

POLICY STATEMENT

REFUND OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FEES TO NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

POLICY ADOPTED: **October 2010**

Policy Objective:

To provide a framework for the Council to make decision on refunding development application fees to non-profit organisations.

Policy Statement:

Bland Shire Council regularly receives requests to waive the cost of development application fees applicable to projects and developments of non-profit organisations.

However, the Council recognises that there can be difficulties in meeting community expectations with the increasingly limited financial resources available. The Council also recognises that it is accountable to the community for the management and disbursement of its funds and that this must be done in a manner that maximises the benefits to the community and is seen to be fair and equitable.

This policy aims to assist the Council to achieve best practice by promoting the establishment of a strategy to effectively manage the manner in which it provides assistance to the community through the waiving of development application fees.

The policy does not apply to the waiving of development application fees for other organisations where it forms part of an incentive package for establishment of a business with the Shire.

Definitions:

Non-profit means to not gain an advantage or benefit.

Responsibilities:

This policy applies to non-profit organisations.

Recommended Practices:

1. The request for a refund of development application fees is to be from a non-profit organisation.
2. The development must be for a project that:
 - a. Generates employment growth in the Shire.
 - b. Enhances tourism infrastructure within the Shire.
 - c. Provides substantial benefits for the wider community.
3. Development application fees are to be paid by the organisation to the Council. A refund Cheque from the Community Donation Allocation, equivalent to the applicable development application fee, will be drawn in favour of the organisation.
4. The refund of fees does not extend to fees for inspections, Construction Certificates or Section 94 fees or any other fees collected by Council on behalf of other agencies or Government Departments.

5. The General Manager is delegated authority to waive development application fees under \$500.00. All other requests are to be considered by the Council on a case by case basis and subject to funding availability.
6. The organisation must indicate how the Council's support will be publicly acknowledged.

References:

Nil

Appendices:

Nil

Authorisation:

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Status	Committee	N/A	
	Manex	N/A	
Owner	Director Corporate & Development Services		
EDRMS Doc. ID	336903		
Superseded Policy			
Date of Adoption/ Amendment	Revision Number	Minute Number	Review Date
October 2010	0		

Related Council Policy / Procedure