

Community Funding Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to communicate the principles of how the Outback Communities Authority will provide financial support to communities to assist in their efficient and accountable administration and management.

Policy Statement

The Outback Communities Authority has a responsibility to manage and promote improvements to public services and facilities to outback communities. In doing so it must promote participation of outback communities in their administration and management. The Outback Communities Authority will discharge these responsibilities efficiently and effectively, manage resources effectively, prudently and in a fully accountable manner.

To meet its responsibilities the OCA will:

- Encourage community groups to review their role in the community, develop self-funding strategies and to operate as an effective representative of their communities.
- Encourage communities that can no longer manage their municipal services to transfer, by agreement, management and /or ownership to the Outback Communities Authority to meet long-term management costs and associated risks.
- Work toward the future implementation of an Asset Sustainability Levy to give the Outback Communities Authority the best opportunity to use its Government allocations for the benefit of local communities.

This policy, together with the supporting guidelines, 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 a vital part of our commitment to supporting communities in Outback SA.

Implementation

The OCA will, within established guidelines, provide funds to assist with municipal services necessary for community wellbeing; and for community development projects that enhance the quality of life of outback residents and/or visitors to the outback.

The OCA recognises that funding opportunities may be delivered in a variety of ways. It will support opportunities to work collaboratively with those communities wanting to participate in a Community Contribution Scheme that will achieve a higher level of service that might not otherwise be achieved through project funding.

Funding allocations will be contingent on the OCA's budget planning and resource allocation and undertaken within established guidelines.

When considering the allocation of funds for:

- 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.

Evaluation and Review

This Policy will be evaluated by OCA staff prior to the commencement of each funding cycle. The Policy will be reviewed by the OCA on recommendation of OCA staff or within three months of the appointment or renewal of tenure of a Presiding Member, which ever shall occur first.

Definitions

Asset Sustainability Levy, a levy payable by all outback landholders, to ensure funding for the ongoing maintenance of outback services and infrastructure that supports all people in the outback and adds to the overall amenity of the region.

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.

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 Projects 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. Project funding can include sponsorship, a component of insurance, executive support and administration costs.

References

The follow documents have been developed to support this policy:

- Community Contribution Implementation Guidelines
- Community Funding Guidelines

This policy was adopted by the Authority on 20 July 2017