

8.4 Acceptance of Grant Funding - Regional NSW Planning Portal Grants

REPORT BY THE MANAGER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
TO 21 APRIL 2021 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400088, GRA600046

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager Economic Development on the Acceptance of Grant Funding - Regional NSW Planning Portal Grants;**
2. **if successful, accept \$50,000 in grant funding from the NSW Government Regional NSW Planning Portal Grant Fund;**
3. **if successful, amend the 2020/21 Budget to include grant funding received of \$50,000 and set project expenditure of \$50,000; and**
4. **if successful, authorise the General Manager to finalise and sign the funding agreement with the NSW Government.**

Executive summary

Council have been invited to apply for grant funding from the Regional NSW Planning Portal Grants fund. The intention of this grant is to support regional councils who are already using the portal and those still to transition to it.

The funding will help Council to improve its digital infrastructure and provide the resources needed to support the compulsory transition to the NSW Planning Portal by 1 July 2021.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

In November 2019 the NSW Premier mandated that ePlanning Digital Services (NSW Planning Portal) would become mandatory for councils to process all their planning applications by 1 July 2021.

The NSW Planning Portal aims to maximise efficiencies by replacing the paper-based system to enable the instant flow of development application data between the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department), council, industry, other government agencies and the community anywhere and anytime.

Council was invited to apply for a one-off grant payment of \$50,000 to support the transition to the portal. If successful, funding will be utilised to purchase necessary computer equipment, software integration and staff expenses related to the roll out of this program.

It is recommended, that if Council is successful in its application for funding, that it accept the grant funding towards the implementation of the eplanning Digital Services, authorise the General Manager to sign the funding agreement, amend Council's Budget for 2020-21, by increasing grant

funding by \$50,000 and allocating an additional \$50,000 expenditure towards the implementation of ePlanning Digital Services.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Looking After Our Community
Goal	Vibrant towns and villages
Strategy	Make available diverse, sustainable, adaptable and affordable housing options through effective land use planning

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Not Applicable

Council Policies

Not Applicable

Legislation

In November 2019 the NSW Premier mandated that ePlanning Digital Services (NSW Planning Portal) would become mandatory for councils to process all their planning applications by 1 July 2021.

Financial implications

This grant will positively impact Council’s own source revenue.

Budget Year	Operating Performance Ratio	Own Source Revenue	Building & Infrastructure Renewal
2020/21	-	✓	-
Future Years	-	-	-

Associated Risks

Should Council not effectively deliver the introduction of the NSW Planning Portal to residents, a range of planning applications may be delayed and service delivery interrupted to the community.

ALINA AZAR
MANAGER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JULIE ROBERTSON
DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

12 April 2021

Attachments: Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER