

BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT SCHEME

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1. OBJECTIVE

The City of Karratha's Business Support Grant Scheme assists local collaborators and organisations with developing and delivering innovative projects that will result in economic benefits to the City of Karratha.

This in turn will support the effective implementation of the City's Operational Economic Development Strategy which has, as a strategic focus, the support and development of business enterprises providing direct benefits to City residents and the business community.

2. PRINCIPLES

2.1 Introduction

In recognition of the important role that businesses play in contributing to the local economy and providing local jobs, Council is committed to the provision of support and assistance through the Business Support Grant Scheme.

2.2 Funding

Council will allocate funds to be available for the Business Support Grant Scheme and for these to be included as part of the City of Karratha annual budget process.

2.3 Eligibility Criteria

Groups or organisations that are eligible include either:

- a) a properly constituted not-for profit;
- b) a collaborative partnership sponsored by an incorporated organisation;
- c) or a for-profit organisation where the funded project is not projected to return a profit in the short term.
- d) Industry and business associations, chambers of commerce and industry are welcome to apply.

The organisations must:

- e) Be able to demonstrate they are involved in business support enterprise;
- f) have a registered Australian Business Number (ABN);
- g) have an appropriate legal business structure;
- h) Have the appropriate insurances, permits and licences;
- i) have a proposal that will deliver benefits to the City of Karratha;
- j) have a proposal which is financially viable;
- k) be able to proceed without grant funding;
- l) Provide a project plan detailing objectives of the project, costs, timelines, and methodology.

2.4 Categories of Support

The following categories indicate what type of initiatives the City may support:

	Event	Examples	Indicative grant funding available
2.4.1	Major Business Events	Expos, conferences and forums	Up to \$30,000
2.4.2	Minor Business Events	Briefings, and seminars	Up to \$30,000
2.4.3	Business Training	Business boot camps, workshops	Up to \$20,000
2.4.2	Other initiatives	Surveys, business information, research, awards, sponsorships	Up to \$10,000

2.5 General Conditions

- 2.5.1 The business support grant scheme offers cash grants of up to \$30,000 per business on a matched dollar for dollar basis.
- 2.5.2 Grants would be on a matched dollar for dollar basis
- 2.5.3 Grant funding is to be paid as reimbursement for spending or costs incurred after the Business Support Grant Scheme application has been approved.
- 2.5.4 Funds will not be approved to any eligible applicant that currently holds outstanding debts with the City of Karratha.
- 2.5.5 Assistance will not be given retrospectively.
- 2.5.6 The proposal must meet the specific funding program guidelines and criteria.
- 2.5.7 The applicant organisation must demonstrate their capacity to manage financial and funding accountabilities of the project, as well as their overall project management capabilities.
- 2.5.8 Assistance will not be issued to applicants where monies are not expended on the purpose detailed in the original application.
- 2.5.9 All applications must be submitted on the relevant application forms.

2.6 Return Benefits to the City of Karratha

The applicant agrees to acknowledge the City of Karratha assistance through the following mediums, inclusive of, but not limited to:

- 2.6.1 City logo displayed on posters, pamphlets, sign boards etc;
- 2.6.2 City logo displayed on the digital application developed e.g. website, portal, app, etc;
- 2.6.3 Undertake joint media promotion with the City of Karratha;
- 2.6.4 Submission of an acquittal report containing photographs of project deliverables upon project completion.

2.7 Allocation of Funds

All successful applications will be eligible to claim allocated funds upon receipt of approval/acceptance letter and submission of a valid tax invoice to the City of Karratha.

Council will not:

- fund deficit funding
- fund retrospectively

Decisions regarding funding applications are final and will not be reconsidered. Applicants may choose to resubmit their applications during future funding rounds, including those in the same financial year.

2.8 Unspent Funds

Funds which are unspent at the conclusion of the project or activity will be returned to Council within 60 days of the completion of the project, activity or event.

Funds that remain unaccounted for, or remain unspent in the custody of the organisation, shall be treated as for any Council debt.

2.9 GST

Where groups and individuals have an ABN (Australian Business Number) and are registered, GST will be applicable and will be paid. Unregistered groups and individuals will need to complete an Australian Taxation Office declaration form prior to receiving reimbursement of grant monies.

2.10 Other

All applicants should note that Business Support Grant Scheme is competitive. It is therefore recommended that all information requested and/or required, is provided at time of application so as not to jeopardise eligibility.

Variations to the approved application are generally not accepted. Any request to vary expenditure from the approved application would need to be submitted to, and approved by the CEO prior to the expenditure occurring. Only minor variations that do not change the overall intent of the approved application will be considered.

3. CONSEQUENCES

This policy represents the formal policy and expected standards of the City of Karratha. Appropriate approvals need to be obtained prior to any deviation from the policy. Elected Members and Employees are reminded of their obligations under the Council's Code of Conduct to give full effect to the lawful policies, decisions and practices of the City.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of **All Staff** to ensure that they adhere to the policy, direction and legislation.

It is the responsibility of the **Development Services Directorate** to administer funds within relevant guidelines and ensure community organisations successful in obtaining funds, are compliant with this policy.

Council is responsible for the application of the policy. **Council** is responsible for the review of the policy.

5. REFERENCES TO RELATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Karratha Business Support Grant Scheme Guidelines
- City of Karratha Business Support Grant Scheme Application Form

Policy Number:	DE-02
Previous Policy Number:	Nil
Resolution Numbers:	TBA
Last Review:	New Policy
Next Review:	June 2017
Responsible Officer:	Director Development Services

This Policy takes effect from the date of adoption by Council and shall remain valid until it is amended or deleted.