Keywords: Community Grants, Sponsorships, Projects, Events, Youth, In-kind support, Community Organisations

Strategic Plan:	Vibrant Community - 1.1 Improve neighbourhood safety, accessibility and usability of public spaces 1.3 Celebrate cultural diversity, history and heritage 2.1 Facilitate opportunities for community belonging 2.2 Create and encourage vibrant and engaging events 2.3 Promote participation through recreational clubs and organisations 3.3 Provide opportunities for young people and families 3.4 Respond to the changing needs of an ageing population Greener Future 3. Embedding Sustainability across Council Operations and the Community Accountable Leadership 3.4 Position council as a trusted and reliable service provider for the community, with decision making based the best outcomes for the Community.
Classification:	Public – Community Services
First Issued/Approved:	*April 2011*
Review Frequency:	*Annually*
Last Reviewed:	*October 2026*
Next Review Due:	*July 2027*
Responsible Officer(s):	*Community, Recreation and Events Manager*
Council File Reference:	*Community Grants*
Applicable Legislation:	Local Government Act 1999 Local Government Financial Management Regulations 1999
Relevant Policies:	This Policy replaces one formally named ‘Community Grants Policy’
Related Procedures:	Grants Assessment Guidelines Grant Allocation and Implementation Schedule
Delegations:	Chief Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Each financial year, Berri Barmera Council allocates funds to support local initiatives conducted by non-profit community groups in developing community service projects, community events, social welfare and other community purposes.

These cash and in-kind amounts are allocated towards one-off projects or services on an annual basis as set down by Council within budget constraints.

Through its Community Grants and Assistance Program, Berri Barmera Council provides the opportunity for community groups and organisations to participate in and contribute to the community and cultural life of the District by developing projects, programs and activities that are innovative and offer a sustainable approach to meeting community needs.

Council Programs covered by this policy include:

1) Community Development Grants
    - Capital Improvement Grants
    - Community Event / Activity Funding
    - Environment and Sustainability Funding
2) Annual Events Support
3) Financial Assistance Program
    - Youth Sport and Cultural Donations
    - Minor Support Funding
        - Quick Response Donation
        - Organisation Support Donation
        - Services Support Donation

PURPOSE

To provide financial assistance in a consistent, equitable and transparent manner that meets the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999.

PRINCIPLES

The objectives of Berri Barmera Council's Community Grants and Assistance Program are to:

- Encourage community led development of services, facilities and events, which meet and enhance identified community needs and objectives of the Berri Barmera Council.
- Promote the active participation of local residents in community initiatives and the development of their skills, knowledge and opportunities.
- Recognise the need for equality of access to services and the need to target particular groups that are under-serviced when providing assistance.
- Recognise that both cash and in-kind support provided by Council has a financial impact on Council's budget.

Assessment may take into account other Council support provided to an applicant, including financial, property, facility and in-kind assistance.
Particular interest will be given to **projects** that address some of Berri Barmera Council's Community support principles:

- Council will reward groups that have a strong self-help culture to work in partnershipto maximise the benefit from limited funds
- Council will promote and support Community Events, recognition activities and festivals that bring the community together.
- Council will be “Young Family Friendly” with areas and events that support community involvement to make it easier for families to move and stay in the region
- Council will support creative practitioners to create music, art and cultural projects which have a publicly accessible outcome i.e. public artworks, workshops, performances, exhibitions and events that support community diversity, cultural expression, experiences and participation.
- Other Community Goals
    - Support activities for our diverse and aging population
    - Community engagement and involvement
    - Increases in shared facility use and reduction in duplicated services and assets
    - Increased physical activity opportunities, especially non-structured recreation infrastructure
    - Community Safety initiatives
    - Sustainable environment activities
    - Improve accessibility and inclusiveness of our community.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT OPERATIONS

- The Land, Property, Grants and Awards Committee will oversee the Community Development Grants processes, assess the applications, and make recommendations to Council.
- The release date(s), criteria and grant documentation shall be reviewed annually by the Community, Recreation and Events Manager (Grant Implementation Guidelines) and endorsed by the Council
- The funding limits shall be reviewed annually by Council.
- Council will receive and approve the Land, Property, Grants and Awards Committee funding recommendations twice per year.
- Applications for Community Development Grants must be submitted on the forms supplied for this purpose.
- The Land, Property, Grants and Awards Committee can request additional information be supplied by the applicants at any time.
- A standing report in the Land, Property, Grants and Awards Committee will provide a summary of Acquittals received and adhoc funding approved by delegation during the preceding period
- Council’s Annual Report will contain a summary of expenditure for all grants issued to community organisations
- Unsuccessful applicants will be sent a letter outlining the main reasons that their application was not approved.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

- Provides support for capital improvement works to enhance a facility’s inclusiveness, through the development of meeting spaces, disability access, change facilities for junior or female use, sports surfaces and improved environmental sustainability initiatives.

- Projects must promote greater community access, increased participation and encourage interaction across all age groups. Projects that provide multi-use facilities for broader community benefit and demonstrate collaboration between groups to achieve greater use are encouraged.
- A maximum of $4,000 can be funded for each project. Any funding requests exceeding this amount, are to be considered by Council as other capital programs and not as part of the Community Grant process.

COMMUNITY EVENT / ACTIVITIES GRANTS

- Funding is provided to community organisations for one-off projects and events that benefit and engage the Berri Barmera community through community led initiatives.
- Projects which increase participation, encourage volunteering, provide leadership opportunities and increase learning and skill development areencouraged.
- Community events must not restrict members of the general public from attending the event.
- Submissions must provide evidence of a community need and a clear benefit to the wider Berri Barmera community.
- Annual projects / events, should apply for funding as part of Council's annual budget process.

ANNUAL EVENTS AND SUPPORT GRANT OPERATIONS

- Annual events are considered to be community events and programs that have been running for 3 or more years, provide significant social or economic return and have become imbeddedinto the districts annual calendar.
- The Council will oversee the Annual Events and Support Grants processes, assess the applications, and approve during its annual Budget deliberations.
- Council will receive and approve the Annual Events funding applications once per year.
- Applications for Annual Events and Support must be submitted on the forms supplied for this purpose.
- The Council can request additional information be supplied by the applicants at any time.
- Council's Annual Report will contain a summary of expenditure for all grants issued to community organisations

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OPERATIONS

- The CEO or delegate will review and approve applications under the Financial Assistance Program.
- The funding limits shall be reviewed annually by Council.
- Applications for Minor Support Funding and Youth Sport and Cultural Donations will be received and approved at any time through the year.
- Applications for Financial Assistance may be submitted on the form supplied or via letter, providing the letter addresses all the information required on the application form.

- The CEO or delegate can request additional information be supplied by the applicants at anytime.
- The Community, Recreation and Events Manager will assess applications to ensure that they meet relevant criteria and appropriate conditions.
- Applicants will be advised of the application outcome as soon as practicable following approval by the CEO or delegate.
- Council will be advised of support approved through this process within the activity reports of the Growth and Activation Team.
- Council's Annual Report will contain a summary of expenditure for all sponsorships issued to community organisations.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be sent a letter outlining the main reasons that their application was not approved.

DELEGATIONS

The CEO or delegate are delegated to review and approve applications under the Financial Assistance Program, under the criteria endorsed by Council in the Community GrantsImplementation Guidelines. This program includes applications for:

- Youth Sport and Cultural Donations
- Minor Support Funding

VERSION CONTROL

The electronic version of this policy stored on the website is the controlled version. Printed copies are considered uncontrolled.

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LIST OF AMENDMENTS

2012 – Inclusion of In-kind assistance
2013 – Category and program headings adjusted to create consistency of terms and minor editing.
2014 – Minor adjustment to create uniform terms throughout document, inclusion of iconic events support, and update strategic plan links. Inclusion of a statement regarding the content of unsuccessful letters as per Council resolution 3848/14.
2015 – Minor editing. Added definition of Iconic Events, inclusion of Iconic Events Support in the Background's list of programs; change of controlled version being located on the intranet to the website
2016 – Updating of Strategic Plan outcomes
2017 – Minor edits and formatting
2018 – Minor reference edits and formatting
2019 – Minor text edits
2020 – Minor reference edits and updating of selection committee details
2021 – Minor edits to category headings, alignment with committee Terms ofReference and Access and Inclusion reference
2022 – Minor edit to add Access and Inclusion elements to Principles
2023 – Minor updates to change staff titles and responsible committee references
2024 – Minor update for years
2025 – Minor update for years, iconic changed to annual. Change reference

for committee name. Minor changes to the grant operations sections to reflect operational responsibilities. Added “or delegate” to associated with CEO

2026 – Updated review dates. Clarified grant assessment criteria to consider other Council assistance provided to applicants. Enhanced governance and transparency through additional committee reporting requirements.

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