

Financial Assistance to the Community Sector Policy

Policy Identifier:	GTS-001-P
Approved by:	General Manager Community and Customer Services
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Head of Power

Section 195 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld) ('the Regulation') requires the development of a policy governing local government grants to community organisations including the criteria to be eligible for a grant. Section 194 of the Regulation stipulates the conditions for a local government to give a grant to a community organisation. Section 189 of the Regulation stipulates the reporting requirements for grants to community organisations and discretionary funds.

This policy seeks to ensure Council meets its obligations as stipulated in the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and supports Council's '*Our Future Redlands – a Corporate Plan to 2026 and Beyond*'. This policy promotes transparent and effective processes, good governance and a commitment to act in accordance with the 'local government principles' (see *section 4 of the Local Government Act 2009*).

Policy Objective

To achieve the objectives of the Corporate Plan by the provision of funds to organisations in the City as follows:

- Community Grants Program
- Other non-grant Targeted Funding Allocations

Council will provide funds to the community that enhance the breadth and quality of community facilities, services, programs and events in Redland City.

The intent of the Financial Assistance Program is to:

- Increase employment and boost the local economy
- Assist community organisations to provide services
- Empower community organisations and build capacity
- Build community infrastructure
- Assist disadvantaged/vulnerable groups
- Provide cost-efficient initiatives
- Increase leverage to gain additional funds from state/federal departments
- Create identity, a sense of place and celebration
- Contribute to a sustainable environment
- Support a robust living culture in the Redlands

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Council will provide funding to the Community Sector through two mechanisms:

- A Community Grants Program administered by the Grants Team
- A system for Targeted Funding Allocations to be administered by the unit with responsibility in that specific area with suitable types of agreements for each funding allocation.

Policy Statement

Redland City Council, through its Corporate Plan, is committed to providing services that deliver our community's shared vision and collective aspirations; *Naturally wonderful lifestyle. Connected community. Embracing opportunities.* We are a values led organisation and our organisational values encapsulate what we care about, influence how we operate and support our mission: Make a difference, make it count.

Council is committed to:

- Ensuring the equitable and impartial distribution of funds through an accountable and transparent process.
- Ensuring that all provision of funds includes clear outcome statements and performance measures.
- Approving the distribution of funds through Council's operational budget process.
- Evaluating the funds provision and providing data to Council addressing key performance indicators as determined through Council's Corporate Operational Planning process.
- Ensuring that funds are given in a manner appropriate to the project or service being undertaken (i.e. grant or other allocation).

In addition, Council is committed to ensuring that the Grants Program:

- Has priorities that reflect Council's Corporate Plan.
- Has clear, well-advertised guidelines, application forms and closing dates.
- Is accessible to all eligible organisations in the city.
- Has its objectives reviewed every three years.
- Provides value for money both in terms of the grant monies paid to organisations and the costs of administration.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Council	Redland City Council
Community Grants Program	Redland City Council's program of grants available to the Redlands Community.
Grants Team	A team within Redland City Council's Community and Customer Services Department responsible for grants administration.

Financial Assistance to the Community Sector Policy

Associated Documents

GTS-001-001-G Financial Assistance to the Community Sector Guideline ([A214635](#))
 GTS-001-002-G Regional Arts Development Fund Application Guideline ([A3170119](#))
 GTS-001-003-G Regional Arts Development Fund Assessment Panel Guideline ([A3538193](#))
 GTS-001-005-G Mayor and Councillors Community Benefit Fund Guideline ([A3854691](#))
 RAL-001-A Enterprise Risk Management Administrative Directive ([A176131](#))
 GTS-001-008-G Capital Infrastructure Maintenance Grant (A5118303)
 GTS-001-010-G Village Events Grants Program Guideline ([A5676984](#))
 GTS-001-011-G Civic Support Fund Guidelines (A7641881)

Document Control

Only Council can approve amendments to this document by resolution of a Council Meeting, with the exception of administrative amendments which can be approved by the relevant ELT member. Refer to *Policy Instrument Development Manual* for an explanation on administrative amendments ([A4063988](#)).

Any requests to change the content of this document must be forwarded to relevant Service Manager(s). Approved documents must be submitted to the Corporate Meetings and Registers Team for registration.

Version Information

Version number	Date	Key Changes
3	December 2015	<p><u>Policy Objectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved “increase employment and boost the local economy’ to the top of the list. Replaced new Grants Unit with Community Grants Unit. Targeted Funding Allocations will be administered by the Community Grants unit. Contract Management Services Unit will provide advice has been removed. <p><u>Policy Statement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approving the distribution of funds will occur through Council’s operational budget process not at a General Meeting of Council.
4	June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of reference to group of Customer and Community Services to reflect recent structure change. Amend reporting mechanism to Council to the Operational Process through Business Intelligence.
5	November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative changes as a result of policy framework review.
6	June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delete references to repealed legislation and replace with in force legislation and section references. Update the Corporate Plan title to the current version. Update Policy Statement to align with current Corporate Plan. Delete reference to Redlands 2030 Community Plan (to be superseded by Council’s new Corporate Plan on 1 July 2021). Add new guidelines to the Associated Documents section.
7	March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative update to include reference to the new Corporate Plan
8	January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor administrative update to include reference to new Village Events Grant Guideline under Associated Documents section. Updated footer to reflect structure change and responsible Group from Community and Economic Development to Communities.

For Corporate Governance Use Only

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9	July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor administrative update to grants that are no longer current in associated documents and addition of Civic Support funding.
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