

11.3 Village Subsidy Review 2023/24

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY
TO 15 FEBRUARY 2023 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400103, FIN300052

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Director Community on the Village Subsidy Review 2023/24; and**
2. **note the recommendations on the payment of village subsidies for 2023-2024.**

Executive summary

A number of village community groups in the Mid-Western Regional Council area currently receive an annual village subsidy to maintain a variety of parks, sports facilities and buildings. This report details a recommended increase in the village subsidy to further support the work undertaken by volunteers in our village communities.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

A review has been undertaken of the village subsidy payments and the recommended amounts are set out in this report. The main subsidy is recommended to increase from \$1500 to \$2000 for each group representing a 33.3% increase. It is noted that there has been no increase since the 2015/16 financial year.

It is noted that the subsidy for Goolma remains at a higher level than other villages. This relates to the additional work undertaken on facilities at Goolma, including the support of the public toilet block and the payment of electricity. The Hargraves Village subsidy has been reduced to come in to line with all other villages. This is because they are no longer able to provide the higher level of service in terms of parks maintenance.

For the 2022/23 financial year, correspondence has been sent to seventeen village organisations who currently receive the annual subsidy on the 15th July, 2022 including village subsidy payment letter and village subsidy contact and financial information form. (17 villages were contacted, 12 returned a response).

As with previous years, subsidies are paid on return of annual information regarding contact details, bank details and insurance information. Where no response is received, payment is not made and is not carried forward to a future year.

The following village subsidies are recommended for the 2023/24 financial year:

Village	2023/24	2022/23
Birriwa Sportsground Trust*	2,000.00	1,500.00

Botobolar Community Committee	2,000.00	1,500.00
Bungaba Progress Association	2,000.00	1,500.00
Bylong Hall Committee*	2,000.00	1,500.00
Cooks Gap & District Progress Association	2,000.00	1,500.00
Cooyal Sportsground Trust	2,000.00	1,500.00
Grattai CWA branch	2,000.00	1,500.00
Goolma Amenities Committee	4,000.00	2,400.00
Hargraves Progress Association	2,000.00	2,400.00
Ilford Hall Trust	2,000.00	1,500.00
Lue Hall and Recreation Committee*	2,000.00	1,500.00
Meroo Hall Trust	2,000.00	1,500.00
Mullamuddy Rural Fire Brigade*	2,000.00	1,500.00
Olinda Community Hall Committee*	2,000.00	1,500.00
Pyramul Recreation Ground Trust	2,000.00	1,500.00
Running Stream Reserve Trust	2,000.00	1,500.00
Windeyer Progress Association Inc.	2,000.00	1,500.00

*Villages where response was not received.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Looking After Our Community
Goal	Vibrant towns and villages
Strategy	Maintain and promote the aesthetic appeal of the towns and villages within the region

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Community Strategic Plan
 Open Spaces and Recreation Asset Management Plan

Council Policies

Not Applicable

Legislation

Not Applicable

Financial implications

Village subsidies are provided from the existing village subsidy budget. No increase to this budget is proposed.

Associated Risks

Village subsidies can play an important function by engaging with the local village community to take ownership of the various open spaces and buildings in their area. Without the work of the village groups, it may become more expensive for Council to provide the same levels of service or a lower standard of service would be delivered.

SIMON JONES
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

6 January 2023

Attachments: Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER