

8.5 Acceptance of Grant Funding - NSW Government (Resources for Regions, Stronger Country Communities, Crown Reserves)

REPORT BY THE MANAGER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
TO 21 JULY 2021 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400088, GRA600044

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. receive the report by the Manager Economic Development on the Acceptance of Grant Funding - NSW Government (Resources for Regions, Stronger Country Communities, Crown Reserves);
2. if successful, accept the following grant funding from the below NSW Government grant funding bodies:

Grant Fund	Project	Amount
Stronger Country Communities Round 4	Rugby Union Scoreboard	\$348,116
Stronger Country Communities Round 4	Recreation Parks and Paths Upgrades	\$566,000
Resources for Regions	Vehicle & Pedestrian Bridge to Putta Bucca Road	\$3,108,000
Resources for Regions	Training Camp Facility – Stage 1	\$1,046,288
Crown Reserves Improvement Fund	Cudgegong Waters Toilet Block	\$380,000

3. amend the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 Budgets in accordance with the adjustments listed in the Financial Implications section of this report; and
4. if successful, authorise the General Manager to finalise and sign the funding agreements with the NSW Government.

Executive summary

Council has applied to a number of funding bodies for a range of projects identified in the Operational Plan and those that will support the overall goals of the Community Plan.

The three NSW Government funding bodies identified in this report are:

- Stronger Country Communities
- Resources for Regions
- Crown Reserves Improvement Fund

It is recommended, if successful in any of the above applications for funding, that Council accepts the grant funding, authorises the General Manager to sign the funding agreements and amends Council's Budget for 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

Stronger Country Communities

The total funding available for projects in the Mid-Western Regional Local Government Area (LGA) is \$914,116. Funding will be allocated to projects that meet the program assessment criteria which includes community support, and viability and alignment to the program objectives. It is strongly encouraged that applications totalling up to fifty percent of the funding allocation for each LGA are for projects that increase female participation in sport and enhance female sporting facilities. The following projects were identified as relevant and meeting the criteria of the grant fund.

Rugby Union Scoreboard	\$348,116
Mid-Western Region Recreation Parks upgrades, made up of the following:	\$566,000
<i>Replacement of bridge and steps at Rylstone Common</i>	\$40,000
<i>Kandos & Rylstone dog parks upgrades</i>	\$90,000
<i>Redhill pathway and landscaping</i>	\$40,000
<i>Gulgong pool carpark</i>	\$30,000
<i>Coronation Park irrigation upgrade</i>	\$30,000
<i>Victoria Park (Gulgong) upgrades</i>	\$20,000
<i>Victoria Park (Mudgee) sight screen and fencing replacement</i>	\$130,000
<i>Mudgee Common carpark</i>	\$50,000
<i>Passive Parks tree planting – Mudgee River Walk</i>	\$60,000
<i>Public Seating along pathways – Glen Willow to Lawson Park Loop Walk</i>	\$40,000
<i>Memorial Park Mudgee – pathway replacement</i>	\$32,000
<i>Signage installation in Region's passive parks</i>	\$21,000

Resources for Regions (Round 8)

The total funding available for projects in the Mid-Western Regional Local Government Area (LGA) is \$4,154,288. The Resources for Regions program has run since 2012, providing support to communities across regional NSW impacted by mining. The program will fund infrastructure projects and community programs that help address unique and diverse needs. Projects must be for infrastructure or community programs that support the ongoing prosperity of mining communities by providing economic opportunities, improved amenity and positive social outcomes. The following projects were identified as relevant and meeting the criteria of the grant fund.

Vehicle and Pedestrian Bridge to Putta Bucca Road	\$3,108,000
Training Camp Facility - Stage 1	\$1,046,288

Crown Reserves Improvement Fund

The Crown Reserves Improvement Fund Program (CRIF) provides financial support for the development, maintenance and protection of Crown reserves. One of the key objectives of the program is to maintain and develop recreational and tourism facilities on public reserves for community use and enjoyment, and support new tourism opportunities. The following project was identified as relevant and meeting the criteria of the grant fund.

Cudgegong Waters – New Amenity Block	\$380,000
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It is recommended, if Council is successful in its application for any of the above grant funding, that it accepts the grant funding, authorises the General Manager to sign the funding agreement and amends Council’s Budget for 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 by amounts noted.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Building a Strong Local Economy
Goal	An attractive business and economic environment
Strategy	Promote the Region as a great place to live, work, invest and visit

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

The identified projects support a number of Council strategies as identified in the Community Plan including the effective and efficient delivery of infrastructure. Further, projects above support Council’s strategy to enhance walking and cycling networks across the Region. In receiving grant funding for these projects, the goal of an effective and efficient organisation is also supported.

Council Policies

Nil

Legislation

Nil

Financial implications

The following adjustments are required to the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 Budgets.

<p>Rugby Union Scoreboard In 2021/22, set an expenditure budget of \$348,116, to be funded by grants.</p>
<p>Replacement of bridge and steps at Rylstone Common In 2021/22 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$40,000, to be funded by \$20,000 Asset Replacement Reserve and \$20,000 by grants. This is to be updated to: In 2021/22 \$40,000 to be fully funded by grants</p>
<p>Kandos & Rylstone dog parks upgrades In 2021/22 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$25,000, to be funded by Community Plan Reserve. In 2022/23 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$25,000, to be funded by Community Plan Reserve. This is to be updated to: In 2021/22 set an expenditure budget of \$90,000 to be fully-funded by grants. In 2022/23 remove the budget allocation.</p>
<p>Redhill pathway and landscaping In 2021/22 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$40,000, to be funded by \$20,000 Community Plan Reserve and \$20,000 by grants. This is to be updated to: In 2021/22 \$40,000 to be fully funded by grants.</p>
<p>Gulgong Pool carpark In 2021/22 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$30,000, to be funded by Community Plan Reserve. This is to be updated to: In 2021/22 \$30,000 to be fully funded by grants.</p>
<p>Coronation Park irrigation upgrade In 2021/22 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$30,000, to be funded by Asset Replacement Reserve. This is to be updated to: In 2021/22 \$30,000 be fully funded by grants</p>
<p>Victoria Park -Gulgong upgrades In 2021/22 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$20,000, to be funded by Asset Replacement Reserve. This is to be updated to: In 2021/22 \$20,000 to be fully funded by grants.</p>
<p>Victoria Park - Mudgee sight screen, and fencing replacement In 2021/22 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$70,000 to be funded from Community Plan Reserve. In 2022/23 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$60,000 to be funded from Community Plan Reserve. This is to be updated to: In 2021/22 expenditure budget of \$130,000, to be fully funded by grants. In 2022/23 remove budget allocation.</p>
<p>Mudgee Common carpark In 2021/22 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$50,000, to be funded by Community Plan Reserve. This is to be updated to: In 2021/22 \$50,000 to be fully funded by grants.</p>
<p>Passive Parks Tree Planting – Mudgee River Walk In 2021/22 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$25,000 to be funded from Community Plan</p>

<p>Reserve. In 2022/23 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$25,000 to be funded from Community Plan Reserve. In 2023/24 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$70,000 to be funded from Community Plan Reserve. This is to be updated to: In 2021/22 set an expenditure budget of \$60,000, to be fully funded by grants. In 2022/23 remove budget allocation. In 2023/24 reduce expenditure budget to \$15,000 to be funded from Community Plan Reserve.</p>
<p>Public Seating along pathways – Glen Willow – Lawson Park Loop Walk In 2021/22 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$40,000, to be funded by Developer Contributions. This is to be updated to: In 2021/22 \$40,000 to be fully funded by grants.</p>
<p>Memorial Park Mudgee – Pathway Replacement In 2021/22 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$32,000, to be funded by Community Plan Reserve. This is to be updated to: In 2021/22 \$32,000 to be fully funded by grants.</p>
<p>Signage installation in Region’s Passive Parks In 2021/22 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$7,000 to be funded from Unrestricted Cash. In 2022/23 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$7,000 to be funded from Unrestricted Cash. In 2023/24 budget there is an expenditure budget of \$7,000 to be funded from Unrestricted Cash. This is to be updated to: In 2021/22 set an expenditure budget of \$21,000, to be fully-funded by grants. In 2022/23 remove budget allocation. In 2023/24 remove budget allocation.</p>
<p>Cudgegong Waters Toilet Block In 2021/22 set an expenditure budget of \$380,000 to be funded by grants.</p>
<p>Vehicle and Pedestrian Bridge to Putta Bucca Road In 2021/22 set an expenditure budget of \$3,108,000 to be funded by grants.</p>
<p>Training Camp Facility – Stage 1 In 2021/22 set an expenditure budget of \$100,000 to be funded by grants. In 2022/23 set an expenditure budget of \$946,288 to be funded by grants. <i>* See below for more information on the staging of this project in Associated Risks.</i></p>

Budget Year	Operating Performance Ratio	Own Source Revenue	Building & Infrastructure Renewal
2021/22	-	✘	✔
Future Years	✘	✘	✘

Operating Performance Ratio

Increased expenditure on new capital infrastructure does not impact operating performance ratios in the current budget year, but will increase depreciation expenditure in future years, which has a negative impact on the Operating Performance Ratio. Any anticipated income will offset this impact, but at this stage, no income budget variations are recommended.

Own Source Revenue

Acceptance of external funding such as grants will cause this ratio to decline.

Building and Infrastructure Renewals

Introducing new budgets to construct new infrastructure such as the Rugby Union Scoreboard, Cudgegong Waters Toilet Block and Training Camp Facility – Stage 1 will increase asset depreciation in future years causing this ratio to decline.

Associated Risks

TRAINING CAMP FACILITY – STAGE 1

It should be noted in this report, that this budget allocation is for Stage 1 of this project, and future funds will have to be allocated for the full completion of this project. In order to accept grant funding, an approved budget has to be in place. This report seeks that budget allocation for acceptance of funding purposes.

A further report will be brought to Council detailing the business case for this project to proceed, and the full budget required, including whole of life costs and revenue streams.

There is a risk that the feasibility of this project will not be proven and funding for this project will require reallocation to a different project. Management currently assess this risk as low, but will not be able to advise on feasibility until the Business Case is complete.

ALINA AZAR
MANAGER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JULIE ROBERTSON
DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

23 June 2021

Attachments: Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER