

Community Funding Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Policy No: G-15	Approved by: Outback Communities Authority	Version: 1.0
Contact person: Byron Gough	Date approved: 12 December 2014 (implementation 1 July 2015)	Status: <i>Current</i>
Contact number: 8648 5905	Next review date: 2016	Objective ID: A2116335
Other policies impacted:	Outback Grants Policy; Community Affairs Resourcing and Management Agreement Policy; Community Contribution Scheme (Andamooka & Iron Knob)	

REVISION RECORD

Date	Version	Revision description
12 December 2014	1.0	Adopted 12 December for full implementation 1 July 2015

1. ADOPTION

This policy was adopted by the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) on 12 December 2014.

2. TITLE

Community Funding Policy.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

The OCA has the responsibility to manage and promote improvements to public services and facilities to outback communities. In discharging its responsibilities the OCA must provide services with a high level of efficiency and effectiveness, manage resources effectively, prudently and in a fully accountable manner, while maintaining and enhancing the value of public assets. To meet its responsibilities the OCA will:

- Encourage communities that manage municipal services to transfer, by agreement, management and /or ownership to the OCA to meet long-term management costs and associated risks.
- Encourage incorporated community groups to review their role in the community and develop self-funding strategies where the OCA may assume responsibility for managing local municipal services to meet long-term management costs and associated risks.
- Work toward the future implementation of an Asset Sustainability Levy (ASL), a levy payable by all outback landholders, to ensure funding for the ongoing management and development of outback services and infrastructure that supports all people in the outback and adds to the overall amenity of the region.

This policy reflects the OCA's recognition of the value of communities in the outback and sets in place a way to provide financial support in a sustainable way to ensure their respective futures and the wellbeing and development of Outback SA.

This policy is our commitment to supporting communities in outback areas.

4. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to express the principles of funding and identify the way in which the OCA will provide financial support for the efficient and accountable administration and management of outback communities. It promotes participation of outback communities in their administration and identifies ways of raising revenue to fund public services and infrastructure in Outback SA.

5. SCOPE

This policy applies to all funding strategies of the OCA in Outback South Australia.¹

6. POLICY DETAILS

6.1. General Principles of Funding

6.1.1. The OCA will consider providing funds to assist with municipal services and for community development projects that enhance the quality of life of outback

¹ The Outback is defined in the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Regulations 2010*

residents, have a focus on recreation, social and community development, safety and security, environment, culture and history that are consistent with the goals, objectives and strategies of the OCA Strategic Management Plan.

- 6.1.2. The OCA recognises that funding opportunities may be delivered in a variety of ways and it will support opportunities to work collaboratively with those communities wanting to participate in a Community Contribution Scheme to achieve a higher level of service that might not otherwise be achieved through a grants program alone.
- 6.1.3. Funding allocations will be contingent on the OCA's budget planning and resource allocation.

6.2. Providing Funds to Communities

The OCA will consider, within established guidelines, providing funds to communities for municipal services that enhance the value of community assets, and for community development projects.

Two categories for support² will be considered:

- municipal services
- community development projects.

All applications for funding will be subject to the OCA's budgetary process and assessed against established funding guidelines.

Eligible communities, groups and organisations must be:

- incorporated (or supported by an incorporated body³), and
- not for profit, and
- representative of the community for which funding is sought.

Communities, groups and organisations must have an established management structure that enables them to responsibly acquit the funds within the specified timeframe and report on financial management and manage and maintain the project or initiative on an on-going basis if relevant.

When considering funding:

- **Municipal Services:** priority will be given to communities that are prepared to contribute to the cost of services by participation in a Community Contribution Scheme or a similar viable self-administered scheme.
- **Community Development Projects:** priority will be given to projects that aim to create a stronger sense of place or community, protect the environment, conserve resources and minimise waste or aim to enhance quality of life or improve well-being.

Funding will not be considered for:

- funding individuals or

² All funding allocations are subject to a minimum and maximum value set annually by the OCA

³ Community Development Project funding only

- commercial activities *except in respect of formal not for profit associations, where it can be shown that activities result solely in general community benefit, addressing real needs that might not otherwise be met or*
- reimbursement of funds already spent or initiatives that have already occurred or that will occur prior to notification of the outcome of the application or
- proposals dependant on future OCA funding.

6.3. Funding Across the Outback

The need to provide outback services and associated infrastructure which promote the safety, comfort and long term benefit of all those living and working in the outback, as well as those visiting or passing through the outback, is recognised. SA Government policy, consistent with other governments elsewhere in Australia, supports all landholders contributing to the cost of providing and maintaining these services, similar to the system that applies in incorporated Local Government Council areas.

The OCA will promote and pursue this policy focus through the introduction of an ASL.

It is acknowledged that significant community engagement will be needed to communicate details about an Asset Sustainability Levy. The Outback Communities Authority will follow the steps set out in its consultation policy before an Asset Sustainability Levy is implemented.

The OCA's Public Consultation Policy and Concession Policy applies where an ASL is being considered or has been introduced.

The OCA will develop and maintain a clear set of guidelines describing how an Asset Sustainability Levy would be applied.

7. OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

7.1. The following documents support this policy;

- 7.1.1. Community Funding Check List
- 7.1.2. Community Funding Guidelines
- 7.1.3. Community Engagement – Our Commitment Policy
- 7.1.4. OCA's Concession Policy
- 7.1.5. Internal Review of OCA's Decisions Policy.

8. DEFINITIONS

Unless specifically defined below all words have the normal dictionary⁴ meaning.

- 8.1. **Asset Sustainability Levy** is a levy paid by landowners across the outback for the purpose of maintaining public services and facilities in the outback.

⁴ Oxford English Dictionary

- 8.2. **Community Contribution Scheme** is a levy paid by the landholders within a community for the purposes of planning, carrying out, making available, supporting, maintaining or improving an activity that is, or is intended to be, of particular benefit to the outback community in that area or to visitors to that community.
- 8.3. **Outback Services** are the public services and associated infrastructure provided by the Outback Communities Authority and are required for the safety, comfort and long term benefit of all communities and visitors to the outback and includes infrastructure such as UHF Repeaters, Aerodromes and Public Toilets.
- 8.4. **Community Development Project** is defined as a once off community initiative primarily for the benefit of the community's social and or cultural wellbeing. Community Development Project funding may include a component of insurance, executive support and administration costs. Examples of where Community Development Project funding may be available include; a community playground, major upgrades to community halls, replacement of community hall equipment, tables, chairs, event sponsorship such as an annual race club event, community newsletter, sporting equipment etc.

9. AVAILABILITY OF THE POLICY

Members of the public may obtain a copy of the policy at the office of the OCA during normal office hours. The policy is also available from the OCA's website: www.oca.sa.gov.au.

10. REVIEW OF THE POLICY

The effectiveness of the policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Any future amendment or alteration to the Policy, or substitution of a new policy will be subject to the OCA's Community Engagement – Our Commitment Policy unless the alteration has only minor significance and is likely to attract little or no community interest.

11. OCA CONTACT PERSON

Byron Gough, Governance Manager. Telephone: (08) 8648 5905.