic objectives as identified in the Corporate Plan. Council will determine annually the amount of funding to be made available under this scheme.

Community Assistance Grant Scheme funding is available in the following standard categories:

- Community Capacity Building
- Facilities Development
- New and Emerging Events
- Equipment
- Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)

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

All applications will be assessed against specified eligibility and assessment criteria as set out in the Community Assistance Grants Guidelines (CS1710) and the Regional Arts Development Fund Grant Guidelines (CS1713).

Funds for environmental projects will be made available through the Environment Levy and will be disbursed in accordance with the Policy for the Distribution of the Environment Levy for Community Group Grants (PDPOL011).

Council will not fund projects, programs and services that have commenced prior to the funding application being assessed, are considered the core responsibility of other levels of government, are for ongoing operational or administrative expenses or are primarily fundraising or commercial ventures. Donations to individuals or organisations will not be made through the Community Assistance Grants Scheme.

Grant funding may take the form of financial contribution or in kind assistance.

This policy is consistent with legislative requirements of *Local Government Regulation 2012* sections 194 and 195.