
NOTICE OF MOTION - ALLOCATION - WOOMBYE LIBRARY

File No: ECM 26 July 2012
Author: Division 5 Councillor, Jenny McKay
Notices of Motion

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councillor J McKay intends to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting to take place on Thursday, 26 July 2012:

COUNCILLOR RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve the use of \$3,000 of Councillor Emergent Capital works and Minor Operational Works allocation towards the running costs of the Woombye Library.

COUNCILLOR COMMENT

Volunteers of Woombye Library have been providing this serve to the community in excess of 107 years. Under the previous Council, the Woombye Library Committee was afforded the grant to fund up to \$12,000 for the purchase of books and associated costs to run this facility.

Whilst council's library services have generously offered in-kind support to help close the financial gap, it still means that volunteers have to run street stalls to fundraise to ensure that this wonderful and historical facility remains.

This facility is not only a very lovely and well used library; it is also the hub of social contact in Woombye.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMENT

In accordance with Council's Community Partnership Funding Program the Woombye Community Library Inc applied for \$10,718 operational funding in 2010/11. In response to this application Council endorsed funding for \$4,000 per annum for three (3) years. The full amount requested was not granted, and the comments from the assessment panel state *"Part funding due to high demand. A contribution to ongoing operations. It is a condition of funding that applicant works collaboratively and develops a close working relationship with SCRC Learning Communities Branch."*

The \$4,000 grant is utilized by the Woombye Community Library to assist with the operational costs associated with the day to day running of the library (ie: electricity bills, rates etc).

On Friday 13 July, 2012 paperwork for processing 2012/13 (year 3) funding of \$4,000 was mailed to the Woombye Community Library Inc.

It is also noted that in addition to the Community Partnership Funding Program Council resolved for the CEO to increase the funding provided to the Woombye Community Library Inc for one year only to \$10,000 in July 2010.

Over the last 12 months, staff in Community Services have met with the Divisional Councillor and worked with Woombye Library Inc. on the following issues:-

- Offered to assist in a number of ways with donation of books for sale at Woombye Community Library and their volunteers being able to hold book sales outside the Nambour library with books discarded from Council.
- Engaged in meetings at the Woombye Community Library to canvass possibilities of assisting with fundraising.
- Identified options for funding through Council's major and minor grants programs.
- Provided a \$2,000 grant for "Celebration of National Year of Reading Recognition" in November, 2011
- Provided assistance seeking funding from other sources (Heritage Building Society)

With regard to the request for a further grant to assist with the running costs of Woombye Library, it is noted that Council's Grants Policy specifies a process that includes the making of applications, assessment of these applications and approval by Council based on these processes and timeframes. Operating outside of these processes and timeframes is considered technically inconsistent with Council's Grants Policy.

Should the Council wish to proceed with this Notified Motion and observe technical compliance with Council's Grant's Policy and the Finance Regulation, Council would need to revise the Grants Policy so that the Policy:-

- (a) specifies closing dates for particular categories of grant application; but
- (b) reserves to Council the right to consider a grant application at a meeting of Council subsequent to a relevant closing date.

Notwithstanding the matter of technical non-compliance, should the Notified Motion pertaining to the Woombye Library Inc. proceed as per the Divisional Councillor's intention via the resolution of council, the resolution would need to include a statement of reasons why the policy advice was not accepted, in accordance with Section 70 of the Local Government (Operations) Regulation 2010.

It is further noted that Council is currently unable to utilise the Councillor Emergent Capital Works and Minor Operational Works Policy for the purposes of funding community organisations. A change to the criteria of this Policy would need a council resolution as currently the Policy does not allow "community donation funds".

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

There are two previous Council resolutions that relate to this matter.

Ordinary Meeting Minutes 16 November 2011:

Council Resolution (OM11/289)

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve the use of \$3,000 of Divisional Councillor Emergent Capital Works and Minor Operational Works allocation towards the running costs of the Woombye Library.

Ordinary Meeting Minutes 1 July 2010:

Council Resolution (OM10/184)

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Community Partnership Funding Program 2010";*
- (b) endorse the funding recommendations (Appendix A);*
- (c) note that due to the timing of the approval of this program, the \$1,569,859 will be required to be carried over into the 2010/2011 financial year; and*
- (d) request the Chief Executive Officer to meet with Councillor J McKay to pursue other funding opportunities for the Maleny Pool and Woombye Library.*