

## **POLICY OBJECTIVE**

Edward River Council recognises the value and importance of the role that community groups and organisations play in building vibrant, inclusive, and healthy communities.

This policy, together with council's grants program framework document sets out Council's framework for considering the provision of grant funding to the community, and provides information for Council and the community on the principles guiding the community grants program.

This policy specifically outlines Council's approach to making decisions in relation to grant requests.

## **SCOPE**

This Policy applies to all grants provided by Edward River Council.

## **LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

Council can financially assist others under s356 of the Local Government Act 1993 (LGA), for the purpose of exercising its functions.

Financial assistance granted by Council must comply with s356.

Also, under s377(1A) of the LGA, Council may delegate its functions relating to the granting of financial assistance if:

- (a) the financial assistance is part of a specified program, and
- (b) the program is included in Council's draft operational plan for the year in which the financial assistance is proposed to be given, and
- (c) the program's proposed budget for that year does not exceed 5 per cent of Council's proposed income from the ordinary rates levied for that year, and
- (d) the program applies uniformly to all persons within Council's area or to a significant proportion of all the persons within Council's area.

Any financial assistance granted to offset or subsidise Council fees or charges is consistent with the requirements of s610E and s610F of the LGA.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

This policy applies to all financial assistance granted by Edward River Council to the community. Financial assistance can be in the form of cash, in-kind and the waiving of fees or charges subject to the requirements of Sec 610E of the Local Government Act 1993 which states;

*Council may waive or reduce fees*

*(1) A council may waive payment of, or reduce, a fee (whether expressed as an actual or a maximum amount) in a particular case if the council is satisfied that the case falls within a category*

*of hardship or any other category in respect of which the council has determined payment should be so waived or reduced.*

*(2) However, a council must not determine a category of cases under this section until it has given public notice of the proposed category in the same way as it is required to give public notice of the amount of a proposed fee under section 610F (2) or (3).*

It applies to all councillors and Council employees involved in the promotion, assessment and management of community grants that fall within the program framework.

This policy seeks to align community grants with Council’s strategic objectives and community vision.

It establishes clear expectations around Council and community roles; provides Council with direction to develop community grants and funding programs; and sets out an accessible yet rigorous and robust approach to governance and accountability. This ensures the process of allocating and monitoring grants is fair, consistent, and transparent.

It also applies to managing relationships with organisations receiving Council funding, promoting grants to the community, assisting applicants with grant submissions, undertaking grant assessments, and overseeing the acquittal of grant recipients’ funding obligations.

The objectives of the community grants program are to:

- Assist and increase residents’ participation in their community,
- Provide assistance to community groups,
- Assist in the development of innovative solutions to local issues,
- assist groups and volunteers to develop skills and build capacity,
- encourage the sustainability and better governance of community organisations,

## **ASSOCIATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

NIL

## **DEFINITIONS**

NIL

## **POLICY VERSION CONTROL**

Policy Title	Grants Policy
Document ID	
Department	Office of the General Manager
Function	Funding Community Projects
Policy Group	Community Development
Responsible Officer	General Manager
Adopted	
Next revision	After council elections - November 2020