Connected Communities Grants

Guidelines 2022

BELLINGEN SHIRE COUNCIL

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Connected Communities Grants 2022

Background

Bellingen Shire was impacted by floods in February and March 2022. In response, funding was provided jointly by Australian and State government for recovery. Bellingen Shire Council conducted a survey and a number of Community Roundtables for feedback on the impacts and how the funding could be put towards preparation and recovery.

Findings from community showed over 71% of people had impacts with their wellbeing during the flood events, with over 62% citing missing activities and services important to their wellbeing.

The floods were just the latest in a series of rolling disasters over the past few years, and community feedback indicated a need for social and wellbeing recovery, as well as economic and built environment.

The Connecting Communities Grant 2022 will allow community groups across the Shire to design and host events and activities that help bring people together, connect and build friendships, and celebrate the strengths of their community

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Grant objectives

Assist and support residents to create a connected, sustainable, resilient, creative and inclusive community.

Enable social recovery and increase community resilience through connection.

Celebrating communities across the Bellingen Shire.

Connected Communities 2022

Expected Outcomes

- Increased community, connection, equity, diversity and inclusion.

- Greater community participation

- Empower local communities to identify and respond to local issues and priorities.

- Showcase and celebrate your unique community identity.

Expected Benefits

- Increased community resilience.

- Increased community capacity and resilience

- Bellingen Shire communities are represented and celebrated.

- Sense of belonging and identity.

- Greater sense of community satisfaction.

- Celebrates diversity

- Increased social cohesion

Eligibility: Connected Communities Grants

How much can you apply for?

Funding is available up to $2,500. Eligible applicants can only receive one grant under the Connecting Communities Grant program

Who can apply

- Incorporated not for profits

- Auspiced unincorporated community organisations and groups*

- Section 355 committees

Who can not apply

- Current employees of Bellingen Shire Council.

- Australian or NSW State Government agencies

- Political parties

Applications will also be assessed of any potential conflicts of interest that will need to be addressed.

An auspicing body is a legally constituted not for profit organisation that will take legal and financial responsibility for a grant if awarded.

Eligible projects

- Local events, workshops, and activities that foster connectedness and are socially inclusive.

- Events and activities must take place within the Bellingen Shire

- Funding can be used as a contribution to another project, but not if that project has already received funding from Council through another grant.

Ineligible Projects

- The projects of a commercial nature

- Administrative costs, ongoing or routine operational or administration costs

- Programs that are routinely implemented

- Activities that do not occur within the Bellingen Shire

- Retrospective projects or activities, i.e., those that have already taken place

- Travel costs

- Projects already funded by another Council grant.

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How to apply

How do I apply?

Applications will be made through the Good Grants online system

Should you have any difficulty using the Good Grants system, please contact the Community Resilience Team.

Who do I speak to regarding my project or for more information?

Contact the Bellingen Shire Council Community Wellbeing Team:

(02) 6655 7300

council@bellingen.nsw.gov.au

FAQs and workshops

Bellingen Shire Council will provide opportunities to support community and organisation to apply for the grants through workshops, information points and FAQ information sheets.

These will be announced and shared with community when the grant is launched.

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Application Assessment Criteria

- Eligible applications will be assessed on individual merit as part of a competitive process

- Applications must demonstrate how they align to the purpose and objectives of the grant program

- Demonstrate that the project is well planned, that suitably skilled persons are involved (where applicable) and the project / program and applicant are financially viable and have the capacity to deliver the project

- Events or activities that use local community services will be highly regarded.

- Demonstrate a sustained impact on the community.

Other Important Information

- A budget is required as part of the project and should be detailed and accurate.

- Budget items in the application should NOT include GST.

- Quotes and/or cost estimates should be provided where applicable.

- All projects and activities must comply with all current government requirements regarding COVID-19.

- Projects must be completed within 12 months of funding being announced.

Assessment Process

- Applications will receive a confirmation email once their application has been submitted

- Applications will be assessed by a panel of 2 Council staff and 1 Resilience NSW staff member.

- The assessment panel will make recommendations for approval to the Council at the Council meeting that most closely follows the assessment period.

- Successful applicants will then be notified as soon as possible after the Council meeting

- In the interests of fairness, the assessment panel will, where possible and appropriate, ensure apt dispersion of funding across the Shire

Successful Applications

- Successful applicants will be notified in writing through a formal letter of offer and be required to enter into a funding agreement with Council

- Applicants may also be required to provide additional information such as evidence of the appropriate public liability insurance for the period covering your activity

- Payments will be made on receipt of a tax invoice or the Council can generate a Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI)

- An applicants inability in meeting the grant agreement may result in support being withdrawn and may not be eligible to apply for other grants provided by the Council

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Recognition of Assistance
and Acquittal

Recognition of Assistance

- Successful applicants must acknowledge Bellingen Shire Council's support for their project.
    - Acknowledgements may be in the form of (but not limited to) signage, logos on websites, promotional and/or information materials and/or the opportunity to speak at an event or activity related to the project.

- Successful applicants must also acknowledge the joint Australia and State Government support for this project as per the Disaster Recovery Funding Australia Guidelines: https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/Documents/Natural-Disaster-Relief-and-Recovery-Arrangements/disaster-recovery-funding-arrangements-2018.pdf

- The NSW Government or Commonwealth Government, or Council may use any information submitted by successful grant recipients for promotional material. Information may be used in the form of press releases, case studies, promotional material and in response to media enquires relevant to the Local Government Recovery grants program

Acquittal

- Successful applicants will be required to acquit their grant within two months of completing the project.

- Evidence of the project being completed, including expenditure and outcomes, must be provided.

- Any unspent funds will need to be returned to Council at the time of acquitting the project.

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