

# Agenda

## **Special Meeting (Water and Sewerage Funding Program)**

**11 December 2012**

**commencing at 11.30am**

**Council Chambers, Corner Currie and Bury Streets, Nambour**

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**1 DECLARATION OF OPENING**

On establishing there is a quorum, the Chair will declare the meeting open.

**2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****3 OBLIGATIONS OF COUNCILLORS****3.1 DECLARATION OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST ON ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS**

Pursuant to Section 172 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a councillor who has a material personal interest in an issue to be considered at a meeting of the local government, or any of its committees must –

- (a) inform the meeting of the councillor's material personal interest in the matter; and
- (b) leave the meeting room (including any area set aside for the public), and stay out of the meeting room while the matter is being discussed and voted on.

**3.2 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST ON ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS**

Pursuant to Section 173 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a councillor who has a real or perceived conflict of interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the local government, or any of its committees must inform the meeting about the councillor's personal interest the matter and if the councillor participates in the meeting in relation to the matter, how the councillor intends to deal with the real or perceived conflict of interest.

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**4 REPORTS DIRECT TO COUNCIL****4.1 COMMUNITY SERVICES****4.1.1 WATER AND SEWERAGE FUNDING PROGRAM****File No:** Council Meetings**Author:** Executive Director Community Services  
Community Services Department**Appendices:** [App A - Water and Sewerage Funding Program Policy](#)

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**PURPOSE**

This report seeks to identify a funding source and policy framework for the provision of a Water and Sewerage Funding Program for not-for-profit community and sporting groups that complies with the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government (Finance, Plans and Reporting) Regulations 2010*.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A presentation was made to Council by community group representatives on 24 September 2012 regarding the financial challenge they are facing in meeting costs associated with water and sewerage charges imposed by Unitywater. At the presentation, Council was advised that these not-for-profit community and sporting organisations are seeking financial assistance from Council to alleviate the financial pressure that will be placed on the groups by paying the water and sewerage invoices. With the creation of Unitywater, any such support provided by Council will need to be in the form of a community grant.

Many not-for-profit community organisations have implemented water saving measures to reduce water consumption in response to increasing water and sewerage costs. Analysis of all Unitywater invoices indicates that the consumption component commonly equates to approximately 30% of total costs indicated on a bill. The main areas of concern raised by community groups are the significant increases to water and sewerage access charges since the formation of Unitywater.

The Water and Sewerage Funding Program is proposed as a means of providing financial assistance to not-for-profit community organisations. It acknowledges the contribution which community groups and volunteers make to the community and recognises the difficulties that many not-for-profit organisations are facing with increased water and sewerage charges.

The proposed program is based on a philosophy of partnership and involves Council contributing a percentage of water and sewerage access charges for eligible not-for-profit community organisations. The program will be jointly managed between Community Services and Finance and Business Departments of Council.

The funding program is premised on the following:

- Council's contribution is a percentage of the water and sewerage access costs only;

- Funding is not available for water consumption costs. Council seeks to encourage not-for-profit community organisations to use water sustainably;
- Funding is available to not-for-profit community organisations which have a tenure arrangement (for example with Council or Department of Natural Resources and Mines) or which have freehold land ownership;
- Due to Council financial constraints and anticipated high demand for the funding program, it is proposed that community organisations and sporting groups that are not eligible for Councils Community Partnerships Program and Community Grants Program will not be considered for assistance;
- Organisations operating in a commercial environment which should have the financial capacity to pay for their water and sewerage charges (e.g. combined childcare/kindergarten centres; aged care facilities; public housing organisations; apprenticeship and training organisations and RSL clubs) will also not be eligible for funding through this program; and
- Funding is available for water and sewerage charges incurred for 2012/2013 only. This will enable Council to review the program in line with 2013/2014 budget deliberations and also consider the outcome of its plumbing audit on not-for-profit community buildings' water infrastructure, the result of which may reduce infrastructure charges to groups over time.

## **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council:**

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Water and Sewerage Funding Program"; and**
- (b) endorse the Water and Sewerage Funding Program Policy (Appendix A);**
- (c) delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to fund eligible applications in accordance with the Water and Sewerage Funding Program Policy to an amount not exceeding \$700,000 in total for 2012/2013 financial year;**
- (d) to fund a Water and Sewerage Funding Program in the 2012/2013 financial year**
  - (i) cancel the second round of Major Community Grants for the 2012/2013 financial year (excluding categories funded by the Heritage Levy and Environment Levy);**
  - (ii) not award grants in the remaining three minor grant rounds for the remainder of the 2012/2013 financial year; and**
  - (iii) not award any further Individual Development Grants for the remainder of the 2012/2013 financial year.**

## **FINANCE AND RESOURCING**

There are four critical issues that create the current financial context for Council:

- In June 2012 the Federal Government pre-paid half of the 2012/2013 Financial Assistance Grant. In the past, one quarter of the grant has been pre-paid and the adopted budget anticipated this practise to continue. Since half of the grant was pre-paid into 2011/2012 there is a potential shortfall of \$2.6 million in the current budget;
- The expected full year growth in rateable properties is less than forecast, with lower revenue than budgeted of \$1.5 million;
- The achievement of the \$5 million savings target that is now included in the budget; and
- The preparation of long-term asset management plans and associated budget availability for required asset maintenance and renewal.

The financial reserves position for Council at 30 June 2012 along with a summary of reserves movements for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 was provided to Council at the October 2012 Ordinary Meeting (*Report 7.2.2 - Financial Reserves For Period Ending 30 June 2012*). The funding of adequate reserves is critical to the ongoing financial management of funding of future capital and operational works of Council. As identified in the report to Council there are significant expenditure of reserves forecast over the next five years which will impact on key financial ratios.

In theory, Council could consider the utilisation of funds from an operational reserve to provide the funding for the proposed Water and Sewerage Funding Program. The total funds held in reserve have been decreasing in recent times as the projects or program's that the reserves are allocate for have been funded. The reserve balance at 1 July 2012 of \$185 million are forecast to drop by \$48 million by year end to \$137 million.

The general operating reserve is the only reserve that could be used to fund the program proposed in this report unless Council wishes to request the Chief Executive Office to find other funds held in reserves that Council could determine are no longer required. The funding options in relation to this program are very limited.

The general operating reserve will be reduced from \$18.2 million to \$12.4 million by year end if current forecasts are correct. It should be noted that this reserve holds an amount of \$3.2 million that will potentially be drawn down to fund a shortfall in the current years Financial Assistance Grant that was paid in advance by the Commonwealth Government. It is **not recommended** that this reserve be further reduced by using it as a source of funding for the Water and Sewerage Funding Program.

With regard to borrowings, it is not appropriate to use debt to fund operational expenditure and that local government should only borrow to invest and not to fund current spending.

Against this financial background the funding proposal in this report does not seek to increase the budget, but rather proposes to reallocate the Community Grants budget within the context of support to not for profit community groups.

The proposal for funding is a reallocation of current budget allocations associated with Council's funding cycles for the provision of financial assistance to not for profit community organisations and individuals.

In order to fund a Water and Sewerage Funding Program in 2012/13 financial year is proposed to redirect \$700,000 from community grants program. The impact on the community grants program will be:

- Cancel the second round of Major Community Grants for the 2012/2013 financial year (excluding categories funded by the Heritage Levy and Environment Levy) which were scheduled to be announced in January 2013 (estimated savings \$499,975) and;
- Do not award grants in the remaining 3 minor grant rounds for the remainder of the 2012/2013 financial year (estimated savings \$171,713) and;
- Do not award any further Individual Development Grants (part of the Community Grants Program) (estimated savings \$60,000).

## **CORPORATE PLAN**

**Corporate Plan Theme:** *Social Cohesion*

**Emerging Priority:** 5.2 - Strong community groups and networks

**Strategy:**

- 5.2.1 - Value and support community organisations and volunteers across the region
- 5.2.2 - Encourage community organisations and local communities to be self sufficient
- 5.2.3 - Support community initiatives through appropriate provision of information, expertise and resources

## **CONSULTATION**

### **Internal Consultation**

- Executive Director, Community Services
- Manager Community Facilities, Community Services
- Manager Community Development, Community Services
- Manager Finance
- Plumbing Services Manager
- Senior Management Accountant
- Community Leasing and Assets Manager
- Community Sports and Facility Planning Manager
- Community Leasing Officer
- Development Officer.

### **External Consultation**

There has been no external consultation undertaken in relation to this item.

### **Community Engagement**

A public meeting was held regarding this matter and community representatives presented the issue to Council in a workshop on 24 September 2012.

Significant numbers of phone calls, emails and letters have been received from community organisations demonstrating a high level of concern about increased water and sewerage costs and the risk these costs pose to their organisation's ongoing viability.



**PROPOSAL**

In the 2011/2012 financial year Council provided approximately \$15m to not for profit community organisations. This figure does not include foregone rental, in-kind support or staff salaries associated with the administration of these programs/initiatives.

Council provides support to not for profit community organisations by the adopted Council Capital Program, DA fee discounts, reduction in developer contributions, peppercorn rentals, payment of building insurance, rates concessions and maintenance of community buildings.

In addition to the above mentioned support processes, Council also currently offers support through grants, which are funded via general revenue and levys, for the provision of financial assistance to not for profit community and sporting organisations and individuals.

**Proposed Water and Sewerage Funding Program**

Until the creation of Unitywater, in some instances Sunshine Coast Council provided reduced water and sewerage charges for various not for profit organisations. These reductions in the 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 budgets were in the form of rates concessions and community service obligations (CSOs).

On the 1st July 2010, Unitywater became responsible for providing water and sewerage services, including billing, to all residences, business and community organisations in the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay regions. Unitywater has determined that it will not provide any concessions for the not-for-profit sector. This policy stance by Unitywater has some serious consequences for Sunshine Coast based community and sporting organisations.

Unitywater has recently invoiced Council (as owner or controller of the land on which not-for-profit community organisations operate) for water and sewerage charges. Council, via the Community Leasing and Asset Unit, is currently obliged to on charge according to tenure agreements.

Council's Leasing and Assets Unit has already paid in excess of \$500,000 in invoices from Unitywater for the 2012/2013 financial year for community organisations. Council is also aware that Unitywater has invoiced other community organisations directly and as such is not able to quantify the full impact of invoicing for all community groups utilising Council owned or controlled land.

There has been a considerable concern expressed at a recent public meeting and to Council from organisations that have received water and sewerage invoices, either directly from Unitywater or passed on from Unitywater via Council, regarding the increase cost of water and sewerage services. A presentation was made to Council by community group representatives on 24 September, 2012 regarding the matter. At the presentation, Council was advised that these community and sporting organisations are seeking financial assistance from Council to alleviate the financial pressure that will be placed on the groups by paying the water and sewerage invoices. With the creation of Unitywater any such support provided by Council will need to be in the form of a community grant.

It is noted that in the first year (2010) of Unitywater charges, Council offered a Water and Sewerage Funding Program. Two hundred and nineteen (219) not-for-profit organisations received financial assistance totalling \$350 000. The funding program was only for one year (2010/2011) and was discontinued as part of Council's budget cycle. The funding program required community organisations that received Unitywater invoices to submit their invoices and an application form to Council for financial assistance via a grant.

The Water and Sewerage Funding Program is proposed as a means of providing financial assistance to not-for-profit community organisations providing services to the community. It acknowledges the contribution which community organisations are facing with increased water and sewerage charges.

The proposed program is based on a philosophy of partnership and involves Council contributing a percentage of water and sewerage access charges for eligible not-for-profit community organisations.

It is estimated that the total costs of water and sewerage access charges being faced by community groups is in excess of \$1 Million. However, the calculation of this figure is based on several significant assumptions and the figure may actually be higher. Council does not have sufficient funds to provide relief for the entire amount, which is why council officers are proposing that the Water and Sewerage Funding Program provides only a percentage contribution towards the water and sewerage access charges.

### **Water and Sewerage Funding Program Principles of Eligibility**

The proposed Water and Sewerage Funding Program is proposed to assist not-for-profit community organisations, working to lessen the impact of increased water and sewerage charges.

#### ***Guiding principles:***

- Achieve the objectives of the Corporate Plan through the active engagement of community organisations.
- Provide not-for-profit community organisations with financial support for water and sewerage access charges.
- Acknowledge the valuable contribution which community organisation groups and volunteers make to the community.
- Develop stronger and more resilient communities through capacity building and partnerships with Council.
- Distribute funds in an equitable manner to ensure good governance.
- Encourage community organisations to seek funding and in-kind support from sources other than Council.

Furthermore;

- Council's contribution is a percentage of the water and sewerage access costs only.
- Funding is not available for water consumption costs. Council seeks to encourage not-for-profit organisations to use water sustainably.
- Funding be available for 2012/13. This will enable Council to consider the outcome of its plumbing audit on not-for-profit community buildings.
- The proposed starting point for funding be billing periods within the 2012/2013 financial year.
- It is not a prerequisite for an applicant to have previously received a rebate or subsidy from Council for water and sewerage charges.
- Organisations can apply for or be in receipt of funding through the Community Grants Program, Community Partnership Funding Program or Sports Field Maintenance Funding Program.
- Those groups receiving invoices direct from Unitywater be entitled to receive the same contribution as those organisations where Council has paid the Unitywater invoice to on charge to the community group.
- Organisations must submit evidence of current Unitywater water and sewerage invoice (if applicable).
- Organisations must complete a Water and Sewerage Funding Program application (if applicable).

### ***Eligibility***

Community organisations that meet all of the following criteria will be eligible to apply:

- Not-for-profit community organisations i.e. do not operate for profit or direct or indirect gains of individual members, but have the primary purpose of providing services to the community, categorised accordingly by the Australian Taxation Office.
- Organisations that are incorporated, or are an Australian Public Company-Limited by Guarantee, and have an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Organisations that provide significant benefit to residents of the Sunshine Coast.
- Organisations that have appropriate insurance and adhere to sound workplace health and safety practices.
- Have met all acquittal conditions of previous Council grants and have no debt to Council, or if a debt exists then an agreed debt repayment plan is in place (and being adhered to) with Council;
- Funding is available to not-for-profit organisations which have a tenure arrangement (for example with council or Department of Natural Resources and Mines) or which have freehold land ownership.

Community organisations will be NOT be eligible to apply if they fall into the following categories:

- Ineligible under the Community Partnerships Program and Community Grants Guidelines;
- Organisations with more than 25 poker machines;
- Organisations operating in a commercial environment which should have the financial capacity to pay for their water and sewerage charges (e.g. combined childcare/kindergarten centres; aged care facilities; public housing organisations; apprenticeship and training organisations and RSL clubs) will also not be eligible for funding through this program); or
- Educational, religious or medical organisations where the application is for the organisation's core business nor organisations where the application is connected to political activities.

Council staff have recently met with Unitywater to discuss invoicing and water usage for community organisations into the future. Unitywater have raised the following range of possibilities which may reduce ongoing water and sewerage infrastructure costs:

- It is possible for water meters to be reduced in size which would reduce water access charges, but the pipe size still needs to be functional and allow sufficient water pressure for the operations of the facility.
- Organisations in the former Maroochy area can apply to have their discharge factor reduced in line with the amount of water that is used to irrigate fields and hence doesn't go down the sewer.
- In the southern and northern areas where pedestal charges are in place, organisations can cap off surplus toilets. Organisations need to ensure they can still be functional and should comply with the Building Code which calculates the number of pedestals required according to the size of the building.
- Where there are multiple water meters on one parcel of land, application can be made to have one of them disconnected. This needs to ensure the functionality of the existing meter and council approval would be required.
- Unitywater have indicated that they are moving towards a uniform charging regime incorporating volumetric charging for wastewater.

Consequently, Council's Plumbing Services Department will audit each community facility's water and sewerage infrastructure. The audit is a strategy to reduce costs to community organisations and will take some months to complete. The data on each facility will inform the degree to which reductions of Unitywater accounts may occur at each facility based on necessary infrastructure requirements. Once these audits have been completed, Council will be in a position to reassess its funding assistance and potentially adjust such assistance as required. It is also known that there will be costs to undertake works as required by Unitywater and these will be brought to Council's attention when known.

### **Legal**

The *Local Government (Finance, Plans and Reporting) Regulation 2010* (the Regulation) requires Council to have a Community Grants Policy and that any grants provided to community organisations be consistent with such a policy. This proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Regulation.

**Policy**

Council has a Grants Policy which deals with the provision of grants to community organisations.

**Risk**

There is a level of financial risk associated with the Water and Sewerage Funding Program proposed within this report. Because a number of significant assumptions have been made while collating data about water and sewerage access charges, there is a likelihood that the estimated total costs of these charges being faced by community groups is larger than \$1 Million. While Council officers continue to work to refine the data and improve the accuracy of projected costs, to effectively mitigate this risk, officers are proposing a funding program which provides a **percentage contribution** from Council towards the access charges only.

Some not-for-profit community organisations may not have the financial resources to meet their increased water and sewerage charges while others may have to divert financial resources from valuable community programs and services in order to pay their accounts if Council does not provide concessions.

The unknown potential scale and scope of the request for assistance from sporting groups and community organisations under the proposed Water and Sewerage Funding Program may be a financial risk for Council with consideration given to the \$5 million savings target that is included in the 2012/2013 budget. This issue makes the achievement of the savings target more difficult.

It is also estimated that approximately 216 groups (155 groups in the minor rounds, and 61 in the major round) may be successful for grants if the community grant program continued as normal.

This calculation is based on:

- The last round of minor grants resulting in 55 successful grant submissions, and this memo proposes the deletion of 3 more minor grants rounds, including the round which is currently open which is proposed NOT to be awarded.
- The last round of major grants resulted in 61 successful submissions. It is estimated that 61 groups may also be affected by Council NOT offering a second round of major grants in 2013/2014. Also, in 2013/2014, there are 26 organisations who will stop receiving the funding support they have been receiving for the last 3 financial years (including the current year).

This calculation was carried out in order to provide an estimate of the number of community groups which may be affected by Council cancelling all further community grants in 2012/2013. The number of groups who would normally apply, but be unsuccessful in their grant applications would be higher than this.

There is also the risk that potential applicants for the individual development grants will be unhappy with council's decision to remove the funding attributed to that program.

**Previous Council Resolution**

Ordinary Meeting 25 August 2010 – (OM10/214)

*That Council:*

- (a) *note the report titled “Support for Not for Profit Sector – Water and Sewerage”;*
- (b) *request the Chief Executive Officer to establish a draft Water and Sewer Funding Program in accordance with the Community Partnership Funding Program guidelines and up to a maximum of \$1 million in the 2010/2011 financial year;*
- (c) *request that the draft Water and Sewer Funding Program provide for its subsidies to be linked to a commitment by recipient not for profit organisations to transition to more affordable and sustainable water supply technologies at their facilities and that organisations be assisted in this task by Council through the provision of relevant information;*
- (d) *request the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a report back to Council for consideration of the draft Water and Sewer Funding Program; and*
- (e) *request the Chief Executive Officer write to Unitywater again requesting:*
- (f) *extra time for the payment of water and sewerage bills for not for profit groups and that interest not accrue on any outstanding accounts*
- (g) *amendment of the sewerage charging regime from a pedestal to a volumetric methodology; and*
- (h) *consideration of its policy with respect to financial assistance to not for profit groups to provide such assistance in the future.*

Ordinary Meeting 02 February 2011 – (OM11/11)

*That Council:*

- (a) *receive and note the report titled “Council Financial Support to the Not-For-Profit Sector”; and*
- (b) *endorse the draft Discussion Paper, for community engagement (Appendix A).*

Ordinary Meeting 18 May 2011 – (OM11/77)

*That Council:*

- (a) *receive and note the report titled “Proposed Guideline Changes to Council’s Grants and Partnership Programs”; and*
- (b) *request the Chief Executive Officer to immediately amend the grants and partnership guidelines as outlined in this report.*

**Related Documentation**

- Community Grants Eligibility Guidelines 2012/2013
- Community Partnership Funding Program Guidelines 2012/2013

**Critical Dates**

16 January 2013 is a critical date, as this is the proposed date for opening of the next round of minor grants and the next round of major grants to be offered through the Community Grants Program. Should Council not endorse this report, a decision needs to be made in relation to whether officers should proceed with the proposed funding rounds in January 2013. If Council decides to allow the grants rounds proposed for January 2013 to proceed, the funds distributed as a result through the grants program would necessitate further funding sources to be identified to fund the Water and Sewerage Program proposed in this report.

The accounts issued by Unitywater are also due for payment. Not-for-profit community organisations affected by this matter will be notified of Council's decision as a matter of urgency.

**Implementation**

If Council endorses the Water and Sewerage Program, applications would be called as soon as possible with the results reported to Council via Council's budget review processes.

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<b>Sunshine Coast Council</b>		Sunshine Coast Regional Council
<b>STRATEGIC POLICY</b>		
<b>WATER AND SEWERAGE FUNDING PROGRAM POLICY</b>		
<b>Corporate Plan Reference:</b>	2.7.2 Encourage water harvesting and sustainable use of water resources  3.1.1 Foster partnerships with government, businesses and the community to encourage innovation and sustainability.  4.2.4 Support community-based sport and recreation organisations and programs.  5.2.1 Value and support community organisations and volunteers across the region.  5.2.2 Encourage community organisations and local communities to be self sufficient.  5.2.3 Support community initiatives through appropriate provision of information, expertise and resources.	
<b>Endorsed by Council on:</b>	<Insert Ordinary Meeting Date>	
<b>Policy Owner and Department:</b>	Executive Director Community Services Department	

### **POLICY PURPOSE**

This Policy seeks to:

- outline the purpose and strategic intent of Council's Water and Sewerage Funding Program;
- identify a process to decrease the impact of increased water and sewerage charges for community organisations for the 2012/2013 financial year; and
- encourage a widespread culture of effective water management.

### **POLICY SCOPE**

This Policy applies to not-for-profit community organisations, however it does not apply to:

- funding assistance for water consumption charges - Council's contribution is a percentage of the water and sewerage charges access only;
- Sponsorship, donations, advertising, naming rights or joint ventures;
- Council's Community Grants Program;
- Council's Community Partnership Funding Program; and
- Council's Sports Fields Maintenance Funding Program.

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Water and Sewerage Funding Program has been established as a result of an identified need by Sunshine Coast Council to assist not-for-profit organisations. This is a new one year funding assistance

**STRATEGIC POLICY – WATER AND SEWERAGE FUNDING PROGRAM POLICY**

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measure that enhances Council's capacity to deliver on the objectives of the Corporate Plan and has no relationship to any other Council funding program.

The Water and Sewerage Funding Program recognises the contribution which community groups and volunteers make to the community and recognises the difficulties that many organisations are facing with increased water and sewerage and utility charges.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

In administering this Policy and in the formulation of the funding guidelines, Council will:

- achieve the objectives of the Corporate Plan through the active engagement of community organisations;
- provide not-for-profit community organisations with financial support for water and sewerage access charges;
- acknowledge the valuable contribution which community organisations, groups and volunteers make to the community;
- develop stronger and more resilient communities through capacity building and partnerships with Council;
- distribute funds in an equitable manner to ensure good governance;
- encourage community organisations to seek funding and in-kind support from sources other than Council.

**ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for Water and Sewerage Funding Program funding, community organisations must:

- be a not-for-profit community organisation, defined by the Australian Taxation Office as not operating for profit or direct or indirect gains of individual members, but having the primary purpose of providing services to the community;
- be incorporated, or are an Australian Public Company-Limited by Guarantee, and have an Australian Business Number (ABN);
- provide significant benefit to residents of the Sunshine Coast;
- have appropriate insurance and adhere to sound workplace health and safety practices;
- have met all acquittal conditions of previous Council grants and have no debt to Council, or if a debt exists then an agreed debt repayment plan is in place (and being adhered to) with Council;
- Comply with all funding eligibility requirements endorsed by Council
- have policies and practices that encourage active and inclusive participation;
- have formal tenure on Council or crown land or own their facility freehold;
- submit evidence of current Unitywater water and sewerage invoice (if applicable);
- have completed Water and Sewerage Funding Program application (if applicable);
- no more than 25 poker machines.

**NOTE**

- The starting point for funding is for billing periods within the 2012/13 financial year.
- Water and Sewerage Funding Program grants will be approved under Council delegation by the Chief Executive Officer.
- It is NOT a prerequisite for an application to have previously received a rebate or subsidy from Council for water and sewerage charges.
- Organisations can apply for or be in receipt of funding through the Community Grants Program, Community Partnership Funding Program or Sports Fields Maintenance Funding Program.
- Educational, religious or medical organisations are not eligible to apply where the application is for the organisation's core business nor organisations where the application is connected to political activities.

**STRATEGIC POLICY – WATER AND SEWERAGE FUNDING PROGRAM POLICY**

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- Due to Council financial constraints and the potential high demand, it is proposed that community organisations and sporting groups that are not eligible as per Council's Community Partnerships Program and Grants Guidelines will not be considered for assistance; nor will organisations that operate in a commercial environment and therefore should have the financial capacity to pay for their water and sewerage charges (e.g. combined childcare/kindergarten centres; aged care facilities; public housing organisations; apprenticeships and training organisations; and Returned and Services League Clubs).

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

The allocation of funding is based on an application process. Not-for-profit community organisations and sporting groups will be required to submit an application form which will be available on Council's website.

**RELATED POLICIES AND LEGISLATION**

*Queensland Local Government Act 2009*  
*Queensland Local Government Finance Standard 2005*  
*Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2009-2014*  
*Sunshine Coast Council Grants Policy*  
*Sunshine Coast Council Partnership Program Policy*  
*Sunshine Coast Council Sponsorship Policy*

Version control:

Version	Reason/ Trigger	Change (Y/N)	Endorsed/ Reviewed by	Date
1.0	Create new	N	CORALIE NICHOLS	14/11/2012

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**5 NEXT MEETING**

Nil.

**6 MEETING CLOSURE**