

Item 10: Operations

10.1 Acceptance of Grant Funding - DRRF Local & Regional Risk Reduction Stream

REPORT BY THE MANAGER, INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING
TO 19 OCTOBER 2022 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400098, RIS900010

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. receive the report by the Manager, Infrastructure Planning;
2. accept \$130,000 in grant funding from Resilience NSW for the employment of a Resilience & Risk Reduction Officer within the organisation to assist with the planning and preparation for natural disasters;
3. allocate the allocate the following Budgets, fully funded by grant funding, as follows:
 - 3.1 amend the 2022/23 Budget to allocate \$43,333;
 - 3.2 amend the 2023/24 Budget to allocate \$86,667; and
4. authorise the General Manager to finalise and sign the funding agreement.

Executive summary

Resilience NSW is committed to supporting place-based initiatives that help communities prevent and mitigate natural disaster risks. In May 2022 the Local and Regional Stream of the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund was opened offering between \$50,000 to \$1.5 million to Councils, joint organisations of Councils' not-for-profits and other local groups.

Mid-Western Regional Council has been successful in application for \$130,000 in grant funding.

It is recommended that Council accept this funding for the employment of a Resilience and Risk Reduction Officer to assist with the planning and preparation for and recovery from natural disaster emergencies within our Region.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

Mid-Western Regional Council has a history of being affected by natural disasters, most recently AGRN 871 NSW bushfires, AGRN987 NSW severe weather & flooding, AGRN 1012 NSW severe

weather, flooding and COVID-19 pandemic. This has had significant social, economic and ecological impact on the local government area, its businesses as well as the wellbeing of its residents.

In 2021 the Local Emergency Management Committee undertook a review of the Local EMPLAN and risk assessment of potential emergencies, the outcome being more than 20 potential hazards assessed as having a risk priority of moderate to extreme. This highlights the vulnerability of the region to natural disasters and emergencies which could be mitigated by planning and preparation.

For those communities affected by the most recent bushfires, severe storms/floods as well as the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, they remain in the recovery phase and are vulnerable and much work needs to be done to assist the building of resilience of individuals and within the community.

Currently there exists no dedicated role within Local Government to address the above. This funding to be received will assist with the employment of a suitably qualified person for an 18 month period, on a part time basis, to assist with the planning and preparation for future events as well as recovery of the communities affected by the most recent events.

Such activities may include:

- The development of a Local Recovery Guide.
- Participating in or developing strategic planning activities or exercises related to risk reduction of natural hazards, including community focused disaster risk reduction, plans, policies, frameworks and strategies.
- Supporting the Local Emergency Management Committee and its member emergency services agencies in planning response to future events.
- Assisting and planning with the emergency services events that will educate the community in how to best prepare, plan and respond to natural disaster emergencies if and when they arise.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Looking After Our Community
Goal	A safe and healthy community
Strategy	Support networks, program and facilities which promote health and wellbeing and encourage healthy lifestyles

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Not Applicable

Council Policies

Not Applicable

Legislation

Not Applicable

Financial implications

The funding has been approved by Resilience NSW under the following conditions:

- All funded resilience officer roles include an upper limit of 32% on-costs.
- The role created is temporary for up to 18 months.

The funding agreement will provide for 100% grant funding for the project. No contribution will be required to be made by Council. Upon acceptance of terms of agreement the following budget adjustments are recommended:

Amend	2022/23 Budget	\$ 43,333
	2023/24 Budget	\$ 86,667

Budget Year	Operating Performance Ratio	Own Source Revenue	Building & Infrastructure Renewal
2022/23	—	×	—
Future Years	—	×	—

Associated Risks

There is the potential risk of not finding a suitable candidate for the role. This being the case Council may be able to apply for an extension of time for the funding to allow additional time to employ someone in the role, and if rejected, may return the grant to the funding body.

RAY KEARNS
MANAGER, INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

JULIAN GEDDES
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

27 September 2022

Attachments: Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER