



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 14 December 2021

6:00pm

Upstairs Community Hub

Gallery Online

AGENDA

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| 1. | Commencement of Meeting, Welcome | |
| 2. | Apologies | |
| 3. | Leave of Absence | |
| 4. | Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest | |
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| 6. | Urgent Business | |
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5. OFFICER REPORTS

5.1 COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS PROGRAM 2021

Author: Community Connector

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community Wellbeing

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the applications received in the 2021 Community Grants Program and recommend options for awarding the grants.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council allocate the following funds from the CASI Community Recovery Grants Program:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Talbot Farmers Market | \$2,412 |
| Rotary Club of Maryborough | \$2,675 |
| Maryborough Toy Library | \$2,684 |
| Castlemaine-Maryborough Rail Trail | \$2,000 |
| Mill House | \$3,011 |
| Talbot Town Hall Committee | \$2,164 |
| Maryborough VRI Croquet Club | \$3,194 |
| Carisbrook Football Netball Club | \$2,000 |
| Talbot Senior Citizens | \$3,615 |
| Maryborough Netball Association | \$2,615 |
| Dunolly Community House and Mill House | \$3,175 |
| Dunolly Vehicle Club | \$1,000 |
| Carisbrook Historical Society | \$824 |
| Maryborough Family History | \$695 |
| TOTAL | \$32,064 |

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Our Community's Wellbeing

The Community's vision 1. Socially connected, creative, inclusive, healthy, and safe 'all ages' friendly communities

Central Goldfields Shire Community Support Policy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Council Grants program for 2021 opened on Monday 4 October and applications closed at 5pm on Friday 19 November 2021.

A grant pool of \$32,064 is available through the Program.

A second, one-off grants fund was established with State Government funding through the Community Activation and Social Isolation (CASI) program to support pandemic recovery through funding for projects that assist isolated and disconnected residents to re-engage with the community. This has been reported separately.

Both grant rounds have been expedited to be assessed before the end of 2021 to give the applicants as much time as possible to deliver the programs during 2022.

REPORT

Twenty-one applications were received for the 2021 Community Support Grants program of which 20 were assessable as per the Community Support Policy criteria. The total amount requested by applicants totalled \$75,884. This exceeds the total grants pool of \$32,064 by \$43,820.

All applications were assessed against the criteria in the 'Community Support Policy' by the assessment panel. As a result, fourteen of the grant requests are recommended to be fully or partially funded.

The applications have been ranked according to the combined scores allocated by the assessment panel (see attachment 1) as follows:

- Alterations to the requested amounts are shown in blue.
- Suggested zero allocations are shown in red.
- A cut-off is shown where the running total exceeds the total available pool.

Recommendations for awarding the 2020-2021 Community Grants

The application from the Maryborough Volunteer Resource Centre has been incorporated into their CASI Recovery Grant application and removed from these proposed allocations.

The Mill House made an application for a large proportion of the grants pool (\$10,240) which has been reduced to a more modest grant (\$3011) that will enable them to run a trial for their Community Lunch program.

Applications received by the Maryborough Community Garden and Maryborough Tennis Club have not been recommended for funding because these groups were funded as part of the 2020 community grants program. Given the level to which the 2021-2022 program is oversubscribed, the panel recommendation is to not award funding to these (any) groups two years in a row.

The Carisbrook Football Netball Club has been allocated a proportion of their requested amount to purchase a commercial freezer in the expectation that they will be able to fund raise the gap.

The Talbot Football Netball Club applied for more than a third of the total funding pool to buy a cover for the cricket pitch at their ground. It was considered that this project was not best funded by these grants. Council Officers (Recreation Team) will work with the group to identify appropriate alternative funding streams.

The Talbot RSL application to carry out a Heritage Building Management Plan will not provide a direct / immediate benefit to community and, as a result the panel recommends that this application is not supported through the program. Council Officers will work with the group to identify appropriate alternative funding streams.

The newly formed Dunolly Vehicle Club has been partially funded to cover the cost of a laptop to assist in establishing their group.

The Maryborough City Brass Band application was not assessed as the group has not acquitted its Community Grant from last year.

Learnings for 2020-2021 Community Grants Program

There have been several learnings throughout the evaluation process which will be included in the recommendations for future Community Grants programs:

- Require organisations to supply more information about the nature of their group, for example, membership, location, reach, visibility via website or social media.
- If separate funds become available to run extra grants programs in the future, it will be simpler for the community groups to target them if they're separated from the annual Community Grants program.
- Consider developing a training program to build community capacity around grant application preparation and budget preparation, which will enhance the efficiency of the assessment process.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

The Council Grants program for 2021 opened on Monday 4 October and was advertised on Council's website, in the Maryborough Advertiser on Council's noticeboard, and on Council social media.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The 2021 Community Grants program has a total of \$32,064 available. The recommended total funding is \$32,064.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Governance - Failure to transparently govern and embrace good governance practices by ensuring all grants received were assessed in accordance with Council's Community Support Policy.

CONCLUSION

Twenty-one applications were received for the 2021 Community Grants program, of which 20 were assessable as per the Community Support Policy criteria. Fourteen projects have been recommended for funding approval, totalling \$32,064.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

5.2 CASI COMMUNITY RECOVERY GRANTS PROGRAM 2021

Author: Community Connector

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community Wellbeing

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the applications received in the 2021 CASI Community Recovery Grants Program and recommend options for awarding the grants.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council allocate the following funds from the CASI Community Recovery Grants Program:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Committee for Maryborough | \$6,000 |
| Maryborough Netball Association | \$2,960 |
| Maryborough Volunteer Resource Centre | \$8,004 |
| Mill House | \$9,839 |
| Talbot Arts and Historical Museum | \$3,542 |
| TOTAL | \$30,345 |

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Our Community's Wellbeing

The Community's vision 1. Socially connected, creative, inclusive, healthy, and safe 'all ages' friendly communities

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

With the spread of COVID-19 in Australia in early 2020 the Victorian State Government delivered funding under the Community Activation and Social Isolation (CASI) initiative to address the growing impact of COVID-19 on social isolation and loneliness. A proportion of these funds (\$30,000) were set aside to fund community groups directly to deliver projects that targeted these issues.

The CASI Community Recovery Grants program opened on Monday 4 October 2021. Applications closed at 5pm on Friday 19 November 2021.

A one-off grants fund was established with CASI (Community Activation Support Initiative) COVID recovery funding for projects that assisted isolated and disconnected residents to re-

engage with the community. This grants stream was run simultaneously but separately to the annual Community Support grants.

This grant stream has been expedited to be assessed and distributed before the end of 2021 to give the applicants as much time as possible to deliver the programs during 2022.

REPORT

Seven applications were received for the CASI Community Recovery Grants program. The total amount requested by applicants totalled \$42,465. This exceeded the total grants pool of \$30,000 by \$12,465.

All applications were assessed against the criteria in the Grants Guidelines, which were guided by principles outlined in the council's 'Community Support Policy' and the CASI 'Principles and Projected Outcomes'.

As a result, five of the grant requests can be recommended to be fully or partially funded.

Recommendations for awarding the 2020-2021 Community Grants

It is recommended that the Maryborough Netball Association and The Mill House applications are fully funded.

Committee for Maryborough is funded \$6,000 of the \$10,000 they requested for their Community Festival in Phillips Gardens.

Maryborough Volunteer Resource Centre is funded \$8,004. Please note that this incorporates \$1,730 requested through the Community Support Grants. The assessment panel decided the funding request aligned with the ethos of the CASI Recovery Grants. This approved funding is for laptops, a new webpage and signage.

Talbot Arts Historical Museum has been reduced to remove stationary costs.

Talbot Action Group received a low score because it was impossible to deliver the program within the time periods relevant to this grant program.

Talbot Town Hall was not funded as the tables and chairs were not considered to be consistent with the terms of the CASI guidelines relating to isolated and disconnected residents re-engaging with the community.

The attached funding schedule shows the applications ranked according to the combined scores allocated by the assessment panel. Alterations to the requested amounts are shown in yellow. (Attachment 1)

Learnings for 2020-2021 Community Grants Program

- Require organisations to supply more information about the nature of their group, for example, membership, location, reach, visibility via website or social media.
- If separate funds become available to run extra grants programs in the future, it will be simpler for the community groups to target them if they're separated from the annual Community Grants program.
- Consider developing a training program to build community capacity around grant application preparation and budget preparation, which will enhance the efficiency of the assessment process.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

The grants were advertised on Council's website, in the Maryborough Advertiser on Council's noticeboard, and on Council's social media

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The CASI Community Recovery Grants program has an allocated amount of \$30,000. The recommended funding total for this round is \$30,345. The \$345 overspend will be recovered from savings in other CASI projects.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Governance - Failure to transparently govern and embrace good governance practices by ensuring all grants received were assessed in accordance with the CASI Combined Program Requirements and Council's Community Support Policy.

This report addresses Council's strategic risk Community Well-being - Failure to recognise and manage the impact of changing social and economic conditions on the community by using available funding to support the development and implementation of grassroots programs and activities that support community recovery.

CONCLUSION

Seven applications were received for the CASI Community Recovery Grants program, all of which were assessable as per the CASI Community Recovery guidelines and Council's Community Support Grants policy. Five projects have been recommended for funding approval, totalling \$30,345.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil