

Item 9: Finance

9.1 Community Grants Program - February 2022

REPORT BY THE FINANCIAL PLANNING COORDINATOR

TO 16 FEBRUARY 2022 ORDINARY MEETING

GOV400088, FIN3000159, GOV400098

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Financial Planning Coordinator on the Community Grants Program - February 2022;**
2. **provide financial assistance to the following applications in accordance with the criteria and guidelines of the Community Grants Policy, and:**

| | |
|---|--------|
| Mudgee Show Society | 5,000 |
| Australian Rural Education Centre Co-op Ltd | 5,000 |
| CWA Mudgee | 5,000 |
| Anglican Church of Rylstone and Kandos | 750 |
| Riding for the Disabled Association NSW Mudgee Centre | 20,000 |
| Gulgong Show Society | 3,000 |
| Rylstone, Ilford-Running stream & Kandos CWA | 1,875 |

3. **decline to provide financial assistance to the following applicants, for the reasons provided in the report:**

- **Rotary Club of Mudgee Inc. and Rotary Club of Mudgee Sunrise Inc.**
- **Gulgong Golf Club**

Executive summary

This report considers requests for financial assistance under Council's Community Grants Program Policy.

Provision is made in Council's Community Grants Program Policy to provide financial assistance to not-for-profit community-based organisations, groups and individuals that offer a significant contribution to community outcomes and goals as provided in the Towards 2030 Community Plan.

All applications were first reviewed for eligibility and then assessed by a panel of three staff against the following criteria relative to the amount of funding requested:

- Degree of benefit to the community aligned with the community plan.

- Level of consultation and collaboration with other local groups.
- Organisational capacity to deliver the program or project.

Even though an application meets the criteria it may be judged that there is not a significant enough benefit to the community in order to fund or fully fund the request. A summary of each application is shown below, together with panel recommendations.

| Applicant | Project/Activity | Funding Request \$ | Total Score out of 9 | Recommended Amount \$ |
|---|---|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mudgee Show Society | Mudgee Show and Rodeo | 5,000 | 9 | 5,000 |
| Gulgong Golf Club | Tree Planting in the golf course | 2,500 | 3 | - |
| Australian Rural Education Centre Co-op Ltd | Reimbursement of Council rates and water for 2020-2021 FY | 14,050 | 10 | 5,000 |
| CWA Mudgee | CWA Mudgee 100 year history book | 10,000 | 6 | 5,000 |
| Anglican Church of Rylstone and Kandos | 100 year anniversary of St Laurence Kandos | 1,500 | 6 | 750 |
| Riding for the Disabled Association NSW Mudgee Centre | Shed walls/lined and fit out completion | 40,000 | 9 | 20,000 |
| Gulgong Show Society | Gulgong rural agriculture show | 3,000 | 10 | 3,000 |
| Rylstone, Ilford-Running stream & Kandos CWA | International Women's Day Luncheon | 2,500 | 7 | 1,875 |
| Rotary Club of Mudgee Inc. and Rotary Club of Mudgee Sunrise Inc. | Mudgee Showground Carols | 1,634.18 | 9 | 0 |
| Total | | | | 45,625 |

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

The information provided below gives more detail on each application and the scoring against the policy criteria. Copies of all applications are provided as attachments to the report.

Mudgee Show Society

Mudgee Show Society requests \$5,000 for the annual Mudgee Show and Rodeo. This is a Family event that brings competition, fun and exhibits to Mudgee. Competitors and Spectators travel from a vast region to attend and compete and display their works. Family fun day out with entertainment and competitions.

Link to Community Plan: 1.4.1 Support programs which strengthen the relationships between the range of community groups 1.4.2 Support arts and cultural development across the Region, 1.2.1 Respect and enhance the historic character of our Region and heritage value of our towns

COMMUNITY GRANT CATEGORY

Community Grants Category - Community Events: Cap \$ 5,000

RECOMMENDATION:

\$ 5,000

The Panel scored the application as 9 and there appear to be significant benefits linked with the objectives of Councils Community Plan so the full amount requested was recommended.

Gulgong Golf Club

Gulgong Golf Club requests \$2,500 for Tree Planting in the golf course. Planting tube stock trees to restore the course for the benefit of the community and environment as lots of trees have been lost due to drought and age.

Link to Community Plan: 1.2.1 Respect and enhance the historic character of our Region and heritage value of our towns 1.1.3 Support networks, program and facilities which promote health and wellbeing and encourage healthy lifestyles, 1.2.4 Maintain and promote the aesthetic appeal of the towns and villages within the Region

COMMUNITY GRANT CATEGORY

Community Grants Category - Specific Program/ Project: Cap \$10,000

RECOMMENDATION:

\$ 0

The Panel scored the application as 3 and there does not appear to be significant benefits linked with the objectives of Councils Community Plan so no amount was recommended.

Australian Rural Education Centre Co-op Ltd

Australian Rural Education Centre Co-op Ltd requests \$14,050 for Reimbursement of Council rates and water for 2020-2021 financial year. AREC is a local, non for profit registered charity. The Mudgee small farm field days are the single largest annual event in the Mid-Western region, which brings millions of dollars into the local economy each year. Numerous community organisations and local businesses benefit significantly from the event. The 2020 and 2021 Field days had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, which has resulted in the loss of almost two entire yearly income and caused significant financial distress. It is in the entire Mid-Western region community's best interest that the Field days remain financially viable so they continue into the future.

Link to Community Plan: 1.4.1 Support programs which strengthen the relationships between the range of community groups 3.1.1 Support the attraction and retention of a diverse range of businesses and industries, 3.2.1 Promote the Region as a great place to live, work, invest and visit

COMMUNITY GRANT CATEGORY

Community Grants Category - In kind Grant: Cap \$ 5,000

RECOMMENDATION:

\$ 5,000

The Panel scored the application as 10 and there appear to be significant benefits linked with the objectives of Councils Community Plan but has a cap of \$ 5,000 so cap amount was recommended. They currently have a dispute going on with council regarding water rates and have not paid it since 2021 FY.

CWA Mudgee

CWA Mudgee requests \$10,000 to publish a book on the 100 years history of CWA Mudgee. Our 100 year anniversary will be in May 2022 and it is hoped to have a book to launch at that time. We have a lot of history and volunteer to research and draft the book. This would be of significant cultural value to the community and preservation of the local history for generations to come.

Link to Community Plan: 1.4.2 Support arts and cultural development across the Region 1.2.1 Respect and enhance the historic character of our Region and heritage value of our towns, 1.4.1 Support programs which strengthen the relationships between the range of community groups

COMMUNITY GRANT CATEGORY

Community Grants Category - Specific Program/ Project: Cap \$10,000

RECOMMENDATION:

\$ 5,000

The Panel scored the application as 6 and there appear to be medium benefits linked with the objectives of Councils Community Plan so 50% of the amount requested was recommended.

Anglican Church of Rylstone and Kandos

Anglican Church of Rylstone and Kandos requests \$1,500 for 100 year anniversary of St Laurence Kandos. A church celebration service for 100 years since St Laurence began church services. St Laurence has limited capacity and we anticipate a gathering of people for this occasion beyond its size. We are requesting that Jaques Street be closed for the time. However, in the event of wet weather, we would like to use the Kandos Community Centre

Link to Community Plan: 3.2.1 Promote the Region as a great place to live, work, invest and visit 1.4.2 Support arts and cultural development across the Region, 1.4.1 Support programs which strengthen the relationships between the range of community groups

COMMUNITY GRANT CATEGORY

Community Grants Category - Community Events: Cap \$ 5,000

RECOMMENDATION:

\$ 750

The Panel scored the application as 6 and there appear to be medium benefits linked with the objectives of Councils Community Plan so 50% of the amount requested was recommended.

Riding for the Disabled Association NSW Mudgee Centre

Riding for the Disabled Association NSW Mudgee Centre requests \$40,000 for Shed walls/lined and fit out completion. Line the walls of the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) shed with either Gyprock, timber sheeting or yellow tongue groove boards and then have a kitchenette fitted complete with a refrigerator and free standing stove. We would like the shed completed to celebrate RDA 10yrs in Mudgee and to offer a place for our riders/carers and volunteers to still participate in the RDA program in inclement weather.

Link to Community Plan: 1.1.3 Support networks, program and facilities which promote health and wellbeing and encourage healthy lifestyles 1.1.1 Maintain the provision of high quality, accessible community services that meet the needs of our community, 1.4.3 Provide equitable access to a range of places and spaces for all in the community

COMMUNITY GRANT CATEGORY

Capital Grants Category: Cap \$25,000 or 50% of the total project cost, whichever is the lower.

RECOMMENDATION:

\$ 20,000

The Panel scored the application as 9 and there appear to be significant benefits linked with the objectives of Councils Community Plan but has a cap of \$ 25,000 or 50% of the total project cost whichever is the lower, so the 50% of 40,000 was recommended.

Gulgong Show Society

Gulgong Show Society requests \$3,000 for Gulgong rural agriculture show. Gulgong rural agriculture show brings fun competitions and events for the local community and the region as a whole. It also brings many visitors to the town and support local businesses with our purchasing and hire of equipment.

Link to Community Plan: 1.4.1 Support programs which strengthen the relationships between the range of community groups 1.4.2 Support arts and cultural development across the Region, 3.1.1 Support the attraction and retention of a diverse range of businesses and industries

COMMUNITY GRANT CATEGORY

Community Grants Category - Community Events: Cap \$ 5,000

RECOMMENDATION:

\$ 3,000

The Panel scored the application as 10 and there appear to be significant benefits linked with the objectives of Councils Community Plan so the full amount requested was recommended.

Rylstone, Ilford-Running stream & Kandos CWA

Rylstone, Ilford-Running stream & Kandos CWA requests \$2,500 for International Women's Day Luncheon. 3 small town CWAs from Mid-Western Regional Council areas will host an International Women's Day Luncheon to celebrate "Breaking the Bias". The guest speaker is the renowned Jane Caro AM. Our local Wiradjuri people will open the day, and mental health professionals will also give a talk about dealing with COVID-19, isolation, drought and floods.

Link to Community Plan: 1.1.3 Support networks, program and facilities which promote health and wellbeing and encourage healthy lifestyles 1.1.2 Work with key partners and the community to lobby for effective health services in our Region, 1.4.1 Support programs which strengthen the relationships between the range of community groups

COMMUNITY GRANT CATEGORY

Community Grants Category - Community Events: Cap \$ 5,000

RECOMMENDATION:

\$ 1,875

The Panel scored the application as 7 and there appear to be medium benefits linked with the objectives of Councils Community Plan so 75% of the requested amount was recommended.

Rotary Club of Mudgee Inc. and Rotary Club of Mudgee Sunrise Inc.

The Rotary Club of Mudgee Inc. and Rotary Club of Mudgee Sunrise Inc.'s requests \$ 1,634.18 fee for the Mudgee Showground hire and bin hire be waived.

The Rotary Club of Mudgee Inc. and Rotary Club of Mudgee Sunrise Inc.'s application was previously assessed at the 21 July 2021 council meeting and they originally requested \$7,000 payment for Mudgee Showground Carols for the annual celebration of Christmas for Mudgee community. At this meeting it was resolved to provide financial assistance of \$5,000. This was the amount recommended as this was the Community Grant Category Cap.

In previous years this fee has been waived so they are requesting for it be waiver again for the recent event held 11 December 2021.

Link to Community Plan: 1.1.3 Support networks, program and facilities which promote health and wellbeing and encourage healthy lifestyles 1.4.1 Support programs which strengthen the relationships between the range of community groups

COMMUNITY GRANT CATEGORY

Community Grants Category - Community Events: Cap \$ 5,000 (including payment and fee waiver)

RECOMMENDATION:

\$ 0

The Panel had previously scored the application as 9 and received \$ 5,000 as payment. Thus the fee waiver requested plus previous amounts received was above the policy's Cap and therefore no fee waiver is recommended.

Community Plan implications

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Theme | Good Governance |
| Goal | An effective and efficient organisation |
| Strategy | Pursue efficiencies and ongoing business improvement |

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Not applicable

Council Policies

Recommendations are made under the Community Grants Program Policy.

Legislation

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 Section 356 granting of financial assistance must be approved by a Council resolution.

Financial implications

Funding of \$110,000 is provided in the Operational Plan for financial assistance plus an additional budget of \$106,196 approved, which brings to the total of \$ 216,196. Out of which \$144,253 has already been allocated, leaving a balance of \$71,943. Based on the scoring system above, the recommendation of staff is to provide \$40,625 in financial assistance. Should Council approve the recommendations in the report, a balance of \$31,318 will remain.

Associated Risks

Not applicable

AMANDA COVER
FINANCIAL PLANNING COORDINATOR

LEONIE JOHNSON
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

6 January 2022

Attachments: 1. Community Grants. (separately attached)

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER