

8.4 Acceptance of Grant Funding - Building Better Regions Fund Round 5

REPORT BY THE MANAGER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
TO 03 NOVEMBER 2021 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400088, GRA600044

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager Economic Development on the Acceptance of Grant Funding - Building Better Regions Fund Round 5;**
2. **accept \$20,000 in grant funding from the Commonwealth Government's Building Better Regions Fund – Round 5;**
3. **amend the 2021/22 Budget by allocating a Project Budget of \$10,000 to Regional Energy Zone Economic opportunities identification, to be funded by Grants;**
4. **amend the 2022/23 Budget by allocating a Project Budget of \$10,000 to Regional Energy Zone Economic opportunities identification, to be funded by Grants; and**
5. **authorise the General Manager to finalise and sign the funding agreements with the Commonwealth Government.**

Executive summary

Council has been successful in an application to the Commonwealth Government Building Better Regions Fund for \$20,000 towards a new project to identify economic opportunities that will emerge from the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil.

Detailed report

In the Mid-Western Region and surrounds, there is over 3,472 MW of energy output either fully commissioned, under construction or going through NSW Government State Significant Development Assessment. These projects to date are \$2.8B worth of investment. However, at this time, community and businesses in the Mid-Western region do not benefit from the majority of this investment in renewable energy as materials, components and the workforce for construction are imported into the region either domestically or internationally.

The key outcome of this project is to identify and understand all elements of the supply chain in these projects, so that economic value can be captured and retained in the region. This project will increase the skillset of local businesses by identifying new opportunities to increase and diversify operations. This will provide new business opportunities to service the local renewable construction projects, as well as projects outside the Mid-Western Region.

An external consultant will be engaged to deliver this project, commencing in January 2022, with completion of the project by December 2022.

It is recommended that Council accepts the grant funding, authorises the General Manager to sign the funding agreements and amend Council's Budget for 2021/22 and 2022/23, by allocating a Project Budget of \$20,000 to REZ economic opportunities development project, to be funded by Grants.

Community Plan implications

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Theme | Building a Strong Local Economy |
| Goal | A prosperous and diversified economy |
| Strategy | Support the attraction and retention of a diverse range of businesses and industries |

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

This project links to Council's strategy to support the attraction and retention of a diverse range of businesses and industries. Further it supports Council's strategy to encourage the development of a skilled and flexible workforce to satisfy local industry and business requirements.

Council Policies

Not Applicable.

Legislation

Not Applicable.

Financial implications

This identified project is fully-funded by grants.

| Budget Year | Operating Performance Ratio | Own Source Revenue | Building & Infrastructure Renewal |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2021/22 | ✓ | ✗ | - |
| Future Years | ✓ | ✗ | - |

Associated Risks

Nil.

ALINA AZAR
MANAGER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JULIE ROBERTSON
DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

14 October 2021

Attachments: Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER