



---

# ATTACHMENTS

---

**Community Services Committee**  
**6 October 2015**

5.30pm

City of Albany Council Chambers

COMMITTEE  
ATTACHMENTS –04/8/2015  
\*\* REFER DISCLAIMER \*\*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Attachment</b>	<b>Report No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>B</b>	CS	Community Services Committee	
	CS025	COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY- REVIEW AND ADOPTION	1-17



## Council Policy – Community Funding and Events Sponsorship (2013)

### 1. Policy Statement

The City of Albany aims to build a sustainable, vibrant, engaging and inclusive local community improving the quality of life and opportunities for all residents and visitors.

*Community Funding* supports this aspiration through stimulating community driven initiatives and activity that enhance community engagement and participation, build community resilience and wellbeing, and develop civic pride and leadership.

*Events Sponsorship* further supports this aspiration through the promotion of Albany as a tourism destination of choice, advancing economic development and enhancing the vibrancy and liveability of Albany through a diverse, sustainable and engaging events calendar.

### 2. Objective

To provide an equitable and accessible framework for the provision of Community Funding and Events Sponsorship that aligns with Council's strategic objectives.

### 3. Scope

#### Oversight

Oversight and delivery of activity generated by this Policy is within the Community Services Directorate.

#### Framework

*Community Funding* has two program streams:

- Community Enterprise Grants; and
- Community Leadership Grants.

The *Community Funding* framework is outlined in Table 1.

Program	Objective	Detail	Delegated Authority
<b>Community Enterprise Grants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enhance community engagement and participation.</li> <li>• To build community resilience and wellbeing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants to support community groups and organisations enhance, develop or deliver activities, programs or services.</li> <li>• Supports minor equipment purchases or maintenance, capacity building initiatives, or innovative community programs.</li> </ul>	Community Committee
<b>Community Leadership Grants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop and celebrate outstanding community leaders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small grants to support individuals and groups' outstanding achievements, endeavour or the development of community leaders.</li> <li>• Supports travel costs to conferences, sporting meets, celebrations and civic engagements.</li> </ul>	Executive Director Community Services

*Events Sponsorship* has two program streams:

- Regional Event Sponsorship; and
- Community Event Sponsorship.

The *Events Sponsorship* framework is outlined in Table 2.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Delegated Authority</b>
<b>Regional Event Sponsorship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enhance tourism activity in the region.</li> <li>• Significant positive economic, social and community benefits.</li> <li>• To raise the profile of Albany.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for high-profile regional events that attract intrastate, interstate and international visitors to Albany and that demonstrate significant positive economic, social and community benefits.</li> </ul>	Economic Development Committee
<b>Community Event Sponsorship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To have a positive impact on the vibrancy, diversity of activity and liveability of Albany.</li> <li>• To contribute positively to the image and economic development of Albany.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for community events that contribute to a diverse events calendar for the local community in Albany and demonstrate positive economic, social and community benefits.</li> </ul>	Community Committee

**Budget Allocation and Timeframe**

A total budget of \$405,000 to be allocated across Community Funding and Event Sponsorship over three financial years: 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016.

Unallocated funds to be carried forward.

Total budget to be allocated each financial year to be determined on an annual basis.

**Guidelines**

*Community Funding* to include applicant guidelines outlining the process and requirements for application and acquittal to be reviewed annually.

*Event Sponsorship* to include guidelines for sponsorship proposals and project evaluation in the ‘Regional Events Sponsorship’ stream and event proposal, planning and evaluation in the ‘Community Events Sponsorship’ stream to be reviewed annually.

**Eligibility**

In addition to guiding values as outlined in the Policy Statement eligibility criteria will be based on the following principles:

- Incorporated, not for profit, community organisations (excluding *Regional Events Sponsorship*);
- Activity to take place within the Municipal boundary or have a positive impact for the local community;
- Recurrent, retrospective or deficit support is ineligible.

**Communication**

*Community Funding* and *Event Sponsorship* details to be made publically available.

**Out of Scope**

This Policy does not reference, influence or impact other funding or financial assistance programs delivered by the City including rates rebates, funding or in-kind support through City Business Units or other programs that may be delivered from time to time.

**4. Legislative and Strategic Context**

Community Funding and Events Sponsorship directly relate to the City of Albany Strategic Plan 2013- 2023 as outlined in Table 3.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Focus</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Detail</b>
<b>Community Enterprise Grants</b>	Sense of Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vibrant accessible places and spaces</li> <li>• Sought after lifestyle destination</li> <li>• Community and volunteer support</li> </ul>
<b>Community Leadership Grants</b>	Civic Leadership Sense of Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community engagement</li> <li>• Community and volunteer support</li> <li>• Accessible support and services</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Events Sponsorship</b>	Smart Prosperous and Growing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sought after visitor destination</li> <li>• Economic development</li> <li>• Major events and attractions</li> </ul>
<b>Community Events Sponsorship</b>	Sense of Community A Liveable Built Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vibrant accessible places and spaces</li> <li>• Interesting events and festivals</li> <li>• Active and involved community</li> </ul>

**5. Review Position and Date**

Executive Director of Community Services on or before 30 June 2016.

**6. Associated Documents**

All associated documentation will be reviewed and developed subject to council endorsement of the policy. Base material to be developed is:

- Community Program Funding Guidelines 2012-2013
- Community Program Funding Application Form 2012-2013
- Community Program Funding Acquittal Form 2012-2013
- Community Program Funding Contract 2012-2013

**7. Definitions**

*Community Funding:*

Refers to the Community Enterprise Grants and the Community Leadership Grants.

*Events Sponsorship:*

Refers to Regional Event Sponsorship and Community Event Sponsorship.

**Version Control**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Distribution</b>	<b>Comment</b>
01	11/04/2013	Adopted	EDCS	Adoption Reference: OCM 21 May 2013 Item 3.1

© City of Albany 2013

Copyright for this document belongs to the City of Albany. It may not be sold or subject to any charges without the City's written permission. Apart from sales, the City freely permits copying, use and distribution provided the City of Albany's copyright is asserted and provided this notice is included on any subsequent form of the document.

**\*\* DISCLAIMER \*\***

This information contained in this document is a guide only. Verification with original Local Laws, Acts, Planning Schemes, and other relevant documents is recommended for detailed references. The City of Albany accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions.



## POLICY EVALUATION

Project Name :	Community Funding and Event Sponsorship Policy
Synergy File Ref :	RPT5811
Report Date:	September 2015

### Document Version Control

Version No.	Date	Author	Amendments / Comments
1	19/9/15	Rani Param	

### Distribution List

Name	Position	Interest in Project
Rani Param	Community Development Officer	Project Manager
Samantha Stevens	Manager Recreation Services	Internal Stakeholder
Matthew Bird	Manager Tourism Development and Services	Internal Stakeholder
Duncan Olde	A/g Executive Director Corporate Services	Internal Stakeholder
Adam Cousins	A/g Executive Director Community Services	Executive Director

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Overview**

The City’s Community Funding and Event Sponsorship expires on 30 June 2016 and is now due for review.

Community Funding has been administered by the Community Services Directorate, principally Community Development (Community Enterprise Grants and Community Event Sponsorship), and Recreation Services (Community Leadership Grants). Community Leadership Grants are not included in this evaluation as the program is still disbursing funds.

Regional Event Sponsorship (RES) was administered by Tourism Development and Services, however with the creation of the Economic Development and Commercial Services Directorate, has returned to Community Services. RES has been excluded from this evaluation as that funding stream has broader strategic policy drivers, and will be considered in a separate policy review and policy development initiative.

The timing of the evaluation and Council adoption of a new Policy has been considered in the context of enabling seamless transition to the new Policy and beginning the process of the next funding round in time for the 2016-17 financial year. The City requires approximately four months to promote the availability of funding, receive and assess applications from applicants, and to approve and distribute funding agreements to successful applicants prior to the new financial year when funded activity can commence. This process begins in January/February each year in order for this to be completed by June. As Council is in recess for January each year, it is important that the new Council Policy is adopted this year to avoid delays.

This evaluation report provides an overview of Community Enterprise Grants and Community Event Sponsorship outcomes over the past three years. The report also reviews the administrative processes and the effectiveness of the Policy in meeting its objectives as they relate to two streams.

Lastly the report recommends changes in process and scope for a new Community Funding Policy.

**1.2 Summary of Policy Outcomes**

The following table shows the funding outcomes for two streams under the Policy:

- Community Enterprise Grants; and
- Community Event Sponsorship

(The two remaining streams under the Policy, Community Leadership Grants and Regional Event Sponsorship are excluded from the evaluation as the streams are still disbursing funds and are in effect still operational.)

<b>Total Funding Available</b>	<b>Total Applications Received</b>	<b>Total Amount of Funding Requested</b>	<b>Total Applications Funded</b>	<b>Amount of Funding Distributed</b>
\$231,040.00	60	\$229,034.66	37	\$117,176.00

REPORT ITEM CS 025 REFERS

A summary of funded activities for both streams for the three financial years is as follows:

2013-2014 Funding Year

**Community Event Sponsorship**

*Total Funding Available: \$30,000*

<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Total Amount of Funding Requested</b>	<b>Total Applications Approved</b>	<b>Amount of funding allocated</b>	<b>Funded Activities</b>
10	\$40,381.27	8	\$20,620.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Harmony Day Festival</li> <li>▪ Carols by Candlelight</li> <li>▪ Wellstead Harvest Festival</li> <li>▪ Sculpture in the Harbour 2014 Reflections</li> <li>▪ Festival of the Sea (declined funds)</li> <li>▪ 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration Coolangarras Barmah (declined funds)</li> <li>▪ Sustainable Albany Festival</li> <li>▪ My World in 3D</li> </ul>

**Community Enterprise Funding**

*Total Funding Available: \$50,000*

<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Total Amount in Funding Requested</b>	<b>Total Applications Funded</b>	<b>Amount of funding allocated</b>	<b>Funded Activities</b>
11	\$25,363.18	7	\$15,130.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Playground upgrade at Camp Kennedy Baptist Youth Camp</li> <li>▪ Information service for homeless men</li> <li>▪ Promotional pamphlet about Oblong Turtle safety</li> <li>▪ Exploring better ways of delivering services to people with disability</li> <li>▪ Wellness Garden at Shalom House</li> <li>▪ Outdoor BBQ area at Depression Support Network</li> <li>▪ Community garden and associated activities in Little Grove</li> </ul>

2014-2015 Funding Year

**Community Event Sponsorship**

*Total Funding Available: \$42,704*

<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Total Amount of Funding Requested</b>	<b>Total Applications Funded</b>	<b>Amount of funding allocated</b>	<b>Funded Activities</b>
20	\$77,504.00	9	\$28,200.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Carols by Candlelight</li> <li>▪ Festival of the Sea</li> <li>▪ Kite Celebration Extravaganza and Celebrate our Birds Day</li> <li>▪ Harmony Day Festival</li> <li>▪ Harbour 'Reflections' Talks</li> <li>▪ Mayor's XI and President's XI cricket match</li> <li>▪ Harbour Swim across Princess Royal Harbour</li> <li>▪ Great Southern, Great Science Festival</li> <li>▪ Albany Short Course Swimming Carnival</li> </ul>

**Community Enterprise Funding**

*Total Funding Available: \$61,336*

<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Total Amount in Funding Requested</b>	<b>Total Applications Funded</b>	<b>Amount of funding allocated</b>	<b>Funded Activities</b>
8	\$39,144.30	5	\$23,345.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Self esteem program for girls aged 9-14 years</li> <li>▪ 'Cache' – collective pop-up gallery and studios in the CBD</li> <li>▪ Dance workshops for people with disability to encourage physical activity</li> <li>▪ Wellstead 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations</li> <li>▪ Photographic equipment purchase by Albany Film Users Group</li> </ul>

2015-2016 Funding Year

**Community Event Sponsorship**

*Total Funding Available: \$22,500*

<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Total Amount of Funding Requested</b>	<b>Total Applications Funded</b>	<b>Amount of funding allocated</b>	<b>Funded Activities</b>
7	\$31,227.28	5	\$18,500.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Carols by Candlelight</li> <li>▪ Harmony Day Festival</li> <li>▪ Sustainable Albany Festival</li> <li>▪ Festival of the Sea</li> <li>▪ Albany Agricultural Show</li> </ul>

**Community Enterprise Funding**

*Total Funding Available: 24,500*

<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Total Amount in Funding Requested</b>	<b>Total Applications Funded</b>	<b>Amount of funding allocated</b>	<b>Funded Activities</b>
4	\$15,414.63	3	\$11,381.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Equipment for Fishers with Disabilities</li> <li>▪ Water tank and lighting upgrade for Youngs Siding Community Hall</li> <li>▪ Youth activities program at Open Access Studio</li> </ul>

### 1.3 Background

- Council Policy — Community Financial Assistance and Events Funding Program (2009) [Community Financial Assistance Program] originally provided the policy framework and operational mechanism for Council to financially support community groups, organisations and local initiatives.
- At its Ordinary Council Meeting on 20 April 2010 (Item 12.12.2), Council introduced a moratorium on the grant category allocations under the Community Financial Assistance Program to the years 2010/2011 and 2011/2012. Under the moratorium rates rebates and iconic events funding (referred to as Icon events in the Policy) continued.
- At the Ordinary Council Meeting 19 June 2012 Council endorsed the 2012/2013 City of Albany Budget that included an allocation of \$35,000 for Community Assistance Funding (Item 1.5, No 51 refers). The 2012/2013 Budget Adoption Report noted:
  - *Community Assistance Funding of \$35,000 will assist community groups and individuals deliver projects, initiatives and events that:*
    - *Enhance community engagement and participation;*
    - *Build community resilience and wellbeing; and/or*
    - *Develop the vibrancy and liveability of Albany.*
- A program to support the 2012/2013 Council-endorsed budget was subsequently developed. To distinguish this new program from the existing Community Financial Assistance Policy and associated moratorium, a new name (Community Funding Program) and supporting funding administration processes were developed. With the exception of rates rebates, this program ran for one financial year.
- The Community Services Directorate reviewed the City's approach to Council investment in community funding, and recommended a three year policy for community funding be adopted.
- The Council Policy – Community Funding and Event Sponsorship (2013) was adopted by Council at its Ordinary Council Meeting of 21 May 2013 (Item 3.1). The Policy covers 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 financial years, with a total budget allocation of \$405,000.
- Two of the funding streams under the current Policy have been fully expended, while the Community Leadership and Regional Event Sponsorship streams are still disbursing funds.

## **2 EVALUATION**

A summary analysis of various policy outcomes and processes follows.

### **2.1 Applications Received**

Overall the quality of applications received was of a low quality. Many applications did not address the requirements as stated in the Guidelines, provided inadequate explanation of the proposed activity, did not articulate how City funding would be utilised, or were applying for ineligible activities. For two consecutive years, the City's Revenue Development Officer provided training in grant writing and application to community groups, coinciding with the opening of each funding round. Despite the highly positive feedback received regarding the training, there was no demonstrable improvement in the quality of applications.

There were some applications for very small amounts, or for small events for which City support represented a minor proportion of the overall sponsorship/funding for the activity. These requests could have been more efficiently dealt with through a 'quick response' process, similar to the process used for requests for Letters of Support from the City.

Applicants are asked in their application forms to identify City of Albany in-kind support, but only that provided for the funded activity. Assessment panels have noted that this could be expanded to include all in-kind support provided to the applicant by the City, which would assist at the assessment stage, and provide a more transparent overview of the total support provided to an applicant.

Applications for activity in the broad areas of Arts/culture, sport and education/awareness-raising were the dominant themes across the three program streams. The Funding Guidelines for Community Enterprise Grants were revised in year three to consider building modifications and improvements that specifically addressed disability access, public health and safety.

### **2.2 Policy Framework**

Separating funding and sponsorship was confusing to many applicants. A high volume of inception phone calls from prospective applicants indicated uncertainty as to which stream to apply for. While there were valid reasons for delineating funding from sponsorship in the Policy, in practice this has not translated to greater clarity for potential applicants.

Furthermore, Community Event and Community Enterprise streams were undersubscribed for the entirety of the Policy. This is likely due to a variety of factors, including the application process, that commonly identified items of need for community organisations were ineligible (ie recurrent funding, minor capital works and equipment purchases), and/or the amount of funds available per applicant.

Over 90% of successful Community Leadership Grants have been sport-related. Feedback from Recreation Services is that Leadership Grants are working well in meeting a community need, and because there is still one year of funds left to be disbursed through this stream, Community Leadership Grants have therefore been excluded from the policy evaluation at this point.

### **2.3 Applicant Feedback**

Applicants were asked to provide feedback of ideas to improve the grants process through their acquittal documentation. The majority of respondents offered no suggestions for improvements.

To further supplement these responses a number of previous applicants were contacted and asked for their feedback about the City's community funding. Applicants expressed satisfaction with the time allowed to submit applications, and that the process of assessment was relatively clear. Applicants thought the funding rounds could be better and more widely promoted. However, when asked how the City could do this, most identified methods already used to promote the funding availability (traditional and social media, City email networks, poster display and discussion in networking forums).

Applicants also identified the criteria for which funding can be used could be expanded to include minor capital works, equipment purchases, and recurrent funding. Eligibility terms will be considered through the development of the Funding Guidelines associated with the new Policy.

## **2.4 Communication and Advertisement**

Funding and Event Sponsorship was communicated to the broader community through the following methods:

- Newspaper advertisement throughout the period applications are open, including in the City's monthly Community Info Page. The advertisement design was deliberately eye-catching and colourful, and usually one third of the page or more for high visibility.
- Social media using the 'City of Albany Events' Facebook page.
- The City's website, including a homepage highlight to direct website readers to the Community Funding page.
- City of Albany email communication networks. These included the email networks of the Community Development Officer(s), Club Development Officer, Vancouver Arts Centre newsletter, Albany Public Library monthly email to members, and the weekly City of Albany Stakeholder Communications email.
- Poster display of newspaper advertisement in City facilities (Administration Building, Albany Public Library, Vancouver Arts Centre, Town Hall), as well as Lotteries House and in the public areas of stakeholder organisations.
- In periodic radio interviews with Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director Community Services, and Mayor.

## **2.5 Financial Considerations**

Given that both Community Enterprise and Event Sponsorship programs were undersubscribed across the three years of the current Policy, it is proposed that the new Policy be allocated a reduced budget for the three year period.

It is recommended an allocation of \$50,000 per annum for a three financial year period of which \$10,000pa could be distributed for quick response requests, and \$40,000pa for an annual funding round. This is approximately equivalent to the annual amounts distributed for both Community Enterprise and Event Sponsorship for the previous three year period.

The annual funding round will open for applications in February to April each year, with assessment, grant approval, and distribution of funding agreements taking place through May and June, and funds available to be released to successful applicants commencing on 1 August each year.

## 2.6 Strategic Implications

Community Funding links to the Community Strategic Plan *Albany 2023* as follows:

- 4.1 To build resilient and cohesive communities with a strong sense of community spirit.
- 4.2 To create interesting places, spaces and events which reflect our community's identity, diversity and heritage.

## 2.7 Cultural and Community Implications

There is an expectation from community groups and organisations that their local government will offer some kind of funding or grant support for initiatives and activities delivered by the community group. This was evident following the announcement of the moratorium on community funding which caused considerable disquiet in the community.

As the City has committed through its Community Plan to supporting festivals, events and other activities, and encouraging and supporting communities to own these initiatives, grant-making is arguably a more cost-effective way of achieving this, builds the capacity of local organisations to deliver these activities, and therefore has the potential to create more sustainable outcomes over the longer term.

It is not uncommon for local governments to offer community funding; in the Great Southern region the Shires of Denmark, Plantagenet, Cranbrook, Kojonup, Katanning, Woodanilling and Gnowangerup allocate community funding and grants.

## 2.8 Achievement of Objectives

The objective of the Community Funding and Event Sponsorship Policy is "to provide an equitable and accessible framework for the provision of Community Funding and Event Sponsorship that aligns with Council's strategic objectives".

The Policy has improved the transparency and probity of distribution of City funding to eligible applicants. There is now a clear and objective audit trail of decision-making, including objective measures of assessing funding applications which are made available to all applicants. Successful applicants are also required to acquit their funding at the conclusion of funded activities. This includes providing the City with copies of receipts to demonstrate funding was used for the purpose for which it was provided, as well as a description of what took place and brief analysis of success or otherwise of funded activity.

Decision making now occurs through delegated authority which has improved the efficiency of decision making; previously, approval of funding for individual applicants was via Ordinary Council Meetings, an unnecessary additional administrative process when City officers have authority to approve grants.

The dominant categories for which Enterprise and Community Event funding was provided were for arts/cultural and education/capacity building events and activities. These activities align with the City's strategic objectives as mentioned at 2.6 above. Furthermore, the current Policy has led to greater activation of City spaces, particularly in the central business district with increased opportunities for community members to connect with local events.

## 2.9 Problems and Challenges

The low quality of applications received is a particular challenge, and indicates a need for more capacity building for community organisations around developing funding submissions. Increasing the ability of local organisations to develop high quality applications for funding will potentially benefit the City's community funding, and also improve those organisations' likelihood of success to other grant bodies.

While the grant writing workshops offered by the Revenue Development Officer were well received, a marked improvement in the quality of applications across the three years of the policy was not noticeable. A more targeted, collaborative approach may produce improvements and is worthy of consideration. For example, many grant bodies now offer 'coaching' for applicants to help them with application development, particularly in the areas of budget construction, community engagement, and delivery of the activity for which funding is sought.

Furthermore, there is a demonstrable need to strengthen the capacity of the events sector so annual events are decreasingly reliant on City funding to continue operating. This could be achieved through targeted industry workshops, mentoring and coaching in the areas of event management, sponsorship and funding.

The City could explore options to further support the quality of applications and strengthen the capacity of the events sector through one-to one coaching, or industry 'master classes' on event management, sponsorship and funding. This is something that can be further progressed during revision of the Funding Guidelines.

## 2.10 Innovations and Changes

The new Community Funding Policy will feature the following aspects for greater clarity, reduced inefficiencies and improved responsiveness:

- Two options for applicants:
  - Quick response allocation for small amounts. This allocation would accept applications at any time, with applications judged on their own merit and for fit with the City's strategic objectives. Turnaround time for processing would be no greater than two working weeks. Applications to this fund would typically represent the frequent ad hoc requests to the City or Mayor for minor sponsorship of, or donation towards an event or activity.
  - Standard allocation for larger amounts. This allocation would accept applications once per year, with applications assessed against criteria of value for money, strategic benefit to the City, community engagement and need. Applications to this fund would be for project or programs, larger community events, or activities for which the City is the main funder.
- The Community Funding Policy will not include other financial assistance programs delivered by the City including rates rebates, peppercorn rental, subsidised rental, in-kind support, or funding and in-kind support provided by City Business Units or programs that may be delivered from time to time.
- The Community Funding Policy will not include Regional Event Sponsorship or Community Leadership Grants. These grants will be reviewed in a separate process once both streams are no longer operational.
- Development of a coaching method for applicants and targeted event industry workshops or master-classes. This will need to be developed in partnership with the Revenue Development Officer and City's Events Team.

**3 RISK MANAGEMENT**

The risk identification and categorisation below relies on the City’s Risk Management Framework.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Risk Analysis</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<i>New Policy not adopted, leading to community dissatisfaction.</i>	<i>Possible</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Comprehensive communications plan to inform stakeholders of the changes.</i>
<i>Adoption of new Policy is delayed meaning community funding not available for eligible activities until well into the 2016-17 financial year.</i>	<i>Possible</i>	<i>Minor</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Comprehensive communications plan to inform stakeholders of the delay.</i>
<i>New Policy not adopted, and Council opts to budget Community Funding allocation with no policy framework.</i>	<i>Unlikely</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Council can adopt the new Policy. It is not recommended that Council distribute community funding without an appropriate policy framework in place.</i>

**4 CONCLUSIONS**

The Community Funding and Event Sponsorship Policy is expiring and a review of its effectiveness has been completed with consideration given to the timeline needed for seamless transition to a new policy.

Following the review, a number of areas have been identified which could be improved in a revised policy. These include streamlining the policy framework, reducing the overall budget allocation for community funding, and collaboration with applicants to improve application quality and event sustainability.

There is an expectation from the community that local governments will offer funding support to assist with delivery of activities that benefit the community, and there is strategic benefit to the City to use grant making as a way of achieving this. To that end, the evaluation has further demonstrated that a policy framework for community funding and grants is essential for the City to meet its governance and probity requirements.

Once adopted, the new Community Funding Policy will enable seamless transition to the 2016-17 funding round.

**5 COMMENT**

A draft Community Funding Policy for 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019 has been developed for Council consideration and it is recommended that this be adopted.

**6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. A new three year Policy be developed and endorsed by Council.
2. The new Policy to simplify the current framework and exclude other financial assistance programs delivered by the City — Inclusive of rates rebates, peppercorn rental, subsidised rental, in-kind support, and funding and in-kind support provided by City Business Units, or programs that may be delivered from time to time.
3. Implementation of the new Policy to include the following categories of funding only:
  - i. Quick response for small requests;
  - ii. Community funding for larger requests.
4. Regional Event Sponsorship and Community Leadership Grants be reviewed in a separate process. This could be achieved through the 2016-17 budget development;
5. A budget allocation to the new Policy of \$150,000 over the three financial years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.
6. Design funding application forms so all City of Albany in-kind support to applicants is clearly identified to assist in assessment.
7. Explore options to further support the quality of applications and the capacity of the events sector through coaching, mentoring and events industry master-classes or workshops.



## Council Policy – Community Funding (2015)

### Policy Statement

1. The City of Albany aims to foster sustainable, vibrant, engaging and inclusive local communities which improve the quality of life and opportunities for all residents and visitors.
2. Community Funding supports this aspiration through stimulating community-driven initiatives and activity that enhance community engagement and participation, build community resilience and wellbeing, and develop civic pride and leadership.
3. Budget allocated for Community Funding will be consistent with the adopted Corporate Business Plan.
4. Budget allocation for Community Funding is not to be used for:
  - a. Other City of Albany financial assistance programs such as: rate rebates, peppercorn rent, subsidised rental, in-kind support, or funding or other in kind support provided by City Business Units.
  - b. City of Albany Regional Event Sponsorship or Community Leadership Grants.
  - c. Events supported by the City that have been allocated a budget line item.
5. Community Funding Guidelines outlining the process and requirements for application and acquittal will be reviewed annually.

### Objective

6. To provide an equitable, transparent framework for the allocation and distribution of Community Grants.

### Scope

7. This Policy defines the rules in regards to the use of Community Funding budget allocation.

### Legislative and Strategic Context

8. Community Funding directly relates to the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan, *Albany 2023* themes of :
  - a. A Connected Built Environment; and
  - b. A Sense of Community.

### Review Position and Date

9. This policy and procedure is to be reviewed by Council on or before 30 June 2019.

### Associated Documents

- Community Funding Guidelines and Application Forms
- Annual Budget
- Delegations Register

<b>Document Approval</b>			
<b>Document Development Officer:</b>		<b>Document Owner:</b> <i>(Member of EMT)</i>	
Community Development Officer		Executive Director Community Services	
<b>Document Control</b>			
<b>File Number - Document Type:</b>	CM.STD.7 – Policy		
<b>Synergy Reference Number:</b>	(Created when cover sheet is created in Synergy Records Module)		
<b>Meta Data: Key Search Terms</b>	Community funding, Funding, Grants		
<b>Status of Document:</b>	<b>Council decision:</b> Draft		
<b>Document file details:</b>	Location of Document: Intranet <a href="N:\Corporate Services\Governance and Risk\Corporate Documents">N:\Corporate Services\Governance and Risk\Corporate Documents</a>		
<b>Quality Assurance:</b>	Executive Management Team, Community Services Committee, and Council.		
<b>Distribution:</b>	Internal Document		
<b>Document Revision History</b>			
<b>Version</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Version Description</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
0.1	Community Development Officer	Draft (V1) prepared for discussion and policy development.	08/09/2015
0.2	Community Development Officer	Draft (V2), pre-settlement review.	25/09/2015