

POLICY NAME: Festivals and Events (Community) -
Sponsorship Program

POLICY REF: F05A

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1 OBJECTIVE

Ballina Shire Council values the importance of local festivals that aim to showcase the rich cultural diversity and history of our local community, while delivering economic, social and environmental benefits.

The objective of this policy is to enable Council to support festivals and events put forward by not-for-profit community-based organisations that deliver these aims.

In doing so, this policy seeks to:

- a) ensure that an open and transparent decision making process is in place for requests for support from Council
- b) provide an accessible and equitable process for not-for-profit organisations seeking Council financial support
- c) identify and support the shire's festivals and events
- d) create partnerships with community groups to enhance the attractiveness of Ballina Shire as a destination known for festivals and events
- e) obtain value and leverage from Council's investment in festivals and events and
- f) provide an avenue for the Council to contribute to expenses associated with critical services, to ensure a safe event for the community.

2 POLICY

2.1 General Principles

- a) Council will provide sponsorship (financial support) for community-based festivals and events because it considers that this type of support provides far more tangible benefits to the community than Council co-ordinated events.
- b) Council will provide in its annual Operational Plan a funding allocation to support this policy
- c) Council will also continue to support local events which fall outside this policy that require specific traffic management and other services.

These types of events include ANZAC Day and NAIDOC Week.

- d) Funding will be allocated at the discretion of Council. No application is guaranteed funding support, or that the full amount requested will be provided
- e) Funding in one year will not preclude or guarantee funding in the future
- f) This policy will not preclude organisations from seeking financial donations through Council's annual community donations process. Typically, funds allocated under that program will be smaller in nature due to the limited funding available and the numerous requests received.

- g) This policy will not preclude organisations from seeking other sponsorship from Council for festivals and events that may not meet the criteria outlined in this policy. Requests for other sponsorship, which will typically be at a lower financial amount than that provided for this funding program, will be determined by the General Manager (or delegate) at an operational level, in accordance with ICAC guidelines. This will be dependent on funds being available within operating budgets and an assessment of the benefits to be derived by Council and the community from the sponsorship
- h) To be eligible for support, the total cost of the festival or event must be estimated at over \$20,000 (ex GST), with a minimum of \$15,000 (ex GST) allocated towards cash expenses, excluding Council's contribution.
- i) Funding from Council will typically be provided for the following items:
 - i) Waste management
 - ii) Traffic management
 - iii) Equipment hire
 - iv) Promotion and marketing
 - v) Insurance
 - vi) Venue hire
 - vii) Sound equipment and technician
 - viii) Fees for specialised services, eg marketing consultant for the specific festival or event.
- j) Funding from Council will not be provided for the following items:
 - i) Capital expenditure
 - ii) Ongoing operational/administrative costs not directly related to the festival or event
 - iii) Retrospective projects
 - iv) Wages
- k) In recognition of sponsorship being provided, Council will seek a return on the funds provided, through the satisfactory recognition of Council's sponsorship in media, marketing and other material relevant to the event. The General Manager (or delegate) has the authority to determine the level of satisfactory recognition.

2.2 Process

- a) Council will determine, annually, whether and how much funding is allocated for the implementation of this policy in the Long Term Financial Plan.

- b) Subject to funds being provided in point a) expressions of interest (EOI) will be invited for funding under this policy, at a time that allows event organisers sufficient lead time for planning and marketing their events, once the determination of the funding allocation is confirmed by Council. Submissions must be completed on the application form provided by Council. Typically this EOI process will occur during October to December, prior to the financial year where the funding is allocated.
- c) All responses to the EOI process will be reported to the elected Council to determine the allocation of the funding. The outcomes will be reported back to all applicants in a timely manner.
- d) The funding approved by Council, in part or in full, will only be provided to the successful organisation, as eligible expenditure is incurred, or as quotations for services are provided to Council's satisfaction. A minimum of 25% of the funding approved will be retained until an acquittal is provided to Council's satisfaction.
- e) Council will require an acquittal of how the Council funds have been expended at the conclusion of the festival or event. This acquittal must also outline any other relevant information, such as attendance numbers, as determined by the General Manager (or delegate).
- f) Applications received from organisations following completion of the annual Operational Plan process will be informed of Council's policy and invited to apply in the following year.

2.3 Eligibility

2.3.1 The Applicant

- a) The applicant must be a not-for-profit organisation.
- b) The applicant must be an incorporated organisation or be sponsored by an incorporated organisation.
- c) The applicant should preferably be based in Ballina Shire and the proposed activity must take place within Ballina Shire.
- d) If the applicant has received previous support from Council, all acquittals required by Council must have been completed.
- e) The applicant must have a demonstrated capacity for festival and event management.
- f) The applicant must demonstrate the need for support from Council and the mid to long-term sustainability of the festival or event.

2.3.2 Governance

The applicant must have an effective constitution or governing documents, structure and volunteer involvement.

2.3.3 Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program

The festival or event must contribute to the Ballina Shire Community Strategic Plan and support the Delivery Program by:

- a) providing a public and social benefit
- b) meeting an identified need and/or develop community strengths
- c) being innovative and relevant for the target audience
- d) making a positive contribution to the economy and
- e) limiting adverse environmental impacts.

3 BACKGROUND

Council's preference is to obtain maximum leverage from its support of community festivals and events, and believes this can best be achieved when support is provided through a financial contribution.

This type of support empowers community groups and, in turn, provides a far higher level of community connection with the festival or event.

At the same time, Council's investment maximises the resources available by supporting the volunteers connected with the community group responsible for co-ordinating the festival or event.

4 DEFINITIONS

Council:	Ballina Shire Council
Donation:	Cash contribution that does not require any reciprocal benefits.
Festival or event:	A function or event open to the public or a section of the public and includes a ceremony, concert, cultural celebration, dance, exhibition, fair, festival, fete, gathering, market, open air theatre, parade, sporting event or street parade. Usually and ordinarily staged by a local community group, and centres on and celebrates some unique aspect of the local community.
Sponsorship:	<p>Sponsorship is a commercial arrangement in which a sponsor provides a contribution in money or in kind to support an activity in return for certain specified benefits. Sponsorship does not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the selling of advertising space• joint ventures• consultancies• grants (in regard to received sponsorship)• unconditional gifts, donations, bequests or endowments.

A sponsor expects to receive a reciprocal benefit beyond a modest acknowledgement (refer ICAC "Sponsorship in the Public Sector" May 2006).

5 SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to:

- a) Council employees
- b) Councillors
- c) Not-for-profit community groups

6 RELATED DOCUMENTATION

Related legislation and documentation:

- Local Government Act 1993
- ICAC - Sponsorship in the Public Sector - May 2006

Related Council policies:

- Festivals and Events (Commercial) – Sponsorship Program
- Donations - Financial Assistance
- Events on Public Land

7 REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed at least every four years.