



AGENDA

Late Reports

Ordinary Council Meeting

Date: 25 March 2024

Time: 5 pm

**Location: Cowra Council Chambers
116 Kendal Street, Cowra**

**Paul Devery
General Manager**

Order Of Business

9 Late Reports.....3

9.1 IPART Review of NSW Council Financial Model 3

9.2 Community Grants - Round 2 2023/2024 Allocation of Funds..... 5

9 LATE REPORTS

9.1 IPART Review of NSW Council Financial Model

File Number: D24/436

Author: Paul Devery, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council note the NSW Government's withdrawal of the referral to IPART to investigate and report on the financial model for NSW councils;
2. That Council note the matter will now be considered by the NSW Parliament's Standing Committee on State Development.

INTRODUCTION

Councillors will recall the report to the February meeting advising of the NSW Government's referral to IPART to conduct a review of the financial model for NSW councils.

BACKGROUND

On 19 March 2024, the NSW Premier wrote to the chair of IPART withdrawing that review. A copy of the Premier's letter is included at Attachment I.

The letter advises the review will now be undertaken by the NSW Parliament's Standing Committee on State Development

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1. Premier's Letter of 19 March 2024 [↓](#)

OFFICIAL

The Hon Chris Minns MP
Premier of New South Wales



Ref: A5993470

Ms Carmel Donnelly PSM
Chair
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW
PO Box K35
HAYMARKET POST SHOP NSW 1240



Re: Withdrawal of referral for review of the financial modelling of councils

Dear Ms Donnelly,

I refer to my letter to you of 11 January 2024 in relation to the referral of the financial modelling of councils for IPART's investigation and report.

Under section 12A(4) of the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992 (IPART Act)*, I hereby withdraw the referral I provided under section 12A of the IPART Act in my letter of 11 January 2024.

The reason this referral is being withdrawn is to avoid unnecessary duplication, as the matter will now instead be considered by the NSW Parliament's Standing Committee on State Development. The Committee will inquire into and report on the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services. The inquiry is scheduled to begin shortly, and it is anticipated that the Committee will report ahead of the Local Government elections, which are scheduled for 14 September 2024.

I thank you and your team for the work you have undertaken in connection with this matter.

Sincerely,



Chris Minns MP
Premier of New South Wales

CC: The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government

Handwritten signature: H/3/24

52 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001

02 7225 6000
nsw.gov.au/premier

OFFICIAL

1

9.2 Community Grants - Round 2 2023/2024 Allocation of Funds

File Number: D24/438

Author: Paul Devery, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That Council allocate funding under Round 2 of the 2023/2024 Cowra Community Grants Program to the following groups:

Category: Arts and Culture	Project	Funding Recommendation
Woodstock and District Progress Association	Assist complete the Woodstock CBD ghost signage project.	\$1,000.00
		\$1,000.00
Category: Building and Facility Development		
Cowra Masonic Hall Ltd	Update security at the Cowra Masonic Hall following break-in.	\$1,800.00
Cowra Junior Rugby League	Assist painting of outside of Junior League Changing Shed at River Park.	\$2,000.00
Morongla Creek Showground Land Manager	Assist fund improvement of lighting in Morongla Hall.	\$2,000.00
Gooloogong Log Cabin Inc	Assist install six metal stirrup posts to base of existing posts under hall entrance & construct slab for new kitchen water tank.	\$1,980.00
Cowra Uniting Church Food Hall	Assist purchase lockage storage units for storing volunteer's personal items.	\$1,226.50
		\$9,006.50
Category: Sport and Recreation		
Cowra Pistol Club Inc.	Assist purchase laptop computer for Cowra Pistol Club Treasurer.	\$429.00
Cowra Amateur Swimming	Assist purchase new Apple	\$909.00

Club	iPad for use with new professional swim timing system.	
Cowra Junior Squash	Assist purchase media wall and advertising decals.	\$1,000.00
Cowra Little Athletics	Assist purchase an additional 11 junior hurdles to supplement existing hurdles.	\$1,000.00
Cowra Senior Soccer Club	Assist purchase portable training equipment to accommodate change of training venue as required.	\$500.00
		\$3,838.00
Category: New Community Events		
Category: Small Capital Equipment		
Cowra U3A Inc.	Assist purchase 58" TV for U3A presentations.	\$779.00
Lachlan Valley Railway Society Co-Op Ltd	Assist purchase two extreme heavy-duty batteries for reactivated Rail Motor No.25 and two batteries for Planet diesel locomotive.	\$1,000.00
Cowra Uniting Church Food Hall	Assist purchase new signage to make Food Hall more visible for potential participants.	\$750.00
Cowra Uniting Church Food Hall	Assist purchase new computer to allow all Food Hall registrations to be processed on-line.	\$1,000.00
		\$3,529.00
Total Funds Allocated	15 applications	\$17,373.50

INTRODUCTION

Council allocates funding each year to the Cowra Community Grants program. This report details the evaluation of applications received in Round 2 – 2023/24 and recommends allocations to various community groups.

BACKGROUND

The Cowra Community Grants program entails two funding rounds per year each spread over five categories. Continued funding of \$50,000 was formally adopted in the 2023/2024 budget at the June 2023 Council meeting.

The Cowra Community Grants Working Party comprises the following membership:

- Cr Judi Smith
- Cr Nikki Kiss OAM
- General Manager Paul Devery
- Grants and Executive Projects Officer Lawrance Ryan
- Community Development Officer Emma Millward

Round 2 2023/2024

Round 2 2023/2024 applications closed on 29 February 2024 following a month of publicity in the Guardian, on Council's website, on social media and directly to numerous groups and individuals. Copies of the published Guidelines and Application form are included at Attachment A and B respectively.

At the close of applications on 29 February 2024 there had been 21 applications received asking for a combined total of \$27,031.00 from a variety of community groups.

A hard copy of all applications received can be viewed by contacting Grants and Executive Projects Officer Lawrance Ryan.

Evaluation

In undertaking the evaluation of applications Working Party members adhered to the following guidelines:

- All applications received were considered.
- Each Working Party member was given time to read and evaluate each application by giving a rating against four published assessment criteria.
- The normal considerations relating to conflicts of interest, pecuniary and non-pecuniary applied. That is, if a member had an interest in relation to any of the applicants, they did not evaluate that application. The interest was declared on the evaluation form and the average scores of other members was substituted for that particular application. The following declarations of non-pecuniary interests were made:

Lawrance Ryan

Lachlan Valley Railway Society

Cr Judi Smith

Woodstock and District Progress Association

Assessment templates were distributed to members of the Working Party and returned to Council for compilation.

In reviewing the raw scores the Working Party adopted an initial position of approving applications that exceeded a threshold of 120 evaluation points, which represented a minimum score of 6/10 in each assessment category. This equated to a total of \$21,046.00 in funding for 17 projects.

The Working Party was of the view that the raw scores alone were not sufficient to allocate funding and considered certain value judgements could reasonably be made about the merits of a

number of applications. As a result of subsequent discussions the Working Party has recommended allocating \$17,373.50 as detailed in the table below.

Category: Arts and Culture	Project	Funding Recommendation
Woodstock and District Progress Association	Assist complete the Woodstock CBD ghost signage project.	\$1,000.00
		\$1,000.00
Category: Building and Facility Development		
Cowra Masonic Hall Ltd	Update security at the Cowra Masonic Hall following break-in.	\$1,800.00
Cowra Junior Rugby League	Assist painting of outside of Junior League Changing Shed at River Park.	\$2,000.00
Morongla Creek Showground Land Manager	Assist fund improvement of lighting in Morongla Hall.	\$2,000.00
Gooloogong Log Cabin Inc	Assist install six metal stirrup posts to base of existing posts under hall entrance & construct slab for new kitchen water tank.	\$1,980.00
Cowra Uniting Church Food Hall	Assist purchase lockage storage units for storing volunteer's personal items.	\$1,226.50
		\$9,006.50
Category: Sport and Recreation		
Cowra Pistol Club Inc.	Assist purchase laptop computer for Cowra Pistol Club Treasurer.	\$429.00
Cowra Amateur Swimming Club	Assist purchase new Apple iPad for use with new professional swim timing system.	\$909.00
Cowra Junior Squash	Assist purchase media wall and advertising decals.	\$1,000.00
Cowra Little Athletics	Assist purchase an additional 11 junior hurdles to supplement existing hurdles.	\$1,000.00

Cowra Senior Soccer Club	Assist purchase portable training equipment to accommodate change of training venue as required.	\$500.00
		\$3,838.00
Category: New Community Events		
Category: Small Capital Equipment		
Cowra U3A Inc.	Assist purchase 58" TV for U3A presentations.	\$779.00
Lachlan Valley Railway Society Co-Op Ltd	Assist purchase two extreme heavy-duty batteries for reactivated Rail Motor No.25 and two batteries for Planet diesel locomotive.	\$1,000.00
Cowra Uniting Church Food Hall	Assist purchase new signage to make Food Hall more visible for potential participants.	\$750.00
Cowra Uniting Church Food Hall	Assist purchase new computer to allow all Food Hall registrations to be processed on-line.	\$1,000.00
		\$3,529.00
Total Funds Allocated	15 applications	\$17,373.50

Following final approval of funding allocations at this meeting, recipients will be notified and funds will be distributed to the various organisations.

The Cowra Community Grants program continues to be very well received. It has been positively supported by a variety of local community groups. It is pleasing to have such a positive response and allows Council to provide funding that will make small yet significant contributions to a wide range of organisations within the community.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Budget: \$17,373.50 from \$50,000.00 allocation
Round 1 allocated - \$25,566.00

ATTACHMENTS

- I. Guidelines Community Grants Round 2 2023/2024 [↓](#)

2. Application for Community Grants Round 2 2023/2024 [↓](#)



Cowra Shire Council
Private Bag 342
Cowra NSW 2794

Phone: 02 6340 2000
Fax: 02 6340 2011
council@cowra.nsw.gov.au
www.cowracouncil.com.au

Community Grants Program: Guidelines 2023/24 - Round 2

Purpose

The Community Grants program provides funding towards community projects, community events, small capital equipment purchases, and community buildings and facilities to support primarily volunteer run community not-for-profit organisations in their activities where there is a benefit for the wider community.

The Cowra 2036 Community Strategic Plan articulates the Council and community vision to create

“a leading, innovative and creative community, proud of our place in history, offering opportunity with the best of country living.”

The community has identified seven key directions to follow in pursuing this vision, they are:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Innovation and Education
3. Liveability
4. Community Leadership and Engagement
5. Business and Industry
6. Transport and Infrastructure
7. Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship
8. Reconciliation and Inclusion

The Community Grants Program provides a range of funding opportunities to organisations to positively contribute towards achieving the shared vision for the shire.

General Eligibility Criteria

Organisations and groups

- Organisations must be an incorporated not-for-profit entity.
- Organisation must be primarily volunteer run.
- Organisations must be based within Cowra Shire and must be able to demonstrate how the project will directly benefit residents within the Shire.
- Have acquitted all previous Cowra Shire Council grants.
- Have no outstanding debts to Council.

Ineligible organisations and groups

- Government agencies.
- Registered Clubs within the meaning of the NSW Registered Clubs Act 1976.
- Schools (including associated parents and citizens/parents and friends organisations).
- Churches and religious groups; unless the proposed project can be considered to be in addition to the core business of the church or group, and the project benefits the wider community.
- Political groups.

Individuals and sole traders

- Individuals or sole traders are not eligible to apply.

Ineligible project expenses

- Recurrent costs including salaries/wages, insurance, administrative and operating costs.
- Payment of debt.
- Retrospective funding for projects, events, or equipment purchases.
- Projects and events receiving a donation from Council.
- Projects or events where the organising body is proposing to donate any proceeds to another cause.
- Generally, funding will not be provided to increase existing un-acquitted funds from Council for the same project.

General Guidelines

- Applications must demonstrate linkages to Council's Community Strategic Plan objectives.
- The project or event for which funding is sought, must be based within Cowra Shire and/or be able to demonstrate significant benefit to Cowra Shire residents.
- The Community Grants Program aims to provide limited financial assistance and is not intended to be relied upon as the sole source of income.
- Council encourages co-contribution from the applicants.
- Council reserves the right to part fund a grant application.
- Projects should be one-off and not reliant on on-going Cowra Council funding.
- Applicants are eligible to receive up to a total value of \$3,000 in grant funds per financial year.
- Projects must be targeted for completion within one (1) year of receipt of funding.
- Where organisations submit multiple Cowra Community Grant applications in any one funding round they must prioritise their applications in order of importance.
- In the instance that the funded project or event does not occur, the grant recipient will be required to repay the full amount of the funding awarded.
- Council reserves the right to not approve any application.
- Council requires external quotes from providers.

Categories and Funding

Category	Description	Maximum Amount	Examples
Sport and Recreation	Activities that provide access to physical and social pursuits to support the health and well-being of the community	\$1000	Skills clinic Sporting equipment
Arts and Culture	Events that foster the Shire's cultural identity, or that provide an accessible, diverse range of community art and cultural opportunities	\$1000	Art workshop
Small Capital Equipment	Purchases of small capital equipment items to support community organisation activities	\$1000	Photocopier printer
Building and Facility Development	Improvements to Council or community owned buildings and facilities	\$2000	Replace gutter on village hall
New Community Events	Support new events held within Cowra Shire, with broad appeal to both local and the wider community that celebrate significant occasions, encourage cultural diversity or brings communities together. For new events to be held between 1 April 2024 and 31 December 2024.	Based on expected attendance – Up to 200 \$500 201 and above \$1000	Significant anniversaries, launches and openings.

Important Dates

Round	Opening Date	Closing Date	Notification
Round 2 2023/24	1 February	29 February	Following the Council meeting: Monday 25 March

Assessment Process	
Stage	Tasks
Pre-eligibility check	All applications are checked to determine applicant and project eligibility and to ensure that they are complete. Ineligible and incomplete applications will not progress to the assessment stage
Assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alignment with program priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project aligns with the priorities of the Community Grants Program and the Cowra Community Strategic Plan. 2. Demonstrated community need <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for the project is clearly demonstrated and relevant consultation, evidence and support is provided. 3. Level of community benefit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is accessible for either the entire community; or if not, the targeted audience is either disadvantaged or has limited opportunities to participate in community life. 4. Value for money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has a detailed budget and is supported by quotes from local suppliers, where appropriate. • The applicant demonstrates additional investment either in cash or in kind.
Council Endorsement	Recommendations are presented to Council for final approval

Conditions of Grant

Successful applicants are required to undertake an acquittal process and provide Council with:

- Information on how the grant was spent
- Evaluation of the event or project and its outcomes
- Membership/participation rates
- Copies of any promotional material and media coverage generated
- Details of the acknowledgement of Council's support within the community

How to Apply

Applications are to be submitted using the application form available on the Cowra Council website www.cowracouncil.com.au

Please save the application form to your computer and email it to: council@cowra.nsw.gov.au with a subject line of Community Grant Application. Alternatively, complete a paper copy of the application and deliver it to Council at 116 Kendal Street Cowra.

Applicants can contact Cowra Council's Grants and Executive Projects Officer for any assistance in completing their application on 6340 2035 or by email at: council@cowra.nsw.gov.au



Cowra Shire Council
 Private Bag 342
 Cowra NSW 2794
 Phone: 02 6340 2000
 Fax: 02 6340 2011
council@cowra.nsw.gov.au
www.cowracouncil.com.au

**Community Grants Program: Application Form
 Round 2 – 2023/2024
 Closing Date: Thursday 29 February 2024**

Organisation Name			
Contact Name			
Grant Category			
Amount Applying For			
Short Description (office use only)			
Office Use Only			
Received Date		Registration Number	

Instructions

You must submit your application using this form by 4pm on the closing date: Thursday, 29 February 2024.

- Only use the space provided.
- Excess information will not be considered.
- Use dot points to convey your message effectively.

Additional information may be requested by the assessment panel to support your application.

Please ensure that all questions are answered.

Contact Cowra Council’s Grants and Executive Projects Officer for any assistance in completing your application on 6340 2035 or by email at: council@cowra.nsw.gov.au

Late applications will not be accepted.

Certification

By submitting this application, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the information made available by Cowra Shire Council regarding the Community Grants Program, including the eligibility criteria and, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this application is true and correct.

I also acknowledge that this application is submitted with both the full awareness and authority of the organisation under which it is submitted (if applicable).

Yes

Signature	
Please print name	

Grant Category

Please tick one box only

- Sport and Recreation** maximum of \$1000
- Arts and Culture** maximum of \$1000
- Small Capital Equipment** maximum of \$1000
- Building and Facility Development** maximum of \$2000
- New Events (Attendance - up to 200)** maximum of \$500
- New Events (Attendance – 201 & above)** maximum of \$1000

Organisation Details	
Organisation's Name	
Organisation's Mailing Address	
Is your organisation registered for GST?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Does your organisation have an Australian Business Number (ABN)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please include ABN:

