
 Adelaide Plains Council	21.1 Confidential Item
26 August 2019	

21.1 Drought Communities Programme Update - August 2019

RECOMMENDATION

“that:-

- 1. Pursuant to section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999, Council orders that all members of the public, except Chief Executive Officer, General Manager – Governance and Executive Office, General Manager – Development and Community, General Manager – Finance and Business, General Manager – Infrastructure and Environment, Property Officer, Community Development Officer and Governance Officer/Minute Taker be excluded from attendance at the meeting of Council for Agenda Item 21.1 – *Drought Communities Programme Update – August 2019*;**
- 2. Council is satisfied that pursuant to section 90(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999, Item 21.1 – *Drought Communities Programme Update – August 2019* concerns commercial information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting business, or to prejudice the commercial position of Council, being information relating to ongoing negotiations; and**
- 3. Council is satisfied that the principle that Committee meetings should be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed by the need to keep the information, matter and discussion confidential.”**

 Adelaide Plains Council	21.1	Drought Communities Programme - Extension
	Department: Report Author:	Development and Community General Manager - Development and Community
Date: 26 August 2019	Document Ref:	D19/35450

OVERVIEW

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Drought Communities Programme and the processes undertaken to determine the final list of projects eligible for submission.

Background

In March 2019, Council was added to the regional council list for the extension of the Australian Government's Drought Communities Programme (the Programme) in regional South Australia. The Programme supports communities impacted by drought through funding local community infrastructure and other drought relief projects. After the Federal election in May 2019, Council was invited to submit an application to receive funding for projects up to \$1 million in total.

The intended Outcomes of the Programme are to:

- improve levels of economic activity in regions;
- increase productivity in regions;
- enable better retention of businesses, services and facilities; and,
- increase employment in regions by providing work for locals and/or farmers and farm labourers/staff/contractors whose employment opportunities have been affected by drought.

Each eligible council can receive funding for projects up to \$1 million. The grant amount will be up to 100% of eligible project costs. The minimum grant amount per application is \$25,000. Applications can include multiple unrelated activities up to the total funding amount of \$1 million.

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and can include:

- repairs, maintenance, upgrading or building new community facilities;
- repairs, maintenance, upgrades, construction and fit-out of community spaces;
- employing local contractors to undertake repairs and maintenance;
- holding events; and,

- undertaking other drought relief activities.

Eligible expenditure items may include the cost of:

- suppliers, consultants and contracted labour undertaking eligible project activities;
- materials required to deliver eligible project activities;
- Purchasing, leasing or hiring equipment required to deliver eligible project activities;
- holding events; and,
- Other drought relief activities (including water carting for human consumption).

Each project must meet at least one of the following project requirements:

- lead to the employment of locals;
- contribute to the economic activity of communities/regions; or
- retain businesses, services and facilities.

The Programme will be managed entirely by Council and in strict accordance with the funding guidelines.

Discussion

The Programme criteria and draft matrix of project proposals for funding were presented at an Informal Gathering with Council Members on 4 July 2019. This session provided an opportunity for Management to workshop the programme criteria and draft matrix with members. The inclusion and benefits of employing a Programme Coordinator were also discussed and should be duly considered.

At its Ordinary Meeting of Council on 22 July 2019, an initial list of proposed projects and the assessment matrix developed based on the funding criteria, was presented to Council. Council then made the following resolutions:-

*Moved Councillor Lush Seconded Councillor Boon **2019/328***

“that Council, having considered Item 21.2 – Drought Communities Programme, dated 22 July 2019, receives and notes the report, and in doing so acknowledges and expresses its gratitude to the Federal Government’s Department of Industry, Innovation and Science in the allocation of \$1m to Adelaide Plains Council.”

CARRIED

*Moved Councillor Lush Seconded Councillor Boon **2019/329***

“that Council, having considered Item 21.2 – Drought Communities Programme dated 22 July 2019, endorses the methodology and output as provided as Attachment 1 to this Report.”

CARRIED

“that Council, having considered Item 21.2 – Drought Communities Programme, dated 22 July 2019, instructs the Chief Executive Officer to:-

- 1. Formally submit the list of projects as identified in the Matrix (presented as Attachment 2 to this Report), noting that the total project funding threshold is \$1m:-
 - a. Subject to the inclusion of the Moquet Lee Memorial to the Pinery Fire to the value of \$32,000; and*
 - b. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer, in consideration of (a) above, to make the necessary adjustments; and**
- 2. For any project considered ineligible by the Federal Government, submit remaining projects in order of ranking.”*

CARRIED

Since the 22 July 2019 Council meeting, Management has been working tirelessly with the many community groups, clubs and individuals to ensure that the proposed projects meet the required criteria, while maintaining confidentiality and seeking to avoid raising expectations too highly prior to approval of the funds.

The original project list approved by Council was also forwarded to the funding provider for an initial assessment.

On the 29 July 2019, Council was informed that the project completion date for the Drought Communities Programme for those councils selected as a result of the Federal election had been extended from 31 December 2019 to the 30 June 2020 (**Attachment 1**). While this news was welcomed, Management continued working on the current project listing and considered any value adding that could potentially occur over the course of the projects.

All projects submitted had a number of details that required researching, with the main issues being ownership, definition of licenced areas and the end use of the project. This feedback process initially ruled two projects out of contention due to the criteria, however, with further consultation with the funding provider, both projects were resubmitted back into the listing.

Project plans were created for all of the 15 projects including simple cash flow Project Plans – timing, costs, supplier, materials, and equipment.

The Local APC Business list was also updated as part of this process. It is anticipated that the programme funding will result in a significant injection of stimulus across the entire Council business region.

A productive internal workshop was held on Thursday 15 August 2019 that involved staff from all departments across the organisation. The fine-tuning of the funding application then took place, and the application was submitted on Wednesday 21 August 2019 with the following projects included:-

#	PROJECT NAME
1	Mallala Netball Courts - Facility Upgrade/Resurface
2	Long Plains Netball Court - Facility Upgrade/Resurface
3	Two Wells Bowling Club - Artificial Turf (drought water savings)
4	Project - Coordinator Drought Funding Projects
5	Project- Mental Health Workshop (as recommended by boundary Councils)
6	Project - Completion Event
7	Parham Campground - Improvements (Drainage, fencing including native remnant vegetation, wastewater upgrade, toilet upgrade)
8	Development of the Mallala Oval Campsite
9	Thompson Beach Progress Association - Shed Redevelopment
10	Sustainability Implementation (Solar, LED Lighting and Water Efficiencies) Mallala Depot, TW & Mallala Offices, CWMS Treatment plant, TW Library)
11	Construction of superior 'Off- Leash' Dog Park at Lewiston (Fencing and irrigated turf - Next to Playground)
12	Clara Harniman Reserve - Equine Facility Development including fencing native vegetation
13	Dublin Cricket Clubroom - Stage 1 (contribution Stage 2)
14	Historical Wells - Upgrade pathway with solar lighting and information boards/interpretive signage
15	Moquet Lee - Pinery Fire Memorial, Information Board, Access, tank, fencing

Conclusion

A final list of 15 projects under 13 sub-headings in 3 sub categories totalling a value of approximately \$1.6 Million Dollars has been submitted for funding (**Attachment 2**). It is also expected through further negotiations that value adding to the projects will be created when the financial announcements are made.

With the application submitted on Wednesday 21 August 2019, it is expected that Council will be informed regarding the outcome of the funding application in a maximum of two (2) weeks.

RECOMMENDATION

“That Council, having considered Item 21.1 – *Drought Communities Programme – Extension*, dated 26 August 2019, receives and notes the report.

Attachments

1. Notification dated 29 July 2019 regarding the programme extension to 30 June 2020
2. Final submitted project list

References

N/A

From: Drought Communities Programme [<mailto:DCP@industry.gov.au>]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 9:25 AM
To: Robert Veitch; David Cowell
Cc: Drought Communities Programme
Subject: Drought Communities Programme Extension - Grant opportunity guidelines for Adelaide Plains Council [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Dear Mr Veitch and Mr Cowell

On 19 August 2018, the Australian Government announced the Drought Communities Programme - Extension to support communities impacted by drought. In March 2019, this support was extended to include an additional 15 drought-affected regions. During the election campaign the Australian Government committed to further extending this support to 14 drought-affected regions. The Drought Community Programme – Extension is designed to provide an immediate economic stimulus to drought-affected communities with this latest extension bringing the Programme to \$110 million. Each Eligible Council can receive funding for projects up to \$1 million.

Adelaide Plains Council is invited to apply for funding online at <https://portal.business.gov.au/>. To apply, you need to first register to use the online portal. Once registered, an application can be completed online. You will be prompted for an access code - please enter in **DCP@R2**

I encourage you to familiarise yourself with the program guidelines which you can find [here](#)

All projects need to be completed by **30 June 2020**. Accordingly, is advisable to make contact with contractors/service providers who you intend to carry out the work to confirm their availability and timings early to avoid missing out. **Do not submit multiple applications for individual projects, but rather bundle the projects up and submit together in one application.** Please be aware there will be no opportunity to extend projects and grant funding beyond 30 June 2020.

A **Frequently Asked Questions** document has been attached to this email to provide assistance and guidance for you around the range of projects and activities that this program will support.

To expedite the process I have also attached an **Accounts Payable form** for you to complete with the Council's bank account details. The earliest possible return of the form will ensure grant payments can be made in a timely manner.

Who can apply?	Only the Council is eligible to submit an application. Businesses or individuals from your region are not eligible to apply directly. Note: we can only accept applications where it is submitted by the Chief Executive Officer of the Council or another Council Officer authorised to sign a grant agreement.
What does it offer?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council can receive funding for projects up to \$1 million. • The grant amount will be up to 100% of eligible project costs. • The minimum grant amount per application is \$25,000.
How does it work?	Drought-relief projects must be <i>in addition</i> to the normal planned activities of the Council. Funding will target infrastructure and other projects that:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought • stimulate local community spending • use local resources, businesses and suppliers • provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend <p>Projects activities must be undertaken in the region of the Council and must be completed by 30 June 2020.</p>
What activities are eligible?	<p>Eligible expenditure items may include the cost of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suppliers, consultants and contracted labour undertaking eligible project activities • materials required to deliver eligible project activities • purchasing, leasing or hiring equipment required to deliver eligible project activities • holding events and other drought relief activities (including water carting for human consumption). <p>We may also approve other activities.</p>
Project period	<p>Recently completed projects and current projects may be eligible, the earliest possible start date and eligible expenditure claim date is 19 August 2018. All project activities must be completed by 30 June 2020.</p>
How to apply	<p>Please note you must complete and submit an online application. You will need to set up a user account to access our online https://portal.business.gov.au/. The portal allows you to apply for and manage your grant application/s in a secure online environment.</p>

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information or have any questions.

John Bowen

Program Management and Delivery team

AusIndustry – Support for Business

Please note I work Tuesday to Friday

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RECOMMENDATION

“that Council, having considered the matter of Item 21.1 – *Drought Communities Programme Update – August 2019* in confidence under sections 90(2) and 90(3)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, resolves that:-

- 1. The Report, Attachment 1 and Attachment 2, and any other associated information submitted to this meeting pertaining to Agenda Item 21.1 – *Drought Communities Programme Update – August 2019* remain confidential and not available for public inspection until further order of the Council;**
- 2. Pursuant to section 91(9)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the confidentiality of the matter will be reviewed every 12 months; and**
- 3. Pursuant to section 91(9)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council delegates the power to revoke this confidentiality order to the Chief Executive Officer.”**