

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT POLICY

POLICY ADOPTED: 19 July 2016

Background:

Council's role in economic development is to provide leadership and direction in order to foster, encourage and maximise sustainable development opportunities within the Bland Shire. Council's Community Strategic Plan 2012-2023 states that Council aims to retain and attract businesses to the Council area.

Council facilitates business partnerships, participates in local and regional networks and undertakes research and planning in the identification of business opportunities.

In order to encourage diverse and innovative business initiatives in the Shire, Council may offer incentives and support through the business development policy.

Policy Objectives:

The policy aims to provide appropriate incentives to:

- An existing business, located within the Shire, to expand their operations or relocate to a more appropriate area;
- An existing business, located outside the Shire, to relocate or establish within the Shire; and
- A new business to establish within the Shire,

in the expectation that the business will directly or indirectly provide increased employment opportunities or services for residents of the Bland Shire.

Types of Assistance:

Council provides information to industry about developing/relocating to the Council area including facilitation with existing local businesses and identification of possible business locations. Various State and Federal Government assistance programs may also be available to some businesses to encourage expansion and relocation, information on these programs is also available from the Council.

In addition to this support Council may, on application, consider the following measures as potential incentives for business development.

- Assistance in preparing applications for State and Federal Government support
- Hosting visits by key personnel (including extended visits);
- Meeting the cost of relocation expenses for key personnel;
- Waiving or reducing the Council component of DA fees;

- Providing land or buildings at a reduced rental, at cost or under a lease/purchase or delayed settlement arrangement;
- Providing direct financial incentives, linked to the cost of establishment or relocation;
- Waiving or reduction of Section 94 contributions;
- Reimbursement of rates for a start up period;
- The provision of infrastructure (that would otherwise be met by the industry/commerce);
- The provision of council plant for works in kind; and
- The provision of assistance to engage consultants or business planning advice.

These measures can be considered by Council singularly or in combination on a case by case basis, dependent on the merits of each case.

Determination of Merit:

The viability of the business, as verified by an accountant or banker.

Type of development and potential for the development to encourage expansion of existing businesses and infrastructure or in-migration of other businesses.

The costs incurred by the business in undertaking the relocation or expansion.

Benefit to other businesses from the business assistance such as the upgrade of infrastructure.

Number of employees, direct and flow on which the business will develop/provide.

Benefit to the community including an identified need for the businesses or services.

Assesment of Applications:

Council, at a regular meeting, is to assess applications for business assistance in accordance with the adopted budget and the merit criteria above.

Conditions of Assistance:

Conditions of assistance will be determined as a part of the approval process and may include the substantiation of expenditure and reporting on outcomes.

Related Procedure:

Applications must be made in accordance with the Business Development Procedure.

Authorisation:

Status	Committee	N/A	
	Manex	N/A	
Owner	General Manager		
EDRMS Doc. ID	329281		
Superceded Policy			
Date of Adoption/ Amendment	Revision Number	Minute Number	Review Date
15 March 2005	1	11/12/06	
24 August 2010	2	N/A	

19 July 2016	3		July 2021
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Related Council Policy / Procedure
Business Assistance Procedure
Business Assistance Application Form