

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 Reports3		
		IPART Review of NSW Council Financial Model	
	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

- I. 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

Premier's Letter of 19 March 2024 <u>J</u>

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The reason this referral is being withdrawn is to avoid unnecessary duplication, as the matter will now instead be considered by the NSW Parliament's Standing Committee on State Development.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 you 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

52 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000 GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001 02 7225 6000 nsw.gov.au/premier OFFICIAL 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	
Cowra Junior Squash	Assist purchase media wall and advertising decals.	\$1,000.00
Cowra Little Athletics	Assist purchase an additional II 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
	F. 22000 a	\$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	
	remained of personal remained	\$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 II junior hurdles to supplement existing hurdles.	\$1,000.00	

Total Funds Allocated	I5 applications	\$17,373.50
		\$3,529.00
	registrations to be processed on-line.	¢2 F20 00
Cowra Uniting Church Food Hall	Assist purchase new computer to allow all Food Hall	\$1,000.00
Cowra Uniting Church Food Hall	Assist purchase new signage to make Food Hall more visible for potential participants.	\$750.00
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 U3A Inc.	Assist purchase 58" TV for U3A presentations.	\$779.00
Category: Small Capital Equipment		
Category: New Community Events		
		\$3,838.00
	training equipment to accommodate change of training venue as required.	
Cowra Senior Soccer Club	Assist purchase portable	\$500.00

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 or organisations within the community.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

Budget: \$17,373.50 from \$50,000.00 allocation

Round I allocated - \$25,566.00

ATTACHMENTS

1. 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:

- I. 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.

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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 (I) 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.

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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 I 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	l 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	Alignment with program priorities		
	 The project aligns with the priorities of the Community Grants Program and the Cowra Community Strategic Plan. 		
	2. Demonstrated community need		
	 The need for the project is clearly demonstrated and relevant consultation, evidence and support is provided. 		
	3. Level of community benefit		
	 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		
	 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

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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 Nam	ie e		
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.

Community Grants Program Application Form

Certification				
By submitting this application, I acknowledge by Cowra Shire Council regarding the Cothe best of my knowledge, the information	Community Grants Prog	ram, including the eligibility criteria and		
I also acknowledge that this application organisation under which it is submitted		the full awareness and authority of the		
Yes			_	
Signature				
Please print name				
Grant Category				
Please tick one box only				
Sport and Recreation	ı	maximum of \$1000		
Arts and Culture		maximum of \$1000		
Small Capital Equipn	nent	maximum of \$1000		
☐ Building and Facility	Development	maximum of \$2000		
New Events (Attenda	ance - up to 200)	maximum of \$500		
☐ New Events (Attenda	ance – 201 & above)	maximum of \$1000		
Organisation Details				
Organisation's Name				
Organisation's Mailing Address				
Is your organisation registered for GST	Yes			
Does your organisation have an Austra Business Number (ABN)?	lian Yes Pleas	e include ABN:		

Is your organisation primarily volunteer run?		Yes
Organisation's Bank Details		BSB:
		Account Number:
		Account Name:
Applicant Details – for this appli	ication	
Name of person completing this app	lication	
Position with organisation (if applicat	ole)	
Telephone number during office hou	rs	
Mobile phone number		
Email address		
Application Details		
Name and or description of the event, project, activity, or equipment for which funding is being requested.		
		expected to be held on:
		or activity will commence:
	Project	or activity will be completed by:
	Please n must be	ote that events supported under the 'New Events' category held between 1 October 2023 and 30 June 2024.
Actual location of event or where project or activity will occur		

Is the event, project, activity, offered for the whole of Cowra Shire?	☐ Yes ☐ No If you answered 'No', who will be involved?
Amount requested from Cowra Council — Cannot exceed maximum amount allowed for related category. Must be substantiated by a detailed quote or advertising brochure from supplier.	\$
Why are you holding the event, undertaking the project or activity or purchasing the equipment? • Explain benefits to your organisation and the wider Cowra Shire community. • Use dot points where possible.	
How will your application address the strategies of the Cowra Council Community Strategic Plan? • Refer to Cowra Council Community Strategic Plan – Cowra 2036	Select all boxes relevant to the application Health and Wellbeing Provide facilities, infrastructure and programs for health and well-being needs, including disability, mental health and family support services. Collaborate with education and health providers to attract and retain health professionals to the Shire. Support and encourage volunteering within the community.

Partner with and seek advice from the local Indigenous
community and Indigenous health care services to improve
health outcomes.
Provide for future aged care needs and support services.
Promote an active retirement.
Innovation and Education
Make Cowra Shire a learning community.
Support initiatives to increase education and training
outcomes for local Indigenous people.
Support local training and education providers to build local
skills capacity, infrastructure and knowledge.
Support innovation and research.
Liveability
Build understanding and communication of Cowra Shire's
rich history, vibrant future and leadership in international
understanding and cultural diversity.
Continue to develop our leisure and cultural facilities and
infrastructure and protect and enhance our natural
environment.
Recognise and grow the talent in our community.
Develop and provide programs to meet the needs of Cowra
Shire's young people.
Develop a community where people are welcomed from all
walks of life and feel safe and secure.
Community Leaderships and Engagement
Develop and model leadership skills across the community.
Engage with our community in a variety of ways to increase
awareness of key issues and ensure better project and service
delivery outcomes.
Strengthen partnerships with government and other agencies.

	Business and Industry
	Plan for and support business and industry growth, research
	and innovation.
	☐ Tell the world about the opportunities and benefits of living,
	working and playing in Cowra Shire.
	Add value and support to our existing businesses and
	industries.
	Support the development of an energetic CBD.
	☐ Identify and develop profitable and sustainable tourism
	products for Cowra.
	Transport and Infrastructure
	Develop an integrated transport system that addresses
	local and regional needs in relation to cycleways, footpaths,
	road and rail.
	☐ Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure
	including roads, bridges and public buildings are well maintained.
	Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship
	☐ Aim to position Cowra as a centre of environmental
	excellence.
	☐ Take advantage of and support opportunities to grow new
	sustainable industries.
	☐ Show leadership by taking action and promoting practices
	to encourage Cowra Shire to be an environmentally
	responsible community.
	Build partnerships with people who work with and care
	for the land to secure a healthier environment.
	Build and promote Council's and the community's
	preparedness for, adaptability to and resilience to climate
	change and natural disaster impacts.
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Reconciliation and Inclusion
☐ Foster reconciliation and connection with the local Indigenous population. Respect, promote and protect Wiradjuri culture. ☐ Show leadership and promote actions that ensure all members of the community have an equal opportunity to participate fully within the community. ☐ Continue to deliver and ensure all high movement areas, public buildings and appropriate Council resources and services are accessible for all the community.

Budget	
What are the individual budget items for your event, project, activity, or equipment purchase for which you are seeking Cowra Council Community Grants Program funding?	
Items	
Total (A)	\$
What is your organisation or group providing in cash or in-kind to support your event, project, activity, or equipment purchase?	
Items	
Total (B)	\$

Total Project Budget (A + B)

Community Grants Program Application Form

lave you	ı:
_	hecked that your organisation is eligible to apply?
_ N	ominated the correct type of grant category that best matches your application?
En	sured all appropriate persons are aware that this application is being submitted?
☐ At	tached detailed quotes or advertising brochures from suppliers?
□ C	ompleted all sections of the Application Form?
□ Keeping	ept a copy of this Application Form for your records?
□ c	hecked the application form will be received by Council on or before the closing date?
Sig	gned the certification on page 2?

Please save this 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.

Please contact Council's Grants and Executive Projects Officer on 6340 2035 if you require assistance in completing your application.

Community Grants Program Application Form