



Gladstone Regional Council

Council Policy

Title	COMMUNITY INVESTMENT POLICY
Policy Number	P-2019-08
Business Unit/s	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS
Date of Adoption	
Resolution Number	
Review Date	
Date Repealed	

1.0 PURPOSE:

The Gladstone Regional Council (Council) recognises the value provided by not for profit local community organisations and businesses in delivering initiatives, projects and services that contribute to a liveable, sustainable and vibrant community.

This policy outlines a consistent, equitable, transparent and efficient framework under which all donations, grants and sponsorships are made to community organisations delivering initiatives within the Gladstone Regional Council area. It ensures Council conforms to the legislative requirements prescribed under Section 109 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Section 195 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* as the decision-making authority disseminating Council funds through donations, grants and sponsorships.

2.0 SCOPE:

Council is committed to ensuring our communities thrive. Through the Community Investment Policy we provide funding, expertise and support to organisations that deliver outcomes aligned to Council's plans and strategy.

The Community Investment Policy enables Council to:

- a) Empower our communities to identify and respond to local areas of need;
- b) Partner with organisations to deliver shared outcomes;
- c) Activate community participation amongst residents;
- d) Build capacity within community sector; and
- e) Contribute to the development of local students and sportspersons.

The following funding programs are outside the scope of this Policy:

1. Existing Council Policies that make provision for funding as adopted from time to time; and
2. Funding provided to community organisations and/or individuals under the Regional Arts Development Fund.

3.0 RELATED LEGISLATION:

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*

4.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- Councillor Conduct Code Policy
- Code of Conduct Policy
- Information Privacy Policy
- Community Investment Corporate Standard
- Gladstone Regional Council Community Investment Program Guidelines
- Mayor’s Discretionary Fund Application Form

5.0 DEFINITIONS:

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

“Active Recreation”	Means an activity engaged in for the purpose of relaxation or enjoyment with primary activity/focus requiring physical effort. These activities are not based on formal completion and generally lack prescribed rules.
“Community Organisation”	Means an entity that carries out activities for a public purpose or an entity whose primary object is not directed at making a profit.
“Development Application Fee”	Means a fee associated with the initial lodgement of a new application for building work, operational works, plumbing work, material change of use or reconfiguring a lot.
“Donation”	Means a contribution of goods or cash to a community organisation without an expectation of direct counter-supply or serviceable deliverables, given unconditionally and voluntarily.
“Grant”	Means a financial payment from Council for non-commercial projects, activities or items which meet specific criteria within a formal application, assessment and acquittal process and any financial or other assistance given is conditional upon agreed terms and conditions.
“Incorporated Association”	Means an organisation incorporated under the <i>Association Incorporation Act 1981</i> or other relevant legislation.
“In-kind contribution”	Means the provision of any service, product or use of facility that would normally attract a fee and includes services procured by Council from external suppliers at its costs. This contribution may be provided in lieu of and/or in addition to a monetary contribution.
“Not-For-Profit”	Means an organisation which does not operate for the profit, personal gain, or benefit of a particular person, people or members.
“Plant and equipment”	Means any machinery or tool asset with a life of more than one year. For the purpose of this policy, it does not include any stage or audio equipment.

“Project”	Means a service, event, activity or equipment purchase for which an organisation might seek assistance.
“Public Interest”	Means the extent to which the community will be enhanced through funding the delivery of perceived benefits (social, educational, economic, environmental, cultural, and sport and recreational) of proposed projects and activities, having regard to competing interests/or priorities.
“Sponsorship”	Means a mutually negotiated arrangement entailing the provision of funds and/or in-kind contribution associated with an event, organisation or project, and results in tangible benefits (advertising, publicity or other) to Council as the sponsoring organisation.
“Sport”	Means human activity capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and/or physical skill, which by its nature is competitive and is generally considered a sport.

6.0 POLICY STATEMENT AND INITIATIVES:

This Policy enables Council to offer access to donations, grants and sponsorships under the Gladstone Regional Council Community Investment Program. Recognising the need to be responsive to our community and proactive in building community capacity, Council will provide support for local initiatives, projects and community related activities where Council considers it of public interest.

The Community Investment Program provides opportunities for financial assistance under the key initiatives identified below. Guidelines for all initiatives under the Community Investment Program will be publicly available on Council’s website during funding rounds. Eligibility criteria for specific funds is identified in Attachment 1 and applications will only be considered if minimum criteria are demonstrated. All eligible applications received within funding rounds will be assessed and determined in accordance with the requirements outlined in Attachment 2.

Due to the limited budget available to Council and the competitive nature of accessing community funds, organisations should not rely on the Community Investment Program as recurrent funding for operational costs. In addition, applicants are encouraged to provide their ABN (or a Statement by Supplier form) and declare if they are GST registered to ensure the correct treatment of funding if approved under this policy. GST is excluded from any funding amounts approved and will be added if required.

6.1 *Connected Communities Fund*

The Connected Communities Fund enables Council to provide support for community connection, social inclusion, access and participation.

Fund	Application Round	Focus area
Community Hall Subsidy	6 monthly	To assist with ongoing maintenance of community halls in the Council area.
Gladstone & District Sports Foundation Trust	Annually	Financial support for young people at a State or National level who reside in the Gladstone region to achieve their sporting goals. Funding provided directly to Trust to administer.

Sport & Recreation Operations	6 monthly	Provides support for the operation of the region's sporting organisations and active recreation groups (eg, equipment purchases, training and education, participation initiatives, programs that contribute to health and vitality, and planning).
Performing Arts	6 monthly	To provide funding assistance to community organisations that coordinate events that enhance and showcase the local performing arts sector.
Historical and Heritage Museums	Annually	To support community organisations that are custodians of historical/ heritage collections and/or museums for public benefit.
Charity Waste Tipping Waiver	Annually	To relieve charitable organisations that accept pre-loved household belongings from the burden of having to process and dispose of general waste deposited at their facilities.

6.2 *Regional Enhancement Fund*

The Regional Enhancement Fund provides Council with the opportunity to provide support for the continued growth of our region, fund the reinvigoration and activation of our region and protect and preserve our natural assets.

Fund	Application Round	Focus area
Sport & Active Recreation – Strategic Projects	Annually	To support sport and active recreation organisations with funding to upgrade existing or build new facilities where the organisation has land tenure.
Sport & Active Recreation – Community Projects	Annually	To support sport and active recreation organisations that own, lease or control land to enhance their facilities to enable increased sporting participation.
Jumpstart City Heart	3 times per year	To support initiatives of community organisations, CBD businesses, and individuals that contribute to encouraging visitation, overall aesthetics of the CBD, stimulate economy, and engage community and visitors.
Environmental Care	6 monthly	To provide assistance to the community to undertake initiatives that conserve or enhance the environment across the region. This includes application fees for the annual Tidy Towns competition.
Plant & Equipment	As requested	To assist community organisations with costs for procuring specified plant and equipment by either wet hire of Council machinery or reimbursement of costs from external hire.
Development Application Fee Reimbursement	As requested	To provide fee relief for eligible organisations from Council development application fees.

6.3 *Community Celebration Fund*

Collaborative partnerships that celebrate the Gladstone region, build community pride, boost our economy and positively promote our region. Funds approved may include a cash component and/or an in-kind contribution.

Fund	Application Round	Focus area
Ignite Event – Funds up to \$10,000 (0 – 2,500 people)	3 times per year	Support for events that contribute to community pride/social outcomes and regional economy that attract up to 2,500 participants.
Impact Event – Funds up to \$25,000 (2,500 – 5,000 people)	3 times per year	Support for events that demonstrate tourism and regional economy benefits and attract 2,500 to 5,000 participants, with 10% out-of-region visitors.
Destination Event – Funds up to \$50,000 (over 5,000 people)	6 monthly	Support for events that are well established, well designed, and clearly demonstrate return on investment building community pride, return visitation, regional profile, economic stimulus and attract over 5,000 participants, with 15% out-of-region visitors.
Signature Event	As requested	Support events that drive the primary criteria of destination profile, economic impact and overnight visitor expenditure. Attract visitors that invest in the region and over 25% out-of-region visitors.
Community Event	3 times per year	Support for community led events (including Australia Day events) that are run by community organisations for broad public benefit.

6.4 Community Education Fund

This grant recognises academic achievement and encourages the development of knowledge and skills for our future.

Fund	Application Round	Focus area
Regional Education Program - Bursary - Educational Development	Annually	<u>Bursary</u> Recognition and reward for academic, attitude, attendance and community contribution for students. Primary - \$200 Secondary - \$500 Combined (primary/secondary)- \$500 Technical College - \$500 CQU Gladstone - \$500 CQU TAFE - \$500 Funding provided directly to educational institutions to administer. <u>Educational Development</u> To support the continued development of students across the region to enhance academic standards, mentorship and guidance.
School Engagement Subsidy	6 monthly	To support the connection between Council and educational institutions to enhance learning opportunities and engagement with entertainment, art and culture.

6.5 Mayor's Discretionary Fund

These funds are allocated at the Mayor's discretion for purposes that contribute positively to the community that may not align with other funding provided for in this policy.

Fund	Application Round	Focus area
Mayor's Discretionary Fund	As requested	Funds granted at the Mayor's discretion for community purposes other than that contemplated within this policy that are in line with Council's annual budget.

Council recognises the significance community organisations play in developing and delivering initiatives that encourage participation, foster social cohesion, celebrate diversity, and contribute to a vibrant, healthy and sustainable region. The Mayor's Discretionary Fund allows funds to be allocated for community purposes with applications able to be submitted as required throughout the year. The total funding available for the Mayor's Discretionary Fund is published after budget adoption each year with any variations to be approved by Council resolution.

7.0 ATTACHMENTS:

1. Eligibility Criteria Matrix
2. Summary of Funding Category Assessment Requirements

8.0 REVIEW MECHANISM:

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

1. The related legislation or governing documents are amended or replaced; or
2. Other circumstances as determined by resolution of Council or the CEO; or
3. Three years from date of adoption.

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS

Document History	Date	Council Resolution No.	Notes (including the prior Policy No, precise of change/s, etc)
Originally Approved	16/9/2008	08/538	
Amendment 1	1/9/2009	09/482	
Amendment 2	5/7/2011	G/11/621	
Amendment 3	7/8/2012	G/12/1162	
Amendment 4	2/7/2013	G/13/1624	
Amendment 5	15/7/2014	G/14/2087	
Amendment 6	25/8/2015	G/15/2528	
Amendment 7	01/09/2015	G/15/2544	
Amendment 8	02/08/2016	G/16/2860	
Amendment 9	20/12/2016	G/16/2950	
Amendment 10	18/07/2017	G/17/3124	
Amendment 11			

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LEISA DOWLING
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment 1 – Eligibility Criteria Matrix

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA		CONNECTED COMMUNITIES FUND					REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT FUND						COMMUNITY CELEBRATION FUND					COMMUNITY EDUCATION FUND		
		Community Hall Subsidy	Sport & Recreation Operations	Performing Arts	Historical and Heritage Museums	Charity Waste Tipping Waiver	Sport & Active Recreation - Strategic Projects	Sport & Active Recreation - Community Projects	Jumpstart City Heart	Environmental Care	Plant & Equipment	Development Application Fee Reimbursement	Ignite Event	Impact Event	Destination Event	Signature Event	Community Event	Regional Education Program		School Engagement Subsidy
																		Bursary	Educational Development	
ELIGIBLE IF ONE CRITERIA MARKED 'X'	A Not-For-Profit community organisation based in the Gladstone Regional Council area	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
	A Not-For-Profit community organisation servicing the Gladstone Regional Council area			X	X			X			X	X	X	X	X		X			
	Australian registered charity					X											X			
	A business based in the Gladstone Regional Council area							X				X	X	X	X					
	A business servicing the Gladstone Regional Council area							X				X	X	X	X					
	A not-for-profit sporting organisation/active recreation group based in the Gladstone Regional Council area		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
	An educational institution							X									X		X	
NOTE ELIGIBLE IF ONE CRITERIA MARKED 'X'	Be a religious or worship group	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
	Be a Local, State, Federal government agency	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
	Be a sporting club	X		X	X	X									X		X	X		
	Be a political organisation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Have access to funds generated internally from permanently licensed premises or onsite gaming machines	X		X	X	X				X	X	X				X		X	X	

Attachment 2: Summary of Funding Category Assessment Requirements

CATEGORY	ASSESSMENT LEVEL	ACQUITTAL REQUIRED	FUNDING AGREEMENT REQUIRED
Connected Communities Fund			
Community Hall Subsidy	Officer	Yes	No
Gladstone & District Sports Foundation Trust	Officer	Yes	No
Sport & Recreation Operations	Officer	Yes	No
Performing Arts	Officer	Yes	No
Historical and Heritage Museums	Officer	Yes	No
Charity Waste Tipping Waiver	Officer	No	No
Regional Enhancement Fund			
Sport & Active Recreation – Strategic Projects	Panel ➡ Council General Meeting	Yes	Yes
Sport & Active Recreation – Community Projects	Panel ➡ Council General Meeting	Yes	Yes
Jumpstart City Heart	Panel ➡ Council General Meeting	Yes	Yes
Environmental Care	Panel ➡ Council General Meeting	Yes	Yes
Plant & Equipment	Officer	No	No
Development Application Fee Reimbursement	Officer	No	No
Community Celebration Fund			
Ignite Event	Panel ➡ Council General Meeting	Yes	Yes
Impact Event	Panel ➡ Council General Meeting	Yes	Yes
Destination Event	Panel ➡ Council General Meeting	Yes	Yes
Signature Event	Panel ➡ Council General Meeting	Yes	Yes
Community Event	Officer	Yes	No
Community Education Fund			
Regional Education Program			
- Bursary	Officer	No	No
- Education Development	Officer	Yes	No
School Engagement Subsidy	Officer	Yes	No
Mayor's Discretionary Fund			
Mayor's Discretionary Fund	Mayor (& CEO/Deputy Mayor for capital funds)	No	No