



## Reconnecting Regional Communities – Community Events Program



Bello Roots Festival - Photo courtesy of Carol Zatt

### Expressions of Interest

Council is calling for **Expressions of Interest** from organisations and businesses to coordinate and deliver one or more events across the Bellingen Shire. The Council has identified two major events in which it is seeking proposals for including:

#### The Memorial Hall reopening event

The focus of this event is to celebrate the re-opening of the hall and to re-engage the community with the Hall showcasing the new facilities with the aim of re-invigorating events and building a stronger visitor economy.

#### A Resilience Expo

The focus of this event is on community resilience and recovery. The event proposes to hold speaking sessions from the various agencies and leaders in community resilience and recovery along with stalls and engagement activities. The event will have a focus on issues such as water, fire, climate change, and drought. The event should, where possible, involve local entertainment with a focus on health and wellbeing.

#### Community Events

**Additionally**, there is an opportunity for several community events to be delivered by businesses and organisations across the Shire. It is the expectation that at least one event will be held in Dorrigo and Urunga and therefore encourages event organisers to consider these communities as part of their proposal.

### Program Objectives



The Reconnecting Regional NSW – Community Events Program will promote the social and economic recovery of regional communities, by renewing social connections and providing a revenue boost to local businesses, following the extended COVID-19 restrictions across regional NSW and impacts of border closures.

## Eligibility Criteria

Any proposal must meet the following criteria in order to be considered.

### Project Location

All events must take place within the Bellingen Shire and have land owner's consent if required.

### Events must:

- be open to all members of the public
- free to attend or a very small fee to cover any extra costs
- have a primary purpose of reconnecting communities and improving social cohesion of the local community
- be planned and delivered using the COVID-19 NSW Public Health Orders current at that time and have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place for all events (the development of these plans is an eligible expense)
- be held before 31 March 2023
- use local providers and businesses to support the event, wherever possible

All events are encouraged to be accessible and inclusive, aligning to Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan and Community Strategic Plan.

### Examples of eligible events

Event organisers can apply for one or more events. Activities eligible for funding through the Reconnecting Regional Communities – Community Events Program include existing or new:

- community markets and bazaars
- festivals and fairs
- sporting events
- food and leisure events
- recovery events
- community classes and workshops
- agricultural field days (run by community organisations)
- touring events and theatre programs
- community public holiday celebrations (e.g. Australia Day or Anzac Day).

For existing events, applicants are encouraged to use this funding to make the events larger or more accessible.

## Ineligible Events

### Events must not:

- have a primary purpose of fundraising



- have a primary purpose of financial gain for an eligible applicant or a sole stakeholder (events may have commercial activities as a part of the program for example, stalls at a market, food trucks at a festival)
- promote or be for political purposes.

### Examples of ineligible events

Ineligible events under the Reconnecting Regional Communities – Community Events Program include:

- events with the primary focus on fundraising and charity events
- running grant programs
- business events and conferences
- events where membership is required to attend (for example, club gatherings including RSLs, Rotary, pony and golf clubs)
- country and agriculture shows
- grassroots sporting games (for example, home/away games, local tournaments)
- events with religious or cultural ceremony or celebration as the principal focus (for example, Diwali, Easter, Eid or Christmas celebrations)
- events/festivals already funded by the NSW Government
- Australian or State/Territory government owned and/or operated events.

### What are ineligible project costs?

***Ineligible project costs include:***

- costs related to buying or upgrading fixed infrastructure or equipment unless it is a small component of the event cost
- financing, including debt financing, or insurance
- rental/venue hire costs not directly associated with the proposed activities
- awards, gifts or prizes
- non-project related staff training and development costs
- marketing costs for the events exceeding \$10,000
- normal ongoing operational expenditure
- ongoing/recurrent funding that is required beyond the stated timeframe of the project
- funding for ongoing staff or operational costs beyond the scope and timeframe of the event
- retrospective costs to cover any event or component that is already complete before the opening date of the program
- accommodation and transport costs related to event management fees.

### Assessment criteria

All applications will be required to meet the eligibility criteria and the following assessment criteria to qualify to enter into an agreement with Council:

1. **Positive social outcomes in local community**

Proposals must demonstrate that the proposed activities will rebuild local community cohesion and deliver positive social outcomes.



**2. Local business support**

Proposals must demonstrate how the proposed activities will support local business.

**3. Have a sound budget**

Proposals must provide a solid budget. Should your proposal be selected, your provided budget will form the basis of any agreement entered into with Council in terms of the delivery of the event.

**4. Demonstrate extensive experience in the successful delivery of events**

This should include outlining the management structure and/or access to highly skilled and experienced persons or businesses to assist in the delivery of the event/s.

**5. Provide a proposed delivery schedule of key activities/project plan of key milestones**

This is to demonstrate a good understanding of project planning and should include key deliverables.

### How to submit an Expression of Interest

To submit a proposal go to <https://www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au/Have-Your-Say/Reconnecting-Regional-Communities>.

**Submissions close 5.00pm Wednesday 15 June 2022.**

### More information and contact details

For more information and/or to discuss your event proposal, please visit Council's website or contact the Acting Manager, Economic and Business Development on 6655 7300 or email [council@bellingen.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@bellingen.nsw.gov.au).



Bello Roots Festival – Photo courtesy of Carol Zatt