

Item 11: Community

11.1 Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund Grants

REPORT BY THE MANAGER, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES
TO 16 NOVEMBER 2022 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400098, A0060009, RIS900010, GRA600048, FIN300379

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager, Community & Cultural Services on the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund Grants; and**
2. **provide financial assistance to the following applications in accordance with the criteria and guidelines of the Community Grants Policy:**
 - **Hargraves Bush Fire Brigade** **\$27,670**
 - **Mid-Western Mentoring** **\$10,000**
 - **Lawson Bush Fire Brigade** **\$12,415**
 - **Rylstone & District Historical Society** **\$12,415**
3. **decline to provide financial assistance to the following applicants, for the reasons provided in the report:**
 - **NSW RFS Heritage; and**
 - **North Balgowlah Earthmoving Pty Ltd.**

Executive summary

This report considers requests for financial assistance under Council's Community Grants Policy, specifically its Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund.

Provision is made in Council's Community Grants Program Policy to provide financial assistance to not-for-profit community-based organisations and individuals that offer a significant contribution to community outcomes and goals as provided in the Towards 2040 Community Plan.

Specifically, the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund Grants Category focuses on projects that meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Improve community capacity, capability and resilience.
- Improve community connectedness, identity of place and cultural heritage.
- Improve and build regional and community knowledge.
- Assist in local preparedness to future disasters and hazards.
- Promote future disaster resilience following the bushfires.
- Promote community well-being.
- Support social and broader community recovery.

- Support commemoration.

The applications are also reviewed first for eligibility and then assessed 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. In any event, total requests for funding (approximately \$184,000) far exceeded the value of the fund itself (\$62,500). A summary of each recommended application is shown below:

Applicant	Project/Activity	Funding request (\$)	Total Score out of 9	Recommended grant amount (\$)
Hargraves Bush Fire Brigade (application auspiced by NSW Rural Fire Service)	Supply and installation of 160,000L water tank for firefighting operations	27,760	6	27,760
Mid-Western Mentoring	Leadership program for local small business operators	10,000	7	10,000
Lawson Bush Fire Brigade (application auspiced by NSW Rural Fire Service)	Construction of three bay shed at Mudgee Airport to house firefighting equipment utilised for aerial operations	40,015	6	12,415
Rylstone & District Historical Society	Research, supply and installation of heritage plaques to enhance/extend self-guided history walks	35,000	6	12,415
TOTAL				62,500

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

The information provided below gives more detail on each application and the scoring against the policy criteria.

Hargraves Bush Fire Brigade (application auspiced by NSW Rural Fire Service)

Hargraves Bush Fire Brigade requests \$27,670 for the supply and installation of a 160,000L water tank (and associated plumbing) to assist with future firefighting operations in the Hargraves area and to enhance the Neighbourhood Safer Place located at the station.

Links to Community Plan:

- 1.1.1 Maintain the provision of high quality, accessible community services that meet the needs of our community.
- 1.1.4 Work with key partners and the community to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and improve community health and safety.

1.3.1 Provide infrastructure and services to cater for the current and future needs of our community.

Recommendation:

\$27,760

This application scored six points and there are significant links with the project's objectives to that of Council's Community Plan. There is also a clear link between the project and the intent of the funding. Further, water tank was originally considered in the aftermath of the 2019-2020 Black Summer Bushfires, but the project did not proceed at the time. The full amount of funding requested is recommended.

Any grant for this funding request must not be construed as Council consent to undertake the works noted. Any works or activities by the Hargraves Bush Fire Brigade or NSW Rural Fire Service must be subject to planning permissions and legislative obligations and restrictions as in place from time to time.

Mid-Western Mentoring

Mid-Western Mentoring requests \$10,000 for a nine-month leadership program for local small business operators, providing mentoring and networking opportunities.

Links to Community Plan:

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.

3.2.2 Provide leadership on economic development initiatives and identify resources and infrastructure required to drive investment and economic growth in the Region.

Recommendation:

\$10,000

This is a strong application with several links to Council's Community Plan, experience in delivering the project in past years, multiple opportunities for collaboration and thorough business planning and consultation with a broad range of stakeholders. The application scored a solid seven points and full amount of funding requested is, therefore, recommended.

Lawson Bush Fire Brigade (application auspiced by NSW Rural Fire Service)

Lawson Bush Fire Brigade requests \$40,015 to construct a three-bay shed at Mudgee Airport to house firefighting equipment utilised in support for aerial firefighting operations during bush fire emergencies. The Brigade has noted to funding in part would also be welcome.

Links to Community Plan:

1.1.1 Maintain the provision of high quality, accessible community services that meet the needs of our community.

1.1.4 Work with key partners and the community to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and improve community health and safety.

1.3.1 Provide infrastructure and services to cater for the current and future needs of our community.

Recommendation:

\$12,415

This grant application links to a number of actions within Council's Community Plan and scored six points. The application, however, does not detail whether the applicant has the necessary permissions to undertake this project. It is also considered that any funding granted will actually

support responsibilities of NSW Rural Fire Service, rather than the Lawson Bush Fire Brigade itself. Partial funding only, therefore, is recommended, together with the proviso below.

Any grant for this funding request must not be construed as Council consent to undertake the works noted. Any works or activities by the Lawson Bush Fire Brigade or NSW Rural Fire Service undertaken at Mudgee Airport must be subject to Service Level Agreements (or other agreements) that exist between Council and the NSW Rural Fire Service (or its brigades) (as well as planning permissions and legislative obligations and restrictions) as required from time to time.

Rylstone & District Historical Society

Rylstone & District Historical Society applies for \$35,000 to research, supply and install heritage plaques around historic buildings and sites in Rylstone and Kandos as well as outlying villages.

Links to Community Plan:

1.2.1 Respect and enhance the historic character of our Region and heritage value of our towns and villages.

1.2.4 Maintain and promote the aesthetic appeal of the towns and villages within the Region.

1.4.1 Support programs which strengthen the relationships between the range of community groups.

Recommendation:

\$12,415

This application clearly supports the objectives of the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund by supporting commemoration and scored six points. Given the limitation of this funding, and the applicant's capacity to successfully apply for other funding streams in the past, only partial payment of the requested amount is recommended.

Any grant from this funding request must not be construed as Council consent to erect signage as contemplated by the application. All regulatory permissions must still be sought and obtained as required.

NSW Rural Fire Service Heritage

NSW Rural Fire Service Heritage applies for \$8,843.57 for the purchase of items at a Community Engagement Centre at Mudgee Airport.

Links to Community Plan:

1.2.1 Respect and enhance the historic character of our Region and heritage value of our towns and villages.

3.2.1 Promote the Region as a great place to live, work, invest and visit.

Recommendation:

\$0

Given the limited links to Council's Community Plan, together with limited demonstration of experience in delivering a similar project, this application only scored five points and it is not recommended that it be supported.

North Balgowlah Earth Moving Pty Ltd

This application was received on 9 October 2022 (almost one month after submissions closed) and, therefore, not assessed.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Looking After Our Community
Goal	Effective and efficient delivery of infrastructure
Strategy	Provide infrastructure and services to cater for the current and future needs of our community

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Not Applicable

Council Policies

Recommendations are made under the Community Grants Program Policy.

Legislation

Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that a council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.

Financial implications

Funding of \$62,500 for the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund Grants Category is provided in Council's Operational Plan for financial assistance. Funding requests will exhaust this budget in the event that Council endorses the recommendations outlined above.

Associated Risks

Not Applicable

FIONA SHEARMAN
MANAGER, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL
SERVICES

SIMON JONES
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

10 October 2022

Attachments: Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER