



PORT STEPHENS
C O U N C I L

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
14 SEPTEMBER 2021**

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SUBJECT

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Nb. **Bold** Items listed above have not been previously received or viewed by Councillors.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

ITEM NO. 3

FILE NO: 21/250110
EDRMS NO: PSC2007-2386

POLICY REVIEW - GRANTS AND DONATIONS

REPORT OF: TONY WICKHAM - GOVERNANCE SECTION MANAGER
GROUP: GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE

RECOMMENDATION IS THAT COUNCIL:

- 1) Receive and note the submissions at **(ATTACHMENT 1)** of the Supplementary Information.
- 2) Revoke the Grants and Donations policy dated 10 December 2019 (Minute No. 254).
- 3) Adopt the revised Grants and Donations policy shown at **(ATTACHMENT 1)** in the report contained in the business paper.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is provide additional submissions concerning the revised Grants and Donations policy that were not included in the business paper at **(ATTACHMENT 2)** of the subject report.

The submissions were not included in the business paper due to an administrative error.

A summary of the submissions is provided at **(ATTACHMENT 1)** of this Supplementary Information.

There are no changes proposed to the policy as a result of the submissions. It should be noted that the Community Grants Fund guidelines will provide opportunities for environmental grants.

ISSUES

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Summary of submisisions. [↓](#)

ITEM 3 - ATTACHMENT 1 SUMMARY OF SUBMISIONS.

Grants and Donations Policy submission

No.	Author of submission	Comment	Council response
1	<p>Mambo-Wanda Wetlands Conservation Group</p> <p>Note: 2 submissions received from the community group</p>	<p>The submission requests Council reinstate grant funding specifically for environmental projects, including Landcare.</p> <p>The submission noted that separate guidelines would be made available for the Community Funding Program, however raised concerns that the guidelines were not available at the time of exhibiting the policy.</p> <p>The submission also raises concerns that the criteria for the Community Grants Fund is not well-suited to environmental projects and this may mean applications will compete with other applications with a different focus such as economic and tourism or 'vibrant spaces' initiatives. Without some prioritisation for environmental work, there could be a substantial reduction in the funding of that work.</p> <p>The submission called on Council to provide an adequate share of available grant funds is dedicated to environmental projects.</p>	<p>Council has made changes to its grants program over the past 18 months to deliver a wide range of grant opportunities across Port Stephens local government area. The community have been accessing grant funds through the revamped grant program during this period.</p> <p>The revised policy changes were made to reflect the improved grant opportunities and as such the Community Projects Fund, Cultural Projects Fund, Environmental Projects Fund and the Heritage Projects Fund were removed from the policy and catered for in the Community Grants Fund and the associated guidelines.</p> <p>Council officers are currently working through the criteria to ensure environmental grants are available from the Community Grants Fund.</p> <p>The guidelines associated with the Community Grants Fund will be publicly available when applications for funding open later in 2021.</p>
2	<p>Eco-Network Port Stephens</p>	<p>Submission raises the following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. that the environmental grant funding is no longer available. b. the Community Funding program makes no transparent financial access to maintain, improve or present our environment – the program is related more to events and tourism. c. environmental projects do not fit criteria in the Community Funding Program. 	<p>Council officers are currently working through the criteria to ensure environmental grants are available from the Community Grants Fund.</p> <p>This will ensure opportunities continue to be available for environmental grant.</p>
3	<p>Resident</p>	<p>The submission requests Council reinstate grant funding specifically for environmental projects, including Landcare.</p>	<p>Council has made changes to its grants program over the past 18 months to deliver a</p>

		<p>The submission noted that separate guidelines would be made available for the Community Funding Program, however raised concerns that the guidelines were not available at the time of exhibiting the policy.</p> <p>The submission also raises concerns that the criteria for the Community Grants Fund is not well-suited to environmental projects and this may mean applications will compete with other applications with a different focus such as economic and tourism or 'vibrant spaces' initiatives. Without some prioritisation for environmental work, there could be a substantial reduction in the funding of that work.</p> <p>The submission called on Council to provide an adequate share of available grant funds is dedicated to environmental projects.</p>	<p>wide range of grant opportunities across Port Stephens local government area. The community have been accessing grant funds through the revamped grant program during this period.</p> <p>The revised policy changes were made to reflect the improved grant opportunities and as such the Community Projects Fund, Cultural Projects Fund, Environmental Projects Fund and the Heritage Projects Fund were removed from the policy and catered for in the Community Grants Fund and the associated guidelines.</p> <p>Council officers are currently working through the criteria to ensure environmental grants are available from the Community Grants Fund.</p> <p>The guidelines associated with the Community Grants Fund will be publicly available when applications for funding open later in 2021.</p>
4	Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association	<p>The submission requests Council reinstate grant funding specifically for environmental projects, including Landcare.</p> <p>The submission noted that separate guidelines would be made available for the Community Funding Program, however raised concerns that the guidelines were not available at the time of exhibiting the policy.</p> <p>The submission also raises concerns that the criteria for the Community Grants Fund is not well-suited to environmental projects and this may mean applications will compete with other applications with a different focus such as economic and tourism or 'vibrant spaces' initiatives. Without some prioritisation for environmental work, there could be a</p>	<p>Council has made changes to its grants program over the past 18 months to deliver a wide range of grant opportunities across Port Stephens local government area. The community have been accessing grant funds through the revamped grant program during this period.</p> <p>The revised policy changes were made to reflect the improved grant opportunities and as such the Community Projects Fund, Cultural Projects Fund, Environmental Projects Fund and the Heritage Projects Fund were removed from the policy and catered for in the Community Grants Fund and the associated guidelines.</p> <p>Council officers are currently working through the criteria to ensure environmental grants</p>

ITEM 3 - ATTACHMENT 1

SUMMARY OF SUBMISIONS.

		<p>substantial reduction in the funding of that work.</p> <p>The submission called on Council to provide an adequate share of available grant funds is dedicated to environmental projects.</p>	<p>are available from the Community Grants Fund.</p> <p>The guidelines associated with the Community Grants Fund will be publicly available when applications for funding open later in 2021.</p>
5	Lemon Tree Passage Parks, Reserves and Landcare	<p>The submission advised that the group have been successful with 11 applications under the former Small Environmental Grants between 2009 and 2020.</p> <p>That numerous projects have been completed for bush regeneration works, tree planting, removal of coral trees, weed control, access works and signage.</p> <p>In 2021 the group were unsuccessful with an application due to the criteria of the particular funding round and there are concerns this will continue and restrict funding opportunities for environmental initiatives.</p>	<p>Council officers are currently working through the criteria to ensure environmental grants are available from the Community Grants Fund.</p> <p>This will ensure opportunities continue to be available for environmental grant.</p>
6	Resident – member of Soldiers Point and Mambo Landcare Groups	<p>The submission requests Council reinstate grant funding specifically for environmental projects, including Landcare.</p> <p>The submission noted that separate guidelines would be made available for the Community Funding Program, however raised concerns that the guidelines were not available at the time of exhibiting the policy.</p> <p>The submission also raises concerns that the criteria for the Community Grants Fund is not well-suited to environmental projects and this may mean applications will compete with other applications with a different focus such as economic and tourism or 'vibrant spaces' initiatives. Without some prioritisation for environmental work, there could be a substantial reduction in the funding of that work.</p>	<p>Council has made changes to its grants program over the past 18 months to deliver a wide range of grant opportunities across Port Stephens local government area. The community have been accessing grant funds through the revamped grant program during this period.</p> <p>The revised policy changes were made to reflect the improved grant opportunities and as such the Community Projects Fund, Cultural Projects Fund, Environmental Projects Fund and the Heritage Projects Fund were removed from the policy and catered for in the Community Grants Fund and the associated guidelines.</p> <p>Council officers are currently working through the criteria to ensure environmental grants are available from the Community Grants Fund.</p>

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7	<p>Corlette Reserves and Landcare Group</p>	<p>The submission requests Council reinstate grant funding specifically for environmental projects, including Landcare.</p> <p>The submission noted that separate guidelines would be made available for the Community Funding Program, however raised concerns that the guidelines were not available at the time of exhibiting the policy.</p> <p>The submission also raises concerns that the criteria for the Community Grants Fund is not well-suited to environmental projects and this may mean applications will compete with other applications with a different focus such as economic and tourism or 'vibrant spaces' initiatives. Without some prioritisation for environmental work, there could be a substantial reduction in the funding of that work.</p> <p>The submission called on Council to provide an adequate share of available grant funds is dedicated to environmental projects.</p> <p>The submission noted that whilst some environmental grants opportunities may not have been taken up recently, the weather plays a part in the opportunities available to carry works – particularly where limited rainfall is experienced.</p> <p>The submission raised concerns that the policy was not on public exhibition at the same time as other policies considered by Council on 13 July 2021, therefore an extension should of been granted.</p>	<p>Council has made changes to its grants program over the past 18 months to deliver a wide range of grant opportunities across Port Stephens local government area. The community have been accessing grant funds through the revamped grant program during this period.</p> <p>The revised policy changes were made to reflect the improved grant opportunities and as such the Community Projects Fund, Cultural Projects Fund, Environmental Projects Fund and the Heritage Projects Fund were removed from the policy and catered for in the Community Grants Fund and the associated guidelines.</p> <p>Council officers are currently working through the criteria to ensure environmental grants are available from the Community Grants Fund.</p> <p>The guidelines associated with the Community Grants Fund will be publicly available when applications for funding open later in 2021.</p> <p>The revised policy was on public exhibition for a period of 28 days – from 20 July to 18 August 2021.</p>