

A large decorative graphic consisting of two overlapping semi-circles. The left semi-circle is blue and the right semi-circle is green. They overlap in the center, creating a yellow-orange lens-shaped area.

Applicant Handbook

Community
Funding Program

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| WELCOME | 3 |
| WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM? | 3 |
| WHO CAN APPLY? | 4 |
| HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I APPLY FOR? | 4 |
| WHEN CAN I APPLY? | 4 |
| WHAT WILL COUNCIL LOOK AT? | 5 |
| IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL | 5 |
| EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS THAT COULD GET FUNDING | 5 |
| THE PROCESS FOR MICRO APPLICATIONS | 6 |
| THE PROCESS FOR MINOR AND MAJOR APPLICATIONS | 7 |
| TIMELINE AND KEY DATES | 9 |
| TIPS FOR APPLICATIONS | 10 |
| WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL ... | 13 |
| GLOSSARY AND RESOURCES | 15 |






Creating Community for Today and Tomorrow

WELCOME

This handbook will help you understand how to apply for funding through our Community Funding Program.

We've made the process simple, clear and easy to follow, so you know what to expect at every step. As this is a new process for both Council and applicants, we will be reviewing and updating the handbook regularly to reflect improvements and feedback.

After reading the handbook, if you are still unsure of any steps, you can contact a team member for help.

| | | |
|---|---------|---|
|  | Email | council@dubbo.nsw.gov.au |
|  | Website | dubbo.nsw.gov.au |
|  | Call | 02 6801 4000 |
|  | Who | Corporate Strategy and Performance Coordinator |
|  | What | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding the application process - Getting access to SmartyGrants - Understanding your obligations - Finding the best pathway for success |

The handbook is broken into seven key sections:

1. General understanding
2. The process for Micro applications
3. The process for Minor and Major Applications
4. Timeline and key dates
5. Tips for applicants
6. What you need to do if you are successful
7. Glossary and resources

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM?

Community funding is money that Council gives to support projects, events, or activities that help make our region better.

It's funding that enables and facilitates others to deliver **community benefit outcomes**, and whose intent is to assist in the delivery or enhancement of our **strategic priorities**.

Learn more about our strategic priorities through your Community Strategic Plan our other plans and strategies from Council's website [Integrated Planning and Reporting](#) and [A-Z Plans and Strategies](#)

This could include:

- Community programs
- Local events
- Creative activities
- Cultural activities
- Projects that improve facilities
- Purchasing project specific equipment
- Partnerships that bring benefit to the community

To keep things simple, we use the word '**project**' to refer to all types of activities, like events, programs, services, or community initiatives, throughout the process.

There are two sources of funds. One is our **operational funds**; think of these funds as rates paid by property owners.

We call these **Group A** applications. Each financial year there is a minimum amount of \$250,000 available under this group pathway.

The other source of funds are commitments as part of an agreement with Council (generally a **Planning Agreement** and generally with a developer). These agreements will often set out specific requirements and amounts that are negotiated on. It's because of these agreements that we need to treat the allocation of funds differently, however the core purpose of funding community benefit outcomes remains the same.

We call these **Group B** applications. Funding amounts will vary depending on the agreement and the stages of the development.

WHO CAN APPLY?

While you may be eligible to apply, your application will be assessed based on the details of your project and the community benefit outcomes it aims to deliver.

Applications that have very specific types of delivery outcomes or objectives, such as events and cultural programs, may require you to meet additional criteria in order to be eligible for funding.

In the broadest sense, you can apply if:

- ✓ Your project benefits people in the Dubbo Regional Local Government Area (LGA)
- ✓ Your project hasn't started yet
- ✓ You don't owe any reports or funding acquittals from previous Council funding
- ✓ Your project has not already received funding (or has a commitment for funding) from Council

You can't apply if:

- ✗ You are a government department, agency, political group or other Council
- ✗ Your project is for personal or commercial profit
- ✗ You are asking for money to pay off debts, buy trophies, prize money, or to cover your organisation's core costs
- ✗ Your project duplicates existing services
- ✗ Your project may negatively affect the reputation of Council or the LGA

To make the application process as simple as possible, the application form contains a baseline eligibility checklist. The form clearly indicates if you are ineligible to apply.

The baseline eligibility checklist is included in the **Council Policy - Financial Assistance**.

HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I APPLY FOR?

There are three levels of funding:

| | | |
|----------|-------|------------------------|
| \$ | Micro | \$500 or less |
| \$ \$ | Minor | \$500.01 to \$9,999.99 |
| \$ \$ \$ | Major | \$10,000 and over |

Minor and Major amounts will require a full application form to be completed.

Micro applications are a much simpler form, have a simple evaluation process, determined by the **Executive Leadership Team** (ELT) and have less reporting obligations.

WHEN CAN I APPLY?

Applications for Micro amounts can be submitted any time. The ELT will consider and determine funding allocations once a month.

For Minor and Major amounts, you can submit an application at any time. But we review and evaluate applications twice a year:

- Active assessment period 1: Apply before 1 September (decisions are made by the end of October)
- Active assessment period 2: Apply before 1 March (decisions are made by end of April)

WHAT WILL COUNCIL LOOK AT?

The Community Funding Program (specifically Group A) is competitive. This means that your application, and all other applications, are evaluated on the same criteria. Projects are compared against each other and recommendations are made to allocate funding to the highest scored project/s.



Clarity and Strength of Project Details

The project is clearly defined, well-structured, and demonstrates a sound approach to achieving its objectives.



Effectiveness of Project Pitch

The project is compelling, demonstrates a strong case for support, and clearly communicates the intended outcomes and benefits.



Community Reach and Engagement

The project has the potential to engage a broad and/or targeted segment of the community, including underrepresented or priority groups.



Sustainability and Organisational Capability

The organisation demonstrates the capacity to deliver the project effectively and sustain outcomes beyond the funding period.



Social and Community Impact

The project delivers meaningful social outcomes and positively impacts the wellbeing of participants or the wider community.



Alignment with Council

The project aligns with and contributes to Council's strategic objectives and community vision.

Your responses and the information you provide in the application helps us understand why your project matters.

This information is used to decide which projects are the best fit for funding and how your project compares to others.

IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL

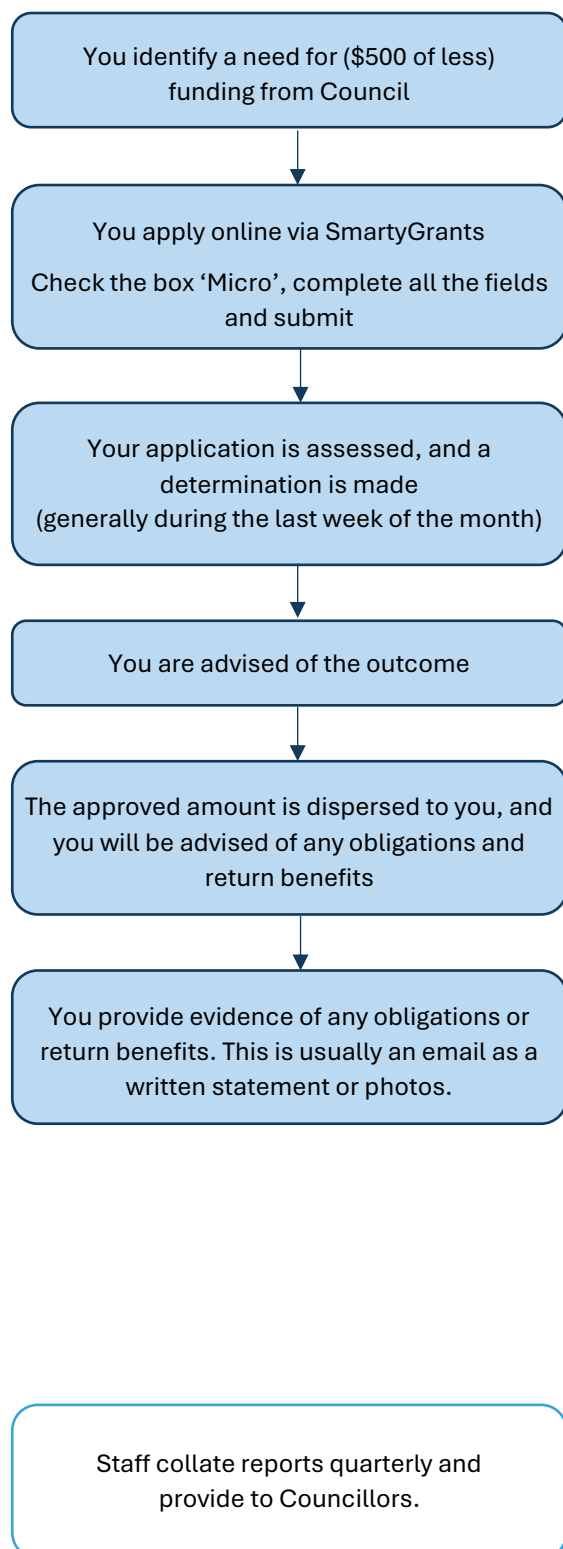
You will:

- Enter into a funding agreement with Council
- Receive clear information about when and how the funding can be used
- Receive funds via bank transfer
- Deliver your project as detailed in your agreement
- Deliver the return benefits to Council
- Communicate with Council on your progress and advise staff if your project changes
- Be required to report back on what you did (called an **acquittal**)
- Acknowledge Council's support
- Return unspent funds to Council

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS THAT COULD GET FUNDING

- A local festival that celebrates culture
- Community gardening or clean-up projects
- Youth-led art mural or performance
- Upgrading equipment for a sports club
- Workshops or talks for seniors or youth
- Local original music festival
- Historical Research Publications

THE PROCESS FOR MICRO APPLICATIONS



This opportunity is suited to small community led groups who are looking to offset costs associated with venue hire, or other fees and charges associated with Council facilities/services. The small value of the funding could be used to improve or enhance what you are already offering to the community.

Applications for Micro amounts will consider:

1. What is the funding for?
2. Why the funding will make a difference?

There is a maximum allocation of \$10,000 available each financial year. This is funded from the \$250,000 Group A budget.

You will still need to meet the baseline eligibility criteria; however, the application is much simpler.

- You'll need to clearly tell us what you're asking for.
- You'll need to explain how the support will help your group or project.

You can only apply for one instance of Micro funding per applicant per purpose/project. Multiple applications will not be accepted.

Applications for Micro funding will not be accepted for projects that have received funding from Council in any other capacity.

THE PROCESS FOR MINOR AND MAJOR APPLICATIONS

You have a project that you think might be suitable for funding from Council

An always-open application form is available via SmartyGrants, applications can be submitted at any time. Council would notify if the applications were unable to be submitted; such as system maintenance, amendments to the form requirements or changes to the funding framework.



You complete and submit your application

You (primary contact for the organisation/group etc.) complete the application via the SmartyGrant portal by providing information in relation to the application. Your application will require you to address eligibility and assessment criteria for your application to be considered.



We establish an applicant profile and communication channel for you

We acknowledge that this new process is different and want to ensure that applicants are kept up to date during the process, we value two-way communication and welcome feedback during any review process.



We triage applications for best-pathway

A separate panel triages applications that are best fit for the Group B pathway.



We communicate with you about pathways

If your application is triaged to Group B, you will be advised of the process including any additional eligibility criteria, timeframes, and the evaluation and approval process. All other applicants will be advised of the Active Assessment Period in which their application will be considered.



We assess all funding applications against eligibility (Assessment Panel members)

Applications are batched accordingly and are reviewed by the panel members individually. Assessment is merit-based and in line with the evaluation matrix.



The Assessment Panel assess eligible applications

The Panel meets as a group to review the collated evaluation results. A secondary scoring matrix is applied at this stage of assessment; whereby advice is sought from subject matter experts (strategy owners/other evaluation parties) and may apply additional points based on significant alignment to DRC strategic priorities/delivery of DRC strategic objectives and outcomes.



Group B applications

Are assessed in line with specific Planning Agreements, which may outline a specific assessment group/panel and specific additional criteria.



Keep heading over to the next page

The Assessment Panel makes its Recommendation to Council

A report is put to Council with the results of the Assessment Panel evaluation.
The report will recommend meritorious applications.



Funding decisions are made

Council, by way of a resolution, will determine funding under the Community Funding Framework and in line with the Council Policy – Financial Assistance.



We communicate the decision to you

The resolution of Council is communicated to all applicants.



If you are successful



You will enter into a funding agreement

As a successful applicant you will enter into a funding agreement. The agreement will outline party obligations including payment of funds, reporting/acquittal or return benefits requirements and timeframes.



Delivery of funding

You complete the activity as set out in your funding agreement.



Funding finalisation and reporting

You complete the funding acquittal and provide the required evidence as set out in your funding agreement.



If you are not successful



We provide you with feedback

We understand it might seem like a bit of a process, but Council has a responsibility to ensure prudent financial management.

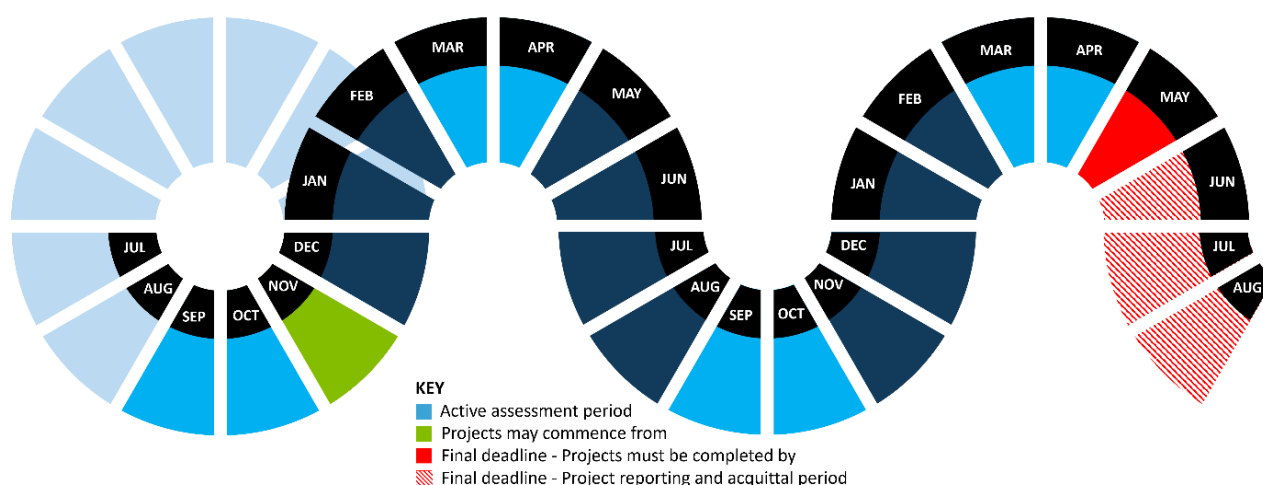
That's why we're here to help guide you toward the best pathway for a successful application.

TIMELINE AND KEY DATES

This section is applicable to Minor and Major applications only. The Community Funding Program cycle identifies the following periods:

| | |
|---|--|
| Active assessment period | <p>There are two active assessment periods each financial year, the assessment period is designated for staff to collate applications that we received before the start date of the active assessment period.</p> <p>The assessment period start dates are 1 September and 1 March. The assessment periods are two months period allowing time for evaluation and reporting to Council.</p> <p>The applications are then evaluated, and a recommendation is put to Council for approval.</p> <p>Council determines funding allocations at a meeting.</p> |
| Projects may commence from | <p>Projects may commence at any time from the first of the month following the end of the active assessment period.</p> <p>These dates are 1 November and 1 May.</p> <p>For the purpose of agreements (reporting and acquittal requirements) the project start date is the date that you may start incurring expenses related to the delivery of your project.</p> <p>To maximise opportunities for funding applications staff may prioritise projects with an earlier commencement date for assessment.</p> |
| Final deadline when projects must be completed by | <p>Projects with a delivery timeframe greater than 18-months would not be eligible.</p> <p>Projects, regardless of their contracted start day, must be completed within the 18 months from the project commencement period.</p> <p>These dates are 1 June (the next financial year following 1 November) and 1 December (the next financial year following 1 May).</p> <p>As part of the application and funding agreements you will identify a date that you consider to be the project end date. Your project end date must be before the final deadline date.</p> |
| Final deadline when project reporting and acquittals are due | <p>You will be required to lodge your project reporting and acquittal within three months of the project end date.</p> |

The cycle shown below is the maximum amount of time for delivery and reporting/acquittal requirements, in relation to the active assessment periods.



TIPS FOR APPLICATIONS

As funding is limited, Council must prioritise projects that closely align with its strategic goals and offer the greatest positive impact for the community.

Applications that clearly show strong community benefit and support Council's long-term plans are more likely to be successful.

The stronger the connection between your project and Council's priorities, the better your chances.

Open the application form and take a moment to get your bearings. We've designed the form to be as simple and user-friendly as possible. It's set up to guide you through the process step by step, helping you choose the right pathway and provide all the information we need from you in one go.

Tip 1: Make your project's goals realistic and clear.

Before you start your application, take time to think carefully about what your project is trying to achieve.

- What difference will it make for your group or the community?
- Are your goals specific, measurable, and achievable with the time and resources you have?
- Can you clearly explain the outcomes (what will change or improve as a result of your project)?

A strong application describes a project that has a clear purpose and shows what success will look like.

Only one application per project will be accepted. Applicants must not split a single project into multiple applications. Council reserves the right to consider applications ineligible if they appear to duplicate project components or seek additional funding for aspects of a previously funded or proposed initiative

example

Our project, the “Dubbo Sounds Original Music Festival,” aims to celebrate and grow the local music scene by providing a performance platform for 20 original music acts from the region.

The festival will:

- *Give local artists the opportunity to perform to new audiences.*
- *Offer music workshops for emerging musicians aged 15–25.*
- *Strengthen local pride and cultural identity through an all-ages, inclusive community event.*

Expected outcomes: At least 300 attendees from across the region.

- *Skill development for 25 young or emerging artists.*
- *Increased awareness and appreciation of local talent and live performance in Dubbo.*

This aligns with Council’s Cultural Plan Outcome 1: A vibrant and diverse creative sector, and Outcome 2: Broad community participation in creative and cultural life.

Tip 2: Be organised.

Planning ahead will make the application process much easier.

Gather all the information you need, like quotes, letters of support, and budget details.

Make a checklist of what's required and give yourself plenty of time to complete each part.

The benefit of the 'always open' application form is that you can submit your application at a time that suits you. Just be sure to consider the start date of the active evaluation period in relation to when your project is scheduled to begin.

Tip 3: Write in clear, concise language.

You don’t need to use fancy words or formal language. It’s more important that your application is easy to understand.

- Use short sentences or dot-points and plain English.
- Stick to the point—say what you mean and avoid too much detail.
- If you’re explaining something technical, imagine you're telling someone who knows nothing about it.

example

Original (too complex or wordy):

The event will facilitate and encourage the proliferation of performance-based activation and foster intergenerational engagement within cultural participation streams.

Improved version (clear and simple):

The festival will support local musicians to perform and bring people of all ages together to enjoy live music.

Another good example:

We will run three beginner-level workshops in songwriting and stage performance. These will be free and open to local youth, helping them build confidence and develop their musical skills.

Tip 4: Your reviewers are your primary audience.

Remember that your application will be read by people who may not know you, your group, or your project. Make sure everything is clearly explained, even things that seem obvious to you.

Don't assume the reviewers will fill in the gaps. Spell out why your project matters, what you'll do, and how it will benefit the community.

Keep in mind that the people reviewing your application care about helping bring Council's strategic plans to life.

These plans; like the Community Strategic Plan, Cultural Plan and Regional Events Strategy; have been shaped by what the community has said is important.

Showing that you understand these plans and how your project supports them can make a big difference to your application's success. It helps reviewers see how your idea fits into the bigger picture for our region.

example

This is the third year of the Dubbo Sounds Original Music Festival. The festival has grown each year, with over 250 attendees in 2024 and participation from 18 local acts. Our goal is to keep it community-focused, support emerging talent, and provide affordable, family-friendly cultural entertainment.

Many local musicians don't have access to professional performance opportunities—this festival helps fill that gap. It also contributes to Council's aim to strengthen creative opportunities in the region (Cultural Plan Objective 1.2).

Tip 5: Edit yourself, enlist help, share for comments.

Don't be afraid to ask a friend or colleague or someone in your organisation for feedback before you submit. Read your application out loud, this can help you pick up unclear parts that aren't addressing the detail of the question.

Ask someone you trust (who isn't too close to the project) to read your draft and check whether it makes sense.

A fresh set of eyes can help you catch mistakes, improve your wording, and make your ideas clearer.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL

Understand your obligations and sign your funding agreement

A funding agreement will be drawn up based on the information provided in your application and the determination of Council. You will have an opportunity to review the details of the funding agreement and will be required to sign the funding agreement agreeing to the terms and conditions outlined in the document.



You will receive your funds into your nominated bank account

Once you have signed your funding agreement and it has been executed by the responsible staff member, a payment of the full amount of approved funding will be made within Council's next payment run and within its terms and conditions.



You can get started on delivering your project (project start date)

It's from this time that you can start spending your funds and delivering the project.

This is a good time to revisit your obligations (the funding agreement) so that you collect all the necessary pieces of evidence along the way.

We may ask you for progress updates, these updates can then be used to make the reporting and acquittal period a lot easier. You'll be encouraged to communicate openly with us about your progress – we want to see your project be a success just like you do.



You deliver on your funding agreement

You will carry out your project and deliver the agreed return benefits as outlined in your funding agreement. This includes meeting timelines, spending the funds appropriately, and ensuring the outcomes promised in your application are achieved. Delivery of return benefits may also include acknowledgement of Council's support, participation in media events, providing updates to community and photos or videos.



You finish delivering your project (project end date)

Once you have completed your project and spent the awarded funds in accordance with the agreement, you will be asked to complete the project report and acquittal. You will need to complete and provide all the necessary documentation/evidence within three months of the project end date.

The table below identifies the minimum requirements for project reporting and acquittal.

| Level | Funding value | Return benefits | Acquittal and reporting |
|-------------|--|--|---|
| Micro value | \$500.00 and less | Verbal acknowledgement of DRC where applicable. | Written statement of delivery from applicant. |
| Minor value | From \$500.01 and less than \$9,999.99 | As per funding agreement, formal acknowledgement of support. Willingness to participate in a joint media call/media release or other promotion of Council's support. | Completion of Acquittal form, including financial documentation of expenditure and evidence (written and photographic/video) of delivery and outcomes achieved. |
| Major value | \$10,000.00 and over | As per funding agreement, formal acknowledgement of support, may include benefits such as naming rights and complimentary tickets, invites. Willingness to participate in a joint media call/media release or other promotion of Council's support. | Completion of Acquittal form and additional reporting/statistical data requests, including detailed financial documentation of expenditure, detailed evidence (written and photographic/video) of delivery and evidence of outcomes achieved. |

Projects that are 'events' are also required to provide the following return benefits:

1. Dubbo Regional Council brand placement/recognition, including the following:
 - a. Printed promotional material
 - b. Event website
 - c. Social media posts/activity promoting the event
 - d. Dedicated post/activity acknowledging Council as a sponsor
2. Arrange with Council's Events Unit to collect a banner promoting Council's support for your event.
3. Provide a minimum of three JPEG images of the event that can be used by Council to promote your event in the future and use to support destination marking activities.

GLOSSARY AND RESOURCES

| Term | Acronym/ alternative language | Definition/common understanding and additional information |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Acquittal | | A report provided to Council after funding is spent, showing how the money was used and what was achieved. |
| Community benefit | | The positive impact a project or activity has on local residents, groups, or the broader community. |
| Community benefit outcomes | | The specific, measurable results that demonstrate how the project has helped the community. |
| Community Funding Framework | | Council's structure and guidelines for managing, assessing, and allocating community funding. |
| Community Strategic Plan | CSP | A +10-year plan that outlines the community's long-term goals and priorities, developed through consultation. Our Towards 2040 Community Strategic Plan is found on Council's website Integrated Planning and Reporting - Dubbo Regional Council |
| Continuous or top-up funding | | Ongoing or additional funding for an already funded project. This is not supported. |
| Council | | Can refer to Dubbo Regional Council as the organisation/entity. Also, may mean the group of elected representatives (the Councillors, including the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor). |
| Council Policy – Financial Assistance | | A formal document that outlines how Council provides financial support to community organisations. The policy can be found on Council's website A-Z Council Policies - Dubbo Regional Council |
| Council's Values | | The guiding principles and behaviours that underpin Council's decision-making and community interactions. Our values are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive; be curious, courageous and committed • Sustainable; balance approach to growth and opportunity • One team; working together • Integrity; Accountable for our actions About Us - Dubbo Regional Council |

| Term | Acronym/ alternative language | Definition/common understanding and additional information |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Delivery Program and Operational Plan | DPOP | <p>Council's medium-term and annual plans that outline how it will deliver the Community Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Our 2025-2029 Delivery Program and 2025-2026 Operational Plan is found on Council's website Integrated Planning and Reporting - Dubbo Regional Council</p> |
| Double-dipping | Also see Duplication | Trying to get multiple grants (from Council) for the same project by presenting it in parts. Council funding must not be used to cover the same project costs more than once. |
| Dubbo Regional Local Government Area | LGA | The geographic area governed by Dubbo Regional Council, including Dubbo and Wellington and surrounding towns, villages and localities. |
| Duplication | Project duplication, project splitting, multiples applications for the same project | <p>The submission of multiple applications for funding the same project, or breaking a single project into parts across several applications. This is not permitted under the framework. Each application must represent a distinct and standalone project.</p> <p>Projects must be submitted as a complete, cohesive proposal. Submitting more than one application for different aspects of the same project is not supported. Only one application per project will be considered.</p> |
| Economic benefit | | <p>A positive financial or employment-related outcome for the local community or economy.</p> <p>Measures that we may use include;</p> |

| Term | Acronym/ alternative language | Definition/common understanding and additional information |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Event | | <p>For the purpose of applying for funds an event is defined as:</p> <p>A planned, public gathering held within the Dubbo Regional Local Government Area that offers a structured experience or program aimed at engaging the community or attracting visitors. Eligible events must be inclusive and accessible, and may be cultural, artistic, community-focused, or tourism-driven in nature. They must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be time-specific (not recurring weekly, monthly, or quarterly), • Be locally organised by a not-for-profit organisation, • Generate social or economic benefits aligned with Council's values and strategic priorities, and <p>Examples of eligible events include community festivals, cultural celebrations, public performances, exhibitions, and tourism-oriented gatherings with clear outcomes in community engagement or economic return.</p> |
| Event Organiser Toolbox | | <p>A Council resource with guidelines and tools to help plan safe, successful community events.</p> <p>Available on Council's website Event Organisers Toolbox - Dubbo Regional Council</p> |
| Evidence of expenditure | | <p>Valid tax receipts, invoices, or bank statements that show how funding was spent. Required for acquittal.</p> |
| Executive Leadership Team | ELT | <p>Council's senior leadership group.</p> <p>Read more about the ELT and the division they represent on Council's website Executive Leadership Team - Dubbo Regional Council.</p> |
| Financial | | <p>Relating to money, budgets, or the financial management of a project.</p> |
| Group A | | <p>A funding pathway for projects that meet baseline eligibility and align with Council's strategic plans and has community benefit outcomes. There is a pool of \$250,000 available each financial year.</p> |
| Group B | | <p>A funding pathway for projects that access other sources of funding (e.g. Planning Agreements, partnerships).</p> |

| Term | Acronym/ alternative language | Definition/common understanding and additional information |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Goods and Services Tax | GST | <p>It is the responsibility of the recipient to determine and manage any GST obligations, in line with Australian Taxation Office (ATO) requirements.</p> <p>The 'funding amount' (excluding GST) refers to the amount of funding approved or provided by Council, which is exclusive of Goods and Services Tax (GST).</p> |
| Ineligible expenditure | | <p>In addition to the baseline eligibility criteria and any identified ineligible expenditure in the Application form, we will not provide funds for the following items;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wages or remuneration (e.g. staff, committee members, organisers) • Prize money, prizes, incentives, trophies, gift cards/vouchers, promotional merchandise. • Personal benefit such as travel, meal, or accommodation costs. • Purchase of infrastructure, production/event equipment, machinery etc. |
| Incorporated group | | A community organisation that is formally registered as a legal entity, usually under the NSW Associations Incorporation Act. |
| Letter of support | | A written endorsement from a partner or stakeholder that confirms their support for the project. |
| Major | | A project where the component of Council's funding being applied for is \$10,000.00 and over |
| Micro | | A project where the component of Council's funding being applied for is \$500.00 and less |
| Minor | | A project where the component of Council's funding being applied for is from \$500.01 and less than \$9,999.99. |
| Not-for-profit | | An organisation that does not operate to make a profit for members, but rather to benefit the community. |
| One-off | | A project or event that happens once and does not require ongoing Council funding. |
| Operational funds | | Council's day-to-day budget for delivering services and running Council operations. |

| Term | Acronym/ alternative language | Definition/common understanding and additional information |
|--|--|--|
| Planning Agreement | Also VPA (Voluntary Planning Agreement) | A legal agreement between a developer and Council to provide community benefits as part of development approval. For more details on Planning Agreements visit Council's website Planning Agreements - Dubbo Regional Council |
| Project | | To keep things simple, we use the word 'project' to refer to all types of activities, like events, programs, services, or community initiatives, throughout the process. Projects are specific activity or initiative that has a defined objective, timeline, and outcome. |
| Project end date | | The last day the project will be delivered or costs will be incurred. |
| Project start date | | The date the funded activity or spending begins. Cannot be before funding is approved. |
| Public purpose (relating to Renewable Energy Benefit Framework) | | May include any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public amenities or services; • Affordable housing; • Transport or other infrastructure relating to the development; • The funding of recurrent expenditure relating to the provision of public amenities or services, affordable housing or transport or other infrastructure; • Monitoring of the planning impacts of development. |
| Recurring | | An event or project that takes place on a regular basis (e.g. annually). Not always eligible for funding |
| Regional Development Australia Orana Grants Hub | RDA Orana | A regional body that helps communities and Councils access grant opportunities and funding support. The dedicated website is grantguru.com/au/rdaorana |
| Registered charity | charity | An organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). The register can be found at the Australian Government website Home ACNC |
| Renewable Energy Benefit Framework | | A separate Council policy that guides how benefits from renewable energy developments are shared with the community. For more details on the framework visit Council's website Planning Agreements - Dubbo Regional Council |
| Retrospective funding | | Funding for activities or costs that have already happened. Not permitted under the funding program. |

| Term | Acronym/ alternative language | Definition/common understanding and additional information |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Return benefits | | Tangible recognition of Council's financial support. Outline as part of the application for and funding agreement. |
| Strategic priorities | Also see CSP and DPOP | Key areas of focus identified in Council's strategic plans and policies that guide decision-making and investment. Other dedicated strategic plan can be found on Council's website A-Z Plans and Strategies - Dubbo Regional Council |
| Sustainable | | A project that can continue or provide long-term benefits without needing ongoing funding from Council. |
| Unincorporated bodies with an auspice | | A group that is not legally incorporated but works with an incorporated organisation (auspice) to manage the funding. |

Document Control

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Responsible Officer: | Corporate Strategy and Performance Coordinator |
| Division: | Community Culture and Places |
| Prepared by: | Corporate Strategy and Performance Coordinator |
| Version: | 1 |
| Revision: | 1 |
| Document Date: | 8 July 2025 |
| Effective: | 22 July 2025 |

Cnr Church and Darling streets, Dubbo
Cnr Nanima Crescent and Warne Street, Wellington

Ph: (02) 6801 4000
dubbo.nsw.gov.au