Policy

STATUTORY

COMMUNITY GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE

Head of Power

Local Government Regulation 2012

Key Supporting Council Document

Lockyer Valley Regional Council Corporate Plan (2022-2027):

- Lockyer Community – Council seek to understand community needs, resulting in partnerships that realise long term benefits for the community in a timely manner.

Definitions

Acquittal	The process by which a recipient demonstrates that Council funding or assistance has been used for its approved purpose.
Community Benefit	Demonstrable social, cultural, environmental, recreational or economic outcomes that benefit the Lockyer Valley community.
Donation	A cash contribution to an organisation that may be associated with a particular event, purpose or project.
Fee Waiver	A reduction or removal of a Council fee or charge approved in accordance with this policy.
Grant	A sum of money given to an organisation or individual for a specified purpose.
In-Kind Assistance	The provision of services, equipment, plant (machinery) or facilities to assist an event or project conducted by an individual or community-based non-profit organisation.
Scholarship/Bursary	Financial assistance provided to an individual to support educational, cultural, sporting or leadership development.

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Policy Objective

The purpose of this policy is to establish a governing framework for the consistent management of Grants, Donations, Scholarships, Bursaries, Fee Waivers and In-Kind Assistance programs provided by Lockyer Valley Regional Council to the community.

Grant-Making Principles

Council will administer Grants and assistance programs in accordance with the following principles:

- Transparency and accountability
- Equity and fairness
- Community Benefit
- Value for money
- Good governance
- Inclusion and accessibility
- Alignment with Council's strategic objectives

Policy Statement

In adopting the annual budget, Council may approve an allocation of funds to support a range of Grants, Donations, Scholarships, Bursaries, Fee Waivers and In-Kind Assistance programs for eligible community organisations and individuals that contribute to the achievement of Council's Corporate Plan and other adopted strategic priorities.

Each Grant, Donation, Scholarship, Bursary, Fee Waiver and In-Kind Assistance program has specific guiding documentation defining eligibility, assessment and Acquittal criteria under which Council funding and assistance will be provided.

Grants, Donations, Scholarships, Bursaries, Fee Waivers and In-Kind Assistance programs provided by Council will be promoted through a range of Council media.

Council may contribute to businesses or other partnerships where there is no financial gain to an individual or business and where projects, events or activities will contribute significantly to individual, community, cultural, social, recreational and environmental enhancement and revitalisation of the Lockyer Valley community.

Organisations and individuals are expected to apply responsible management of any Grants, Donations, Scholarships, Bursaries, Fee Waivers and In-Kind Assistance received from Council.

Recipients must comply with any funding agreement, reporting and Acquittal requirements established by Council. Council may require repayment of funds where funding conditions have not been met.

Where Grants or assistance is provided to an individual, the recipient should reside primarily within the boundaries of the Lockyer Valley Regional Council local government area; and must demonstrate achievement, participation or potential in a manner that delivers benefit, recognition and development opportunities for the Lockyer Valley community.

Council may consider applications from organisations outside the Lockyer Valley Regional Council boundary where it is considered that the project, activity or initiative will benefit the Lockyer Valley community, without disadvantaging a local organisation.

Council will consider providing assistance to community-based and not-for-profit organisations, teams or individuals where:

- the community or not-for-profit organisation has significant local membership;
- the individual resides in the Lockyer Valley region or has a strong connection to the region;
- the project or event will deliver tangible benefits of an economic, social or environmental nature to residents of the Lockyer Valley region;
- the project or event promotes participation, accessibility and inclusion for community members wherever practical;
- the project or event will be administered and conducted in accordance with relevant anti-discrimination legislation and principles of equitable access;
- where similar services or facilities exist, the applicant demonstrates unmet demand, enhanced Community Benefit or another clear justification for the proposal;
- the organisation does not have sufficient funds of its own;
- the organisation has a management structure and skills appropriate to its size and functions;
- the event or project is one which Council can legally support pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2009* or other statute;
- consideration is given to the amount of financial or In-Kind Assistance of any kind that Council has provided to the organisation in the preceding 12-month period;
- the event or project is determined to be self-funding or self-sustainable once the funds or assistance granted by Council is exhausted;
- the organisation is contributing real or in-kind value to the project or event;
- evidence of self-help, proven past performance and affiliations with accredited State and Federal bodies, if relevant, is demonstrated;
- funds are available within the allocations provided for in the budget for that year.

Recipients may be required to acknowledge Council's contribution in promotional material, media releases, publications and event signage.

Councillors, Council officers and assessment panel members involved in the administration or assessment of funding applications must manage actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest in accordance with Council policies and legislative requirements.

Grants and assistance can be provided under the following categories:

Category 1 – Major Community Grants Program
Category 2 – Minor Community Grants Program
Category 3 – Ambassador Support and School Dux Bursary
Category 4 – Event Assistance
Category 5 – Rate Rebates and Remissions
Category 6 – School Chaplaincies
Category 7 – Public Halls Assistance
Category 8 – Anzac Day Remembrance
Category 9 – Community Environment Grant

Ineligible Activities

Unless otherwise approved by Council, assistance will not generally be provided for:

- activities that primarily generate private financial gain;
- political organisations, parties or campaigns;
- retrospective funding for activities already completed;
- debt servicing or deficit funding;
- activities that are inconsistent with Council policies and legislative requirements;
- activities that present an unacceptable reputational risk to Council.

Relevant Legislation

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012

Related Documents

Community Grants and Assistance Procedure
Major Community Grants Program – Applicant Assistance Guideline