

	PROCEDURE – Drought Communities Grant Opportunities	Doc No. D20.28547	
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OBJECTIVES

To provide guidelines for the distribution of the Australian Government's Drought Communities Program – Extension funds to organisations and community groups within the Balranald Shire Council area.

To ensure that any applications made to Council from community organisations are considered in a fair and transparent manner.

PROCEDURES

Priority will be given to community events and upgrading community facilities in the outlying areas of the Shire that are most severely drought-affected.

Projects and events must be completed by 30 November 2020.

Community Events

Council will invite proposals from community groups for funding support for local events such as sports days, health workshops, community events that bring people together, workshops that build capacity and programs and activities that promote wellbeing.

Upgrade Community Facilities

Council will invite community groups to apply for funding for upgrading community facilities in outlying areas of the shire that are most severely affected.

Funding will be considered for repairs, maintenance, upgrades, construction and fit-out of community spaces.

Council will advertise the community grants in local media and Council's facebook page, website and newsletter.

Council will consider all applications in a Council meeting. To ensure transparency, applications will be received via a dedicated email account.

Funding Pools

1. Community Events (Up to \$1,000 per application)

To support community events, including one off celebrations, which generate community participation in the Balranald Shire Council area.

2. Minor Events (Up to \$5,000 per application)

To assist with conducting events which generate interest from neighbouring communities to attend and generate tourism activity in the Balranald Shire Council area.

3. Major Events (Up to \$10,000 per application)

To assist in conducting special events which generate significant tourism activity and provide an increased public profile and economic stimulus in the Balranald Shire Council area.

4. Upgrade Community Facilities (Up to \$10,000 per application)

To assist with repairs, maintenance, upgrading or building of new community facilities. The activity should employ local contractors to generate economic stimulus in the Balranald Shire Council area.

What can be funded

Events that:

- Reduce the isolation of individuals and groups within a community
- Are inclusive to all members of the community, including youth and seniors
- Show the ability to have strong economic benefit and encourage visitation to the region
- Strengthen and develop community skills
- Promote and encourage community participation across all sectors of the community
- Demonstrate partnerships with other groups and individuals
- Build capacity, resilience, and strengthen the social fabric of the community
- Promote wellbeing, social connectedness and/or physical or mental health, and provide access to recreation and leisure opportunities for all ages, particularly youth.
- Address access issues for people with disabilities, cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds and disadvantaged groups
- Encourage volunteering and achieve a range of practical outcomes that directly benefit volunteers by making their work easier, safer and more enjoyable

Or Facility Upgrades that:

- Help protect and restore community facilities such as community halls and spaces
- Encourage economic stimulus by employing local contractors
- Address drought preparedness and climate change
- Help protect and restore the natural environment and include projects that build community appreciation and knowledge
- Support our historical past and development of arts and culture initiatives

Eligibility

- Not for profit organisations/groups or those auspiced by an incorporated body
- Organisations who have limited capacity to raise funds
- Organisations/groups located within Balranald Shire Council area who primarily serve residents of the Balranald Shire Council
- Schools are ineligible to apply, however P&C or P&F Groups may apply for event support.
- Meeting the eligibility criteria is not a guarantee of funding. The decision made by Council is final
- Council will not be responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of an applicant's anticipation of successful funding

Essential Criteria

- Fosters ongoing community development which increases skills, knowledge and awareness and engages community members in meaningful participation and involvement in community life.
- Projects which are sustainable and create long term benefits for the community
- Projects that target local community infrastructure or drought relief projects
- Projects and events that contribute to the economic stimulus of the Balranald Shire Council area and provide a long lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend
- Projects and events are to be completed and acquitted by 30 December 2020
- Projects and events that are innovative and new, especially those based on partnerships and Collaboration
- In kind contributions cannot exceed 25% of the total project cost

Projects that **cannot** be funded

- Activities, programs or projects with the objective of making a financial profit, ie commercial businesses
- Project considered to be a primary role and responsibility of another level of government
- Recurrent operating costs or maintenance costs for day to day operations of the organisation/group (power/water bills, telephone, internet etc)
- Salaries, where salary forms part of the organisations usual responsibility
- Projects which have already been completed or for costs already incurred
- Travelling Allowances (petrol costs)
- Projects which have a political or religious purpose and objective
- Projects that are deemed to be inappropriate and offensive
- Commercial activities
- Prizes/trophies
- Multiple/recurrent applications from a community group/organisation
- Projects that benefit a single person only

Approval process

- Council officers will assess applications against the Essential Criteria and make recommendations
 - If applications are deemed eligible they are presented to Council for final decision at an Ordinary Council meeting
 - All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within 14 Days of approval.
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Drought Communities Grant – Guidelines 2020

Council is providing an opportunity for financial support for groups and organisations to encourage new events to become established and/or upgrading community facilities in outlying drought affected areas of the Shire. This grant funding is made possible by the Australian Government Drought Communities Programme.

Applications open 18th February 2020 and events or projects must be completed by 30 November 2020 to enable financial completion and reporting by December 2020.

How to develop your application and apply

- The Program is advertised in local media, in Council's Newsletter, Facebook page and Website
- Read these guidelines to ensure eligibility
- If eligible under the guidelines, complete the application form attached to these guideline and on the Council website www.council@balranald.nsw.gov.au
- Write your application as though no-one knows about your project, provide adequate details and information
- Obtain and attach quotes (if required) and complete the budget section, making sure income equals expenditure and in-kind income is offset by in-kind expenses. Include any written pledges of donated material/equipment
- Submit your application via email droughtgrants@balranald.nsw.gov.au This email address **must** be used

How much can I apply for?

1. Community Events (Up to \$1,000 per application)

To support community events, including one off celebrations, which generate community participation in the Balranald Shire Council area.

2. Minor Events (Up to \$5,000 per application)

To assist with conducting events which generate interest from neighbouring communities to attend and generate tourism activity in the Balranald Shire Council area.

3. Major Events (Up to \$10,000 per application)

To assist in conducting special events which generate significant tourism activity and provide an increased public profile and economic stimulus in the Balranald Shire Council area.

4. Upgrade Community Facilities (Up to \$10,000 per application)

To assist with repairs, maintenance, upgrading or building of new community facilities. The activity should employ local contractors to generate economic stimulus in the Balranald Shire Council area.

What could be funded?

Events that:

- Reduce the isolation of individuals and groups within a community
- Are inclusive to all members of the community, including youth and seniors
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- Build capacity, resilience, and strengthen the social fabric of the community
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Or Facility Upgrades that:

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- Address drought preparedness and climate change
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- Support our historical past and development of arts and culture initiatives

Am I eligible?

- Not for profit organisations/groups or those auspiced by an incorporated body
- Organisations who have limited capacity to raise funds
- Organisations/groups located within Balranald Shire Council area who primarily serve residents of the Balranald Shire Council
- Schools are ineligible to apply however, P&C or P&F Groups may apply for event support.
- Meeting the eligibility criteria is not a guarantee of funding. The decision made by Council is final.
- Council will not be responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of an applicant's anticipation of successful funding

Essential Criteria – this criteria MUST be met to deemed eligible for assessment

- Fosters ongoing community development which increases skills, knowledge and awareness and engages community members in meaningful participation and involvement in community life
- Projects which are sustainable and create long term benefits for the community
- Projects that target local community infrastructure or drought relief projects
- Projects and events that contribute to the economic stimulus of the Balranald Shire Council area and provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend
- Projects and events are to be completed and acquitted by 30 December 2020

- Projects and events that are innovative and new, especially those based on partnerships and collaboration
- In kind contributions cannot exceed 25% of the total project cost

What will NOT be funded

- Activities, programs or projects with the objective or making a financial profit, ie commercial businesses
- Project considered to be a primary role and responsibility of another level of government
- Recurrent operating costs or maintenance costs for day to day operations of the organisation/group (power/water bills, telephone, internet etc)
- Salaries, where salary forms part of the organisations usual responsibility
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- Projects which have a political or religious purpose and objective
- Projects that are deemed to be inappropriate and offensive
- Commercial activities
- Prizes/trophies
- Multiple/recurrent applications from a community group/organisation
- Projects that benefit a single person only

How do applications get assessed?

- Applicants submit a completed application
- Grant application is received
- Council officers assess applications against Essential Criteria and make recommendations
- If applications are deemed eligible they are presented to Council for final decision at an Ordinary Council meetings
- All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within 14 Days of approval

What happens if my application is successful?

- Applicants will be notified in writing of application approval
- Funded programs are to be completed by 30 November 2020
- Successful applicants are required to submit an acquittal to report on how the grant was spent

Further information

If you require any further information or need clarification on anything listed in these guidelines, please visit Council's website www.balranald.nsw.gov.au or contact Council on 03 5020 1300 or via emails council@balranald.nsw.gov.au

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