

Name of policy:	Disaster Recovery Grants		
Adoption by Council:	25 August 2021	Minute number:	260/2021
Review timeframe:	Not required – 12 month program		
Next scheduled review date:	30 June 2022		
Responsible division:	Liveable Communities		

Policy objective

The Disaster Recovery Grants program aims to improve community capacity and the capability of community members to respond to future disaster and to raise awareness that planning for disasters is a shared responsibility.

This policy provides a framework for the provision of temporary financial assistance by MidCoast Council to eligible local organisations/groups for the purpose of:

- delivering community development and capacity building projects and activities through the grants program.
- delivering projects that directly benefit the community and contribute to disaster recovery outcomes.

Policy statement

Council is committed to providing financial assistance, through the Disaster Recovery Grant funding program to support the delivery of projects and activities that pursue our values of a connected community and unique, diverse and culturally rich community.

Council recognises the critical role community organisations play in helping residents prepare for future events and raising awareness that preparedness and prevention in disaster risk reduction is a shared responsibility.

Council is committed to ensuring that processes and decision making relating to the Disaster Recovery Grant funding program are fair, consistent and transparent.

The following principles guide the implementation of this policy:

- **Equity:** all eligible organisations have equal opportunity to apply for financial assistance
- **Value for Money:** obtaining the best mix of services to meet the community's needs within available funding and selecting the mix of resources that deliver the best possible outcome;
- **Transparency and integrity:** funds are assessed and allocated transparently to recipient projects that demonstrate integrity in their delivery;
- **Capacity building and community ownership:** recognition that the best outcomes can be achieved through building upon the skills and assets that already exist in the

community; and meaningful empowerment of the people to fulfil community desires and aspirations;

- **Innovation:** projects that don't duplicate existing projects or services and show that they meet a need in the community;
- **Sustainability:** that community infrastructure is built, developed and maintained in a way that ensures long term viability;
- **Consistency:** funding administration procedures are consistent across funding program;
- **Collaboration:** the best outcomes can be achieved for people and the community through collaboration between Council, community groups and organisations; and
- **Probity:** funding administration must be conducted with integrity, honesty and scrutiny.

Coverage of the policy

The policy applies to financial and in-kind assistance provided by Council to eligible organisations/groups through the Disaster Recovery Grants program for the delivery of projects and activities in the MidCoast Council Local Government Area.

This policy does not apply to sponsorship or events where their primary purpose is outside the objectives outlined in this policy.

Strategic Plan link

Values: Our unique, diverse and culturally rich communities; and a connected community.

Strategy: Support the strengthening of social connectedness through programs and partnerships.

Disaster Recovery Funding Program

Council will provide financial assistance to eligible organisations/groups for community development and capacity building activities under the Disaster Recovery Grants program.

Purpose:	<p>To provide eligible organisations/groups with a one-off grant donation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver community development and capacity-building projects and activities;• Purchase items of equipment required to deliver community development and capacity building projects and activities;• Improve community capacity and the capability of community members to respond to future disasters• Raise awareness that planning for disasters is a shared responsibility
Value:	<p>Eligible organisations/groups may apply for a grant between \$2,000 - \$15,000.</p>

	Eligible organisations/groups may only receive one grant under this program.
Exclusions:	<p>Applications for the following will not be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for items relating to ongoing operations or administrative costs such as uniforms, utilities, stationary or wages; • Projects or services that duplicate the core business of Council and/or State or Federal Government Departments. • Reimbursement of funds that have already been spent or expenses that have already been incurred; and/or • Fundraising via direct requests for donations
Applications:	Funds under this program are made available on application through the Disaster Recovery Grant round. Applications must complete Councils 'Disaster Recovery Grant application form' to apply.
Assessment Criteria:	<p>Applications under this category will be assessed with consideration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which they pursue one or more of the following objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate the establishment of new, innovative community capacity-building and development projects and services - Develop existing community projects and services, or purchase of equipment which builds capacity to enhance the lives of those living in the MidCoast Council Local Government Area - Support for not-for-profit organisations and community-based groups which provide a service meet a demonstrated need withing the community • The extent to which the project or activity budget demonstrates good value for money and is comprehensive and realistic together with the organisations current financial position
Assessment process:	<p>A team of three Councillors with the assistance of the Disaster Recovery Grants Officer will conduct a pre-assessment of applications against the policy to determine eligibility and make recommendations on assistance for eligible organisations for the panels consideration.</p> <p>Eligible applications will then be assessed by a panel of three councillors appointed by Council for the duration of the program.</p>

	Where necessary, advice may be sought from relevant Council committees and/or officers as part of the assessment process.
Accountability:	Recipients are required to provide Council with a final project acquittal at the end of the funding period, report on the success of the projects and areas for improvement in the project deliver, outcomes and outputs developed.

Definitions

Community-based group is defined as a group with a clear purpose and objectives, however, may not have progressed to the point of having legal status. The group must be open, be managed by a committee, maintain up-to date financial records and contribute in a positive way to the wellbeing of residents in the MidCoast Council local government area.

Community capacity building is defined as promoting the capacity of local communities to develop, implement and sustain their own solutions to problems in a way that helps them shape and exercise control over their physical, social, economic and cultural environments.

Donation is defined as a cash or in-kind contribution for a specified purpose in line with section 356 of the Local Government Act.

Eligible organisation is defined as an incorporated association and not-for-profit organisation that operates and delivers activities in the MidCoast Council local government area.

An unincorporated community-based group that operates and delivers activities in the MidCoast Council local government area may apply for assistance under this Policy under the auspice of an Eligible Organisation.

Individuals, commercial organisations and organisations that are the responsibility of State or Federal Governments (e.g. Schools) are not eligible to apply for assistance under this Policy.

Not-for-profit organisation is defined as an organisation whose income, assets and surplus funds are used to achieve its purpose and objectives and are not distributed to members, owners or shareholders while it is operating and ceases to operate. The legal status of these organisations may include incorporated associations, companies limited by guarantee, charities and co-operatives.

Service functions of Council are defined as the activities carried out by Council, appropriate to the current and future needs of the community, as outlined in Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

References and related documents

Funding Deed of Agreement between MidCoast Council and Resilience NSW

Responsible officer (position)

Manager of Libraries and Community Services

Attachments

Nil