



BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT

CORPORATE VALUES

Put the community first • Work together as a committed team • Respect and value each other • Have open & honest two-way communication • Act with integrity and honesty • Continuously improve our services • Keep ourselves and others safe

Community Grants and Donations

ORIGINAL ADOPTION DATE: *August 2012*

POLICY REVISION DATE: *August 2015*

POLICY OWNER: *Director Community and Development Services*

Policy Objective:

Bland Shire Council recognises the importance of assisting non profit community groups and organisations that are interested in, and are working towards, the enhancement and wellbeing of its community. The Community Grants Program provides funding support to such community groups and organisations in their endeavours to establish, strengthen and/or implement projects, which will benefit the Bland Shire community.

The purpose of the policy is to:

- Ensure an open and transparent decision making process is in place for requests of support from Council and
- Provide an accessible and equitable process for non profit organisations seeking support from Council.

This policy is the overarching document supporting the individual guidelines for each funding stream.

Policy Statement:

Community Grants Program

The Community Grants program has five streams:

1. Strengthening Communities Funding

Provides funding to increase community participation and access to information, services or facilities that strengthen the social fabric of communities within the Shire. Funding is also available to assist with undertaking new, or to build upon existing projects and events.

2. Heritage Funding

Provides incentive funding in partnership with the NSW Heritage Office to:

- a. Assist property owners in the restoration and conservation of their heritage houses or business premises.
- b. Assist community groups or individuals in the Bland Shire with the printing costs associated with heritage publications.

3. Community Groups Funding

The objective is to support individuals and families within the Bland Shire community by providing information, resources, support, and to work in partnership with the community on projects that build social capital.

4. Access Incentive Scheme

Bland Shire Councils Access Incentive Scheme aims to:

- o Provide financial assistance to improve access to and within buildings,

- Encourage the development of partnerships between local business, community organisations/ services, local government and the general public,
- To encourage a greater awareness of access issues in the community

5. Cultural Development

The Cultural Development Grant aims to provide support to local non-profit community based organisations to provide cultural events and projects that meet the needs and benefit residents in our community.

Through the Community Grants program, Bland Shire Council is aiming to:

- Recognise encourage and value the contribution of local residents to their local community
- Foster partnerships which unite the community in positive, dynamic and safe activities
- Promote the cultural richness of the community, including our strong heritage
- Create sustainable partnerships which encourage learning and self sufficiency
- Develop the skills and interests of the community including innovative programs, activities, community festivals and events

Donations Program

The donations program has two streams:

1. Section 355 Committees

Provides a mechanism by which interested persons can have an active role in the provision/management of Council facilities and services. The committee operates under the banner of Council and has specific reporting requirements.

2. Rates Donations

Provision is available to local sporting, charitable and non profit community organisations for an equivalent amount to the ordinary rates paid by the organisation excepting in the case where land comprises licensed premises.

Through the Donations program, Bland Shire Council is aiming to:

- Provide support for community based non profit organisations
- Allow community organisations to best utilise their funds to grow the social fabric of our community
- Facilitate equitable distribution of community resources.

Scholarship Program

The scholarship program has two streams:

1. Bland Shire Council Scholarship

Provides access to scholarship funding to assist residents of the Bland Shire to further their studies within the identified skills shortage areas.

2. Charles Sturt University

In partnership, scholarship(s) are provided to Bland Shire students studying at Charles Sturt University.

Definitions:**Section 355 Committee**

Under the Local Government Act 1993 Council is able to delegate some of its functions to a committee of Council. Council uses this delegation and appoints community people to manage its facilities or functions through a committee of management.

Responsibilities:

This policy applies to members of the public, community groups and non profit organisations wishing to access funding under Council's "Community Grants and Donations" program.

Council employees and Councillors may apply for funds under the "Community Grants and Donations" program on the same basis as any member of the public.

Funding Conditions:

- The granting of all donations and sponsorships are made under the policy
- All donations, funding and sponsorship are one off payments and must be applied for each year
- Funds will only be paid on receipt of invoice from the successful organisation. The only exception to this is the Bland Shire Council Scholarship.
- All funds received must be acquitted. Any further application for funding will not be considered until such acquittal has been received and accepted. The only exception to this is the Bland Shire Council Scholarship, however a progress report is expected from the applicant.
- All funding received must be acknowledged by the recipient in all letters, advertising, media and promotional material.

References:

Local Government Act, 1993

Section 356

Section 377

Section 555

Appendices:

<...List any Appendices to the policy (ie procedures, forms, etc)...>

Authorisation:

Status	Committee	<...When was this approved...>		
	Manex	<...When was this approved...>		
Date of Adoption/ Amendment	Revision Number	Minute Number	Previous Policy Number	