

10.3 Local Government Recovery Grants

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

TO 18 MAY 2022 ORDINARY MEETING

GOV400098, GRA600016

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Director Operations on the Local Government Recovery Grants;**
2. **accept \$1,000,000 in grant funding from the Australian and NSW Government under the Local Government Recovery Grants Program;**
3. **amend the 2021/2022 Operating Budget to allocate \$422,000 to recovery and repair activities caused by the March 2022 flood event including project management costs; and**
4. **amend the 2021/2022 Operating Budget to allocate \$578,000 for enhancement of Coricudgy Road via a seal extension project.**

Executive summary

Council has received \$1,000,000 under the Local Government Recovery Grants after making a declaration due to an event in March 2022. The Grant is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Government and was made to all eligible Councils that made a disaster declaration. The payments were made to Councils to assist them in undertaking immediate recovery activities, addressing emerging needs and help build community resilience.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

A \$1,000,000 payment has been made to Council to assist with recovery and resilience activities associated with a flooding event in March 2022. The funding has been provided in advance of any applications for funding.

The objective of the program is to deliver immediate flexible grants to local councils for projects which support economic and social recovery projects at a local level. Funding aims to support restoration and recovery activities that:

- Are eligible activities under Cat A and / or cat B of the DRFA; and /or
- Are not otherwise eligible through existing support measures, but can demonstrably strengthen community resilience and reduce the impact future natural disasters will have on communities.

The use of the funds is proposed to be used for immediate recovery works to damaged public assets and future resilience works by improving road access and serviceability of Coricudgy Road.

While Council is not required to wait for approval to commence works to restore damaged infrastructure, a list of the works must be submitted for approval within three months of receiving the funding. Resilience or enhancement works are subject to application and approval. These applications have not yet been made by Council as the process to facilitate these applications is yet to be released. If the project as per recommendation 4 is not formally supported through the application process, additional resilience projects will be considered and recommended to Council.

Council's assets that have been damaged and have been repaired or need repair are:

Nulla Mountain Road
Jack Tindale Park Roads
Rylstone Showground Roads
Rylstone Showground Tables
Sammy Flat Fence
Section of Coricudgy Road
Olinda - clean-up of trees and minor damage to Council roads and RFS tank

All works including enhancement works or other eligible projects must be completed by 30 June 2024.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Connecting Our Region
Goal	High quality road network that is safe and efficient
Strategy	Provide a roads network that balances asset conditions with available resources and community needs

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Not applicable

Council Policies

Not applicable

Legislation

Roads Act

Financial implications

The funding agreement provides for 100% grant funding that has been provided in advance of any application process. No contribution is required by Council. A budget allocation is recommended to accept the funding.

Budget Year	Operating Performance Ratio	Own Source Revenue	Building & Infrastructure Renewal
2019/20	—	✗	✓

Future Years	-	x	✓
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Associated Risks

The \$1,000,000 funding has been provided for Council's use ahead of any application process. Council has the obligation to ensure the funding is spent on eligible projects or there is the potential that grant funds will not be paid for ineligible projects.

It is quite clear that urgent repair works can be undertaken as part of the funding arrangement. To minimise risks, additional projects will not be committed to until formal applications are made and approved by the Office of Local Government and Resilience NSW. An application process is due to be released by the Office of Local Government via the Smarty Grants Portal to facilitate this process.

JULIAN GEDDES
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

4 May 2022

Attachments: Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER