

# COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT GRANTS PROGRAMME GUIDELINES

## OVERVIEW

### Intent / Purpose

Fraser Coast Regional Council's Community Grants Policy supports the Goals outlined in Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2023. [www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/corporate-plan](http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/corporate-plan)

- To be a diverse, strong and well governed region of vibrant places, with an innovative and diverse economy and connected as a whole by our community spirit and respect for our natural environment.
- To make a positive difference for the region and the lives of our community members by ensuring we provide a service that is forward looking and well managed.

Council determines the total allocation of funds to the community grants programme through its annual budgetary processes. The number and types of grants approved by Council will depend on the demand for funding, the available programme budget and corporate priorities. In some instances, part funding may be offered. Funding priorities for individual grant programmes will be regularly reviewed to ensure their relevance and they continue to meet Council objectives.

### Objectives

- Provide identified and measurable social, community or economic benefits to the Fraser Coast communities;
- Align with Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

This Programme is intended to:

- Provide community organisations with support to meet identified community needs
- Build community skills, capacity and resilience
- Develop and maintain community infrastructure
- Provide opportunities for community organisations to leverage Council's assistance to obtain funding from other sources
- Provide opportunities for community organisations to assist Council to deliver on Council's strategic goals and identified key initiatives

### Grant available

Not-for-profit community based organisations can apply for **up to \$2,000** to assist with projects that make a positive and ongoing contribution to the Fraser Coast's biodiversity, environment and waterways values. Assistance may be provided as cash or through the provision of in-kind Council services. The level of assistance available through the programme is limited by Council's budget decisions and priorities. No applicant can be guaranteed funding, nor can an applicant be guaranteed funding of the full amount requested. Previous grant success does not guarantee future grant applications will be approved. Applicants should consider these limitations when preparing their request for assistance.

A minimum 20% (reviewed annually) input to the proposed activity/project by the applicant is required (in either funds, labour or in-kind support) for community grant scheme funding.

An unsuccessful application does not mean that the project or activity is not worthy of support.

### Logistics

There will be one funding round per financial year. Projects cannot start until a Funding Agreement has been signed by the applicant and Council. Projects and activities are to be completed within twelve months of the approval date (unless a variation has been approved).

### Assistance, Assessment and Approval Responsibilities

Council's Community Engagement and Development Unit is available to assist local groups to develop and submit project applications. Applications will be assessed by an appointed Assessment Panel. The Panel will comprise a Fraser Coast Regional Council Councillor, a community representative and up to three specialist Council staff. Secretariat and advisory services to the Assessment Panel are provided by Council's Grants Officer and Executive Manager Economy and Community or other nominated delegates.

## ELIGIBILITY

### Who can apply to Council's Community Environment Grants Programme?

Not for profit incorporated community organisations can apply for a Community Grant provided they meet the following criteria:

- The organisation:
  - Is based within the Fraser Coast local government area;
  - Is a legal not for profit entity, complying with all incorporation requirements of the State and Commonwealth as at the closing date for the grant programme;
  - Has appropriate insurances and adheres to sound Workplace Health and Safety practices;
  - Has not received other Council funding for the same project, event or programme except from Councillor Discretionary Funds from which top-up funding is acceptable;
  - Has met acquittal conditions for any previous Council grants;
  - Has no debt to Council outside standard trading terms, or has entered into scheduled payment arrangements with Council that is being adhered to;
  - Can provide the latest Audited Financial Statement no more than 2 years old.
- The project or activity is aligned with Council's strategic goals and priorities and benefits the residents of the Fraser Coast Regional Council Local Government area.

If a community group is not incorporated and seeks to apply for a Grant, the group is able to do so provided that the application is auspiced and administered by an incorporated not-for-profit community organisation that is willing and able to accept legal and financial responsibility for the grant.

### Who cannot apply to Council's Community Environment Grants Programme?

- Government agencies or Departments of local, state or federal government;
- Educational, religious, political or medical organisations, where the application is for the organisation's core business – significant broader community benefit must be demonstrated in the application;
- Commercial businesses and enterprises – except for Events Grants as specified in those Guidelines;
- Individuals;
- Not for profit community organisations with a liquor licensed supporters / associated club that commercially trades seven days a week (may apply for Events Grants only).

### Council will not consider applications that:

- Are retrospective and are for projects/activities that have already commenced;
- Are incomplete or applications that do not include all the required supporting documentation as provided for in these guidelines or the application form;
- Do not support Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2023;
- Do not comply with any applicable legislative requirements;
- Request funding for general operating costs;
- Cause offence to disadvantaged or minority groups;
- Promote gambling, smoking and/or consumption of other addictive substances;
- Are for activities or services run solely for fundraising or charitable purposes; and
- Might be funded from other sources. Council assistance will be provided to applicants where other funding sources are identified during assessment.

### Selection Criteria

Organisations will need to demonstrate:

- Project need and how it was identified.
- The community benefit from the planned activity or project;
- Expected outcomes of the planned activity or project and how these will be measured;
- Willingness to work cooperatively and collaboratively with other organisations where appropriate;
- A significant input to the project by the applicant (in either funds, labour or in-kind support) (20% reviewed annually).

## APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESSES

1. Council will publicise availability of its grants programmes on Council's website and social media sites, in the local paper and by direct email to individuals/organisations listed on the Grants Distribution list. Council will undertake ongoing engagement and capacity building with the community, assisting applicants to identify and develop projects.
2. Council's grant programmes are based on-line.  
The application form can be previewed prior to commencement of the application, and a pdf file can be printed from the final (review) page once an application has been commenced.  
**The online form is the only method for submitting an application.**  
If an applicant does not have access to a computer, Council libraries can provide access to a computer and the internet and some initial guidance to enable access to the application form.  
Once an application has been started, a number of people within the organisation can work on the application using the same login and password (only one person can be logged in at a time).  
Council officers are available to provide advice to community organisations. They can assist organisations to identify additional and/or alternative sources of funding relevant to their project or activity. For help with the questions within the application form, assistance can be provided by Council's Community Development and Engagement Team. Contact information is contained within the application form.
3. Quotes must be submitted with the application for all items over \$500.
4. When applications are submitted, the applicant will receive an email confirmation of lodgement and a copy of the submitted application for the organisation's records.
5. Organisational and project eligibility will be assessed by the Grants Officer. If the grant round has not yet closed, and errors are identified, the Grants Officer will endeavour to work with the applicant to correct the application. Any amendments must be undertaken within the open application status of the Grant Application Round.
6. After the Grant Round closes, the Assessment Panel will be convened and assessment of applications will be undertaken.  
The Assessment Panel makes recommendations for project grant funding to Council for the final decision. In assessing the grants, Council will:
  - Ensure public monies are allocated in a fair and equitable way
  - Ensure the best possible value for moneyFinal decisions in the Community Environment Grants Programme are made by the Council, and in special circumstances, the Chief Executive Officer or delegate.
7. Once Council has decided grant funds allocations, applicants will be advised of the outcomes. Unsuccessful applicants can seek feedback on how they can strengthen future applications. Advice on how to seek this feedback will be provided with the outcome advice.

## GRANT ACQUITTAL REQUIREMENTS and CONDITIONS

1. Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with Council and acquit funds within the allocated timeframes.  
Acquittal forms will be available to successful applicants on Council's website.  
All questions must be completed on the acquittal form and evidence supplied including:
  - Receipts;
  - photographs of activities;
  - proof of Council acknowledgement (logo placement on flyers, advertisements, social media etc)
2. Successful applicants will be required to actively and publicly acknowledge Council's support. The level of acknowledgement will be determined by the amount funded and will be outlined in the funding agreement.
3. All projects must be completed within twelve (12) months of the Funding Agreement being executed.
4. Unspent grant funds must be returned to Council within 60 days of the project completion.
5. Changes must not be made to the approved project or activity without the prior agreement of Council. Council will endeavour to approve changes where the level of community benefit is maintained as per the application.
6. Any purchases associated with the project must be transacted with a Fraser Coast business.

## Examples of eligible projects and activities

### Priorities

Priority will be given to non-recurrent projects that:

- contribute to landscape / environment protection, monitoring and rehabilitation of biodiversity, which includes native plants and animals and waterways;
  - revegetating degraded areas and establishing native vegetation corridors and buffer zones
  - reducing sediment and nutrient runoff to waterways
  - modifying existing fencing to make it more wildlife friendly
- build community capacity, engagement and participation in biodiversity, waterways and pest management;
- adapt and respond to environmental challenges, e.g. pest plants and animals
  - fencing to restrict stock access to significant areas of native vegetation, wetlands or waterways
  - controlling environmental weeds to rehabilitate native vegetation areas

Lower priority is given to:

- applicants who have been funded within the previous 12 months;
- projects or events that have previously received council funding.

### Equipment –

Purchase or hire of equipment that will be used by the applicant organisation in delivering priority projects.

This might include:

- Purchase or hire of earth-working and like plant or equipment  
e.g. diggers, backhoes, grader hire, fence making equipment
- Purchase or hire of weed removal or control plant or equipment  
e.g. rotary hoe, diggers, whipper snipper, slasher, mower, blower, Soil pH test kit, local weed guides
- Purchase or hire of flora or fauna monitoring equipment  
e.g. hand held GPS units, Motion- sensitive/infrared wildlife cameras, binoculars suitable for bird and animal watching, local Bird and Animal Field Guides

### Other –

- Projects providing training for members of the association where other community members can participate (*must be broader than just the applicant organisation*)

## Examples of in-eligible projects and activities

- the development of privately-owned facilities
- projects run solely for commercial profit
- activities that have already commenced prior to a grant application being submitted
- core business of educational, religious or medical organisations
- items included in another council grant application (other than Councillor Discretionary Fund applications)
- ongoing operational or recurrent costs including salaries, rent and fuel
- funding for prize money, prizes or trophies
- payment of debt
- projects run solely for fundraising purposes, without broader community benefit
- donations to and sponsorship of other groups
- grant writer fees and associated costs are ineligible for funding or associated costs include project management fees (including payment for managing the construction of facility improvements and/or the purchase of funded items) by a grant writer, and invoices/receipts provided by a grant writer (and any of their associated companies).