

STRATEGIC POLICY

WATER & SEWERAGE FUNDING PROGRAM POLICY

<p>Corporate Plan Reference:</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>Endorsed by Council on:</p>	<p><Insert Ordinary Meeting Date></p>
<p>Policy Owner and Department:</p>	<p>Coralie Nichols, 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 financial year 2012/2013.
- encourage a widespread culture of effective water management.

POLICY SCOPE

This policy 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 Grants Program;
- Council's Community Partnership Funding Program; and
- Council's Sportsfields 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 annual subject to budget funding assistance measure that enhances council's capacity to deliver on the objectives of the

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Corporate Plan and has no relation to any other council funding program. The fund 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 program funding, community organisations must:

- Be a not-for-profit community organisation, as defined by the Australian Taxation Office 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
- 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.
- 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).
- Have 25 or less poker machines.

NOTE

- The starting point for funding is for Unitywater invoices for access costs only received post January 2012.
- 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 Field 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 from community organisations and sporting groups, funding under this program will not be provided to those community organisations who have full liquor licences and large scale organisations who have a

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demonstrated financial capacity to pay for their water and sewerage charges (eg childcare centres, aged care facilities and surf clubs with licensed supporters 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 and will also be required to provide copies of recent audited financial statements and Unitywater invoices.

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
Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan

Version control:

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