

ALTERNATE MOTION BY COUNCILLOR SMITH

ITEM NUMBER: CCS249

ITEM TITLE: COMMUNITY FACILITIES-SUPPORT TO RURAL COMMUNITY HALLS

DATE & TIME RECEIVED: TUESDAY 19 MAY 2020 AT 5.15PM

CCS249: ALTERNATE MOTION BY COUNCILLOR SMITH

THAT Council:

- 1. NOTE the actions completed as requested by Councillor Smith's Notice of Motion at the Ordinary Council Meeting 26 June 2019.**
- 2. ESTABLISH a Building Stronger Communities Grants Program, to provide support to rural community halls.**
- 3. APPROVE in principle the inclusion of the amount of \$70,000 per year (\$5000 per rural community hall) in the 2021-22 annual budget to facilitate the Grants Program, with this amount to be reviewed annually as part of the budget approval process.**
- 4. REQUEST that staff develop a Building Stronger Communities Grants Policy, and a Rural Community Hall Grants Guideline, to define eligibility, suitable projects and the acquittal process in relation to the Building Stronger Communities Grants Program.**

Councillor Reason:

This motion is to provide much needed support to the City's rural community hall committees, who maintain our rural community hall infrastructure and assets.

The establishment of a long term, consistent source of funding for asset maintenance and other eligible programs, as defined in the Building Stronger Communities Grants Policy and administered through the Rural Community Hall Grants Guideline, will assist with ongoing maintenance of our rural community halls.

The Guideline will define:

- Purpose;
- Funding available;
- Eligibility; and
- Acquittal Reporting Requirements.

The proposed Building Stronger Communities Grants Program will provide \$5000 per year to each rural community hall (of which there are 14), for the following activities:

1. Rural Community Hall Maintenance-including the development of an Asset Maintenance Program through an independent assessment program.
2. Rural Community Hall Development-including capital works such as building and safety improvements.
3. Organisational Development-including community capacity building, governance and long term organisational sustainability.

It is proposed that the funding should be distributed on an annual basis, with the ability for individual rural community hall committees able to choose to hold over their annual amount to the next year to enable completion of larger projects requiring a higher level of funding.

It is envisaged that the program will deliver a number of benefits, including:

- Improving the quality and maintenance of rural community halls;
- Increasing, maintaining or enhancing participation and community access; and
- Improving the flexibility of rural community halls to encourage multi-use, sharing and co-locating community activities.

In addition, there is the opportunity to improve management capabilities through strategic and operational planning, governance, management systems to improve finances and membership, and marketing and promotion plans.

The proposed Building Stronger Communities Grants Policy funding program aligns with the following elements of the City of Albany Community Strategic Plan 2030:

Theme 1: Leadership

Objective 1.2: To provide strong, accountable leadership supported by a skilled and professional workforce.

Community Priorities 1.2.1: Provide positive leadership that delivers community outcomes and gains a reputation for doing what is good for Albany and the surrounding region.

Theme 4: Community Health and Participation

Objective 4.1: To build resilient and cohesive communities with a strong sense of community spirit.

Community Priorities 4.1.2: Promote and develop an authentic sense of community by developing programs and providing services that make people feel welcome, involved and connected to each other.

Objective 4.2: To create interesting places, spaces and events that reflect our community's identity, diversity and heritage.

Community Priorities 4.2.2: Maintain infrastructure and deliver programs that promote Albany's unique heritage, engender civic pride and leave a lasting memory.

Objective 4.3: To develop and support a healthy, inclusive and accessible community.

Community Priorities 4.3.2: Encourage and support volunteers and community groups to grow an active volunteer base that is supported and valued.