

## **STRATEGIC POLICY**

### **WATER AND SEWERAGE FUNDING PROGRAM POLICY**

<p><b>Corporate Plan Reference:</b></p>	<p>2.7.2 Encourage water harvesting and sustainable use of water resources</p> <p>3.1.1 Foster partnerships with government, businesses and the community to encourage innovation and sustainability.</p> <p>4.2.4 Support community-based sport and recreation organisations and programs.</p> <p>5.2.1 Value and support community organisations and volunteers across the region.</p> <p>5.2.2 Encourage community organisations and local communities to be self sufficient.</p> <p>5.2.3 Support community initiatives through appropriate provision of information, expertise and resources.</p>
<p><b>Endorsed by Council on:</b></p>	<p>11 December 2012</p>
<p><b>Policy Owner and Department:</b></p>	<p>Executive Director Community Services Department</p>

#### **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 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, 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);
- if they are an organisation operating within a commercial environment, demonstrate that they are the 'active component' of that organisation.

**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.
- Due to Council financial constraints and the potential high demand, it is proposed that community organisations and sporting groups that operate in a commercial environment and therefore should have the financial capacity to pay for their water and sewerage charges will not be considered for assistance (e.g. supporters clubs of Surf Life Saving Clubs and other clubs, 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