

Document Name	Document Version Number	Review Date
Loans to Community Groups Policy	1.0.2	August 2024
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19 August 2020	5663	Revised

## Purpose

To provide financial assistance to community groups and organisations within the shire by way of interest bearing loans.

## Scope

Community groups and organisations within the shire.

## Definitions

Nil

## Policy Content

Council will consider providing financial assistance by way of interest bearing loans to community groups and organisations within the Greater Hume Council area for the purposes of exercising Council functions of providing community, sporting, and recreational projects, services and facilities under the following guidelines:

1. The community project or facility which is subject of the application for a loan is approved by Council and is located on Council owned or controlled (usually Crown Land) community land.
2. Applications for loans to purchase major items of plant and equipment will be considered however consideration will only be given to applications where the use of such plant and equipment is directly related to the maintenance and operations of the community facility to which it is assigned. Council's Director Engineering must be advised of the proposed purchase and confirmation as to the suitability of the proposed item of plant and equipment must be obtained from Council prior to a loan being granted under this policy.
3. Applications for loans will be considered up to a maximum of \$50,000, subject to the loan liability to the Council for any one community group not exceeding \$50,000 at any one time.
4. The interest rate for all loans shall be fixed at a rate of 2% per annum for the duration of the loan.
5. The period for repayment of loans will be within a term of not more than 10 years.
6. The quantum of all loans approved shall not exceed \$250,000 at any one time. Should the maximum loan amount be reached applications from community groups and organisations will be considered by Council and placed on a waiting list until sufficient loan funds have been repaid.
7. Priority will be given to applications for financial assistance from community groups and organisations that:
  - a. Provide community, recreational and sporting projects, services and facilities that are available uniformly to all persons or a significant number of persons within the Council area and;
  - b. Include the contribution of funds by the community group or organisation, either cash or in kind.

8. Council will undertake a due diligence review to establish the ability of the applicant to service loan interest and principal repayments.
9. Applications by community groups and organisations for loans from Council must provide a full description of the project, service or facility for which the loan is sought and include with the application the following:
  - a. Annual audited income and expenditure statements for the last 3 years.
  - b. A copy of the community group or organisations constitution (not required if the community group or organisation is a Committee of Council constituted under Section 355 of the Local Government Act).
  - c. A copy of the minute passed at a meeting of the community group or organisation seeking the loan from Council.
10. The full amount of any loan provided by Council under this policy must be drawn down in full within two years of being approved

### **Links to Policy**

Nil

### **Links to Procedure**

Nil

### **Links to Forms**

Nil

### **References**

Nil

### **Responsibility**

Director Corporate & Community Services

### **Document Author**

Director Corporate & Community Services

### **Relevant Legislation**

Local Government Act 1993

### **Associated Records**

Nil