

COMMUNITY FUNDING AND INVESTMENT POLICY



COUNCIL POLICY	
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Replaces:	Community Grant Giving Policy; Tourism Events and Festival Policy
Current Review:	April 2021
Adopted by Council:	18 May, 2021
Next Review Date:	April 2023
Responsible Officer/s:	Manager Tourism and Community Services

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This policy assists Councillors and Council employees to achieve consistency in corporate processes and procedures when developing, assessing, monitoring, acquitting and evaluating funding and investment opportunities.

2 SCOPE

- 2.1 This Policy applies to all community funding and investment distributed by Council to the Community, including:
- Community Grants Program Funding
 - Community Planning Program Funding
 - Event Sponsorship
 - Senior Citizens Grant Funding
 - Targeted Community Funding eg. Seniors Festival, Children's Week, William Pearson Bequest
 - Subsidies
 - Donations

3 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of Council's Community Funding and Investment Policy are:

- a) To provide support to eligible community groups and individuals in recognition of the vital contribution made to Strathbogie Shire's economic and tourism development, visitor economy and community wellbeing
- b) To provide means for the community to address current and arising issues and trends
- c) To provide an opportunity for social inclusion and community engagements for the community of Strathbogie Shire
- d) To provide transparent and effective processes and decision making
- e) To increase the visitor economy & economic development of the Strathbogie Shire
- f) In line with the values of Council

4 POLICY STATEMENT

- 4.1 Strathbogie Shire Council is committed to working in partnership with the community and event organisers to encourage, develop, support and sustain a wide range of local quality recreational, cultural, social and community support and business group initiatives that make a positive contribution to the Strathbogie Shire community and strengthen the development of strong local communities and increased economic development.
- 4.2 Each financial year, Council provides financial assistance to eligible community groups and organisations to support the provision of programs and services which respond to identified community need, contribute to the building of stronger communities, increase economic development and the visitor economy and are in accordance with Council's strategic outcomes and key directions as outlined in the Council Plan.
- 4.3 Council may give funding to an organisation only:
- a) If the Council is satisfied:
 - i. The funding will be used for a purpose that is in the public interest; and
 - ii. The organisation meets the criteria stated in the Guidelines for the specific funding stream that has been requested.
 - b) In a way that is consistent with Council's Community Funding and Investment Policy

5 PROCEDURE

- 5.1 When Council's annual budget allocates funds for Community Funding and Investment, the community and event organisers will be informed of the relevant Guidelines pertaining to the funding available and include information on:
- a) Program priorities
 - b) Criteria and eligibility
 - c) Acquittal requirements and
 - d) Administration processes
- 5.2 The procedural implementations are documented in program specific Guidelines maintained by the Tourism and Community Services and Economy Development teams. These Guidelines are maintained in collaboration with all internal stakeholders.

5.3 The SmartyGrants online grants system is used to manage the full lifecycle of each program and key associated documents, including application, assessment, and administration and acquittal forms. Applicant's access application forms via Council's [website](#) and the guidelines are also stored on Council's website.

DEFINITIONS

5.4 Terms not defined in this document will be included in program specific guidelines.

DONATION

A donation is a voluntary gift given, typically, to a non-related charitable, public purpose or not-for-profit organisation, without any material benefit or advantage being received by Council in return and provided without any conditions or contractual obligations. A donation may take various forms, including cash, services, new or used goods. Charitable gifts of goods or services are also called gifts in kind.

GRANT

A sum of money or in-kind contribution given to eligible organisations or individuals for a specific purpose directed at achieving goals and objectives consistent with Council's strategic direction. The recipient is selected on merit against a set of criteria and funding is subject to entering a formal agreement with Council that outlines accountability requirements.

SPONSORSHIP

A formal, reciprocal arrangement between groups or event organisers and Council, which the benefits for both parties are documented. It can cover both cash and in-kind considerations. The arrangement is clearly understood by both parties, with clear outcomes and timelines, and articulates the rights and responsibilities of both sides. These outcomes are deliverable and measurable and align with the goals and aspirations of Council.

SUBSIDY

A subsidy is a form of government financial assistance paid to a community group, business or economic sector. A subsidy can take several forms which are conditional upon meeting specific criteria. A subsidy can be used to support businesses and to encourage activities that would otherwise not take place.

6 RELATED LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and the Equal Opportunity Act 2010

Council acknowledges the legal responsibility to comply with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and the Equal Opportunity Act 2010*. The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* is designed to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. The Charter gives legal protection to 20 fundamental human rights under four key values that include freedom, respect, equality and dignity.

Local Government Act 2020

[Strathbogie Shire Council Plan](#)

[Strathbogie Shire Council Liveability Plan](#) (Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan)

[Strathbogie Shire Council Arts and Culture Strategy](#)

Community Planning Program Guidelines (in review for 2021/2022)

Community Grants Program Guidelines (in review for 2021/2022)
Sponsorship Program Guidelines (in review for 2021/2022)

7 FEEDBACK

- 7.1 Council staff and community may provide feedback about this document by emailing info@strathbogje.vic.gov.au .