



GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL

AGENDA

of the

SPECIAL MEETING

CHAIRMAN: Cr GC Hartwig (Mayor)

Held in the Boardroom

Town Hall

2 Caledonian Hill

Gympie Qld 4570

On Wednesday, 31 January 2024

At 9.00 am



The Corporate Plan 2022-2027 provides a clear framework and direction in relation to Council's **vision, mission, values** and **key response areas**.

Gympie Regional Council has a vision for embracing opportunities, promoting wellbeing and celebrating strong communities.

Our mission is to leave a positive legacy for future generations by embracing progress through good planning and efficient service delivery.

Our values are:

Accountability

We are open, transparent and take responsibility for our actions.

Communication

We consult with the community, actively listen to and respond to the input of residents, and keep people informed.

Customer Service Focused

We meet the needs of our community in an efficient and effective manner. We strive to continually improve, show empathy and are environmentally aware in our service delivery.

Integrity

We act with honesty and respect in all we do and respect all residents, colleagues and visitors.

Teamwork and Collaboration

We recognise and support everyone's contributions. We are inclusive and contribute respectfully working as a team. We will care for ourselves and others.

Council's activities are aimed at achieving our vision and are focused into the following three key response areas/objectives:

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Our communities have infrastructure and spaces for living, working, learning, sport and recreation that supports and caters for growth and enables the community to be inclusive, connected and safe. Natural ecosystems are conserved and enhanced and our built environment embraces biodiversity, sustainability and heritage.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Our planning and infrastructure seeks to meet foreseeable future needs to support economic development, community enhancement and residents' wellbeing.

ORGANISATION

Gympie Regional Council is an organisation that understands the community, and delivers services efficiently and effectively through highly engaged staff.

The above framework informs council's decision making and guides our organisational management and operational activities.

Gympie Regional Council **SPECIAL**

Mayor GC Hartwig (Chairman),

*Crs J Milne, NG Jensen, SA Waldock, BM Devereaux, DH Stewart, HT Smerdon,
WA Polley and RA Fredman.*

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SECTION 1: APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE

SECTION 2: DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 Environment Program Grant Category 2023/24 - funding recommendations

PORTFOLIO: Arts, Culture, Libraries, Community Development and Customer Service

DIRECTORATE: Community Sustainability

DOC ID:

LINKS TO CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

KEY RESPONSE AREAS:

1. Community and Environment

1. BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Council's Community Grants Program provides financial assistance for projects which respond to community need, support Council's strategic objectives and enhance the social, environmental and/or cultural wellbeing of the Gympie region.

At its Ordinary Meeting on 28 June 2023, Council approved the Community Grants Policy, which is an overarching policy document that covers the administration and award of all grant programs provided by Council. The Environment Program Grant Category Guidelines 2023/2024 were endorsed by Council at Ordinary Meeting on 13 December 2023. These documents are published and available for the community and grant proponents on Council's website.

Council Officers administer the grants program in accordance with Council approved policy, guidelines and budget allocations.

In line with the Guidelines for 2023/2024, the Environment Program Grant Category opened on 15 December 2023 and closed to applications on 14 January 2024.

For grant categories with a maximum value over \$2,500 which includes the Environment Program Grant Category, the grants assessment panel will provide grant recommendations to Council for consideration and approval by resolution.

The Environment Program Grant Category Guidelines 2023/24 state that applicants will be notified of the outcome of applications prior to 31 January 2024.

2. REPORT

The Environment Program Grant Category is a pilot grant category to support ongoing environmental programs delivered by community groups primarily focused on environment activities. The grant purpose is to improve environmental outcomes in the Gympie region through delivery of ongoing environmental programs and activities that align with priorities in Council's Environment Strategy.

The maximum grant amount is \$20,000 and Council's contribution to proposed programs as provided in applications is a maximum 80% of program cost. The applicant must contribute a minimum 20% of program cost. Funded programs must be delivered within 12 months of the notification of outcome date.

Assessment Process

All applications received by Council for this competitive grant round have been assessed against the eligibility and assessment criteria detailed in the Council adopted grant guidelines. The assessment process is recorded through the SmartyGrants software system used by Council.

The following assessment process was undertaken:

- *Eligibility check:* All applications were checked against eligibility criteria to ensure the applicant type, project type, amount requested, and timeframes were eligible.
- *Assessment:* Applications were assessed against specified assessment criteria by a panel comprised of Council Officers who have knowledge and experience in the respective grant category. Panel members also participated in moderation meetings to review the assessments and determine grant recommendations.
- *Endorsement:* Grant recommendations are presented to Council for endorsement pursuant to this report.

Overview of applications received.

A total of six (6) applications were assessed with \$92,085 requested from applicants for the category. Officers recommend funding four (4) of the six (6) eligible applications to a total of \$79,328.

# of applications	Total funding requests	# of applications recommended	Funding recommended
6	\$92,085	4	\$79,328

Two applications were not recommended due to the competitive nature of the funding round, and assessors prioritized applications to ensure that budget is retained for the Community Grants Program Competitive Round 2 that opens for applications on 12 February 2024 and the Mirco Environment Project category in the Rolling Round which is open to applications until 30 June 2024 or all funds are expended.

3. BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Council's Community Grants Program (including environmental categories) is funded by Council's operational budget. A total of \$150,000 is allocated for environment grant categories in 2023/2024.

Recommended grant funding for the Environment Program Grant Category, totaling \$79,328, is within the 2023/2024 budget allocation for Community Grants (Environment).

Funding allocated to date for 2023/2024 to environmental categories of the Community Grants Program is \$30,003, therefore a total of \$119,997 is remaining. Proposed funding recommendations for the Environment Program Grant Category outlined above of \$79,328

retains a balance of \$40,669 to fund environment categories in Competitive Round 2 and Rolling Round.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The grants administration process was carried out in accordance with Council's Community Grants Policy and Environment Program Grant Category Guidelines 2023/24.

5. CONSULTATION

Council Officers consulted during this process:

- Manager Environment and Resource Recovery
- Manager Community and Commercial Services
- Coordinator Environment Services
- Senior Officer Community Development
- Support Officer Community Development

6. CONCLUSION

Council's Community Grants Program 2023/2024 including the Environment Program Grant Category has been administered by officers in accordance with the Council endorsed Community Grants Policy, Guidelines and allocated budget. Recommendations are provided to Council for consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse four (4) grant funding recommendations within the Environment Program Grant Category 2023/2024 totalling \$79,328 as outlined below:

Applicant	Project	Amount
Mary River Catchment Coordination Association	Citizen Science in Gympie Shire – Find a Frog in February and Waterwatch	\$20,000
Gympie and District Landcare Group Incorporated	Biological control of Cat's Claw & Madeira Vines in the Gympie Region 2023-2024	\$19,812
Cooloola Coastcare Assn Inc.	Ongoing marine turtle monitoring along the Cooloola Coast	\$19,696
Australian Native Animals Rescue and Rehabilitation Assoc. Inc	Native Wildlife Rescue, Care and Release, Gympie region	\$19,820