

COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND FRAMEWORK

Stockland Aura Community Grants Program: Criteria and Guidelines

Overarching Aim

Stockland, working in conjunction with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, has established the Community Benefit Fund and Grants Program to provide financial support for local community groups to develop and deliver programs, events, infrastructure and initiatives aimed at increasing the vitality, activation and prosperity of the town and village centres and associated catchments, with the overarching aim of fostering a greater sense of community.

Eligibility Criteria

Who is eligible to apply for funding? *(Clause 32.9.2 of the Infrastructure Agreement)*

Funding is available to community focused organisations including community associations, not-for profit and charitable organisations and social enterprises.

Organisations may include community interest groups, community associations, Chambers of Commerce, surf lifesaving clubs, sporting clubs and recreations groups

Funding is not available for individuals, Government organisations, political parties, religious groups, “for-profit” businesses or commercial sponsorships.

If an application does not meet the criteria and objectives, it will be deemed invalid and withdrawn from consideration.

During each funding round, only one application per organisation, group or club etc will be considered.

Funding for unincorporated organisations/associations is up to and inclusive of \$5,000.

What are the funding objectives?

All applications must address at least three of the following four Community Benefit Fund Objectives to be eligible for consideration:

- Positively contribute to the character of the community, village or town centre based on the areas of focus for the 2024 grants program, aimed at increasing vitality and activation, and fostering a unique sense of community. (DISTINCTIVE)
- Support, grow and build the capacity of local people by providing opportunities for community members to actively participate in shaping their community. (TALENTED)
- Provide opportunities for the community to come together, to be happy and healthy and to feel that everyone belongs. (HAPPY & HEALTHY)
- Embrace sustainability principles in all aspects of project delivery. (GREEN)

Areas of focus for 2024 grants

Demonstrated collaboration and partnerships with other community organisations in applications will be highly regarded, to foster the long-term sustainability of initiative delivery.

Applications supporting the following themes will be highly regarded:

- Caloundra Central Business District
- Bells Reach and Bellvista
- Moffat Beach
- Glenview
- Shelley Beach
- Mooloolah Valley
- Dicky Beach
- Landsborough
- Currimundi
- Beerwah
- Golden Beach
- Glasshouse Mountains
- Aura including Baringa, Nirimba, Banya
- Beerburrum

The organisation or community group does not need to be based in the above defined catchment, however the project outcome deliverable must be located in the above location(s).

What can the funding be spent on? *(Clause 32.9.3 of the Infrastructure Agreement)*

Funding is available for applications with a focus on:

- The planning and delivery of community programs, events, initiatives, and training which respond to the Criteria and Objectives of the Community Benefit Fund.
- Research and the establishment of new social enterprise start-ups, pop-ups, and the growth of existing local social enterprises aimed at fostering a vibrant business community and responding to the Criteria and Objectives of the Community Benefit Fund.
- The provision of infrastructure which delivers a broad community benefit and that is not the responsibility of council or state government to provide such infrastructure.
- Infrastructure that supports a wider community need (e.g. contribution to a community facility, cultural centre or sporting facility that benefits numerous stakeholder groups)

Applications for funding must include:

- A project plan which clearly states project milestones, timeframes and budget;
- Status of any necessary permits, permission or consents; and
- A statement which clearly defines the project deliverables, outcomes and benefit, and the organisation's capacity to deliver.

Projects could include:

- Opportunities for low or no cost initiatives that increase community participation
- A series of community events which bring the community together
- Start-up social enterprise initiatives by community organisations
- Tree planting, landscape works and associated landscaping to improve the amenity of a community centre
- Development of community gardening programs

- Development and implementation of an environmental education and/or protection program
- Development and implementation of a citizen science program targeted at multi-generational learning
- Delivering events and activities which support the community to be healthy and active
- Establish a 'grey army' or 'golden guru' social enterprise
- Support pop-up initiatives developed by community groups
- Public art projects involving local community members in design and implementation
- Delivery of school holiday activities in the town centre
- Establishment of a co-working hub (social enterprise) by a community group
- Indigenous programs delivering local community outcomes
- Projects which embrace and support community diversity
- Infrastructure (i.e. lighting, cooking facilities) that support sporting and community groups where there is a demonstrated need and where long-term tenure can be demonstrated

What will not be funded?

Funding is not available to or for:

Individuals, political parties, government entities, commercial sponsorships, religious groups (except for those with a non-religious purpose), budget deficits, endowments or bequest programs; or general fundraising appeals.

Funds will not be provided for:

- Infrastructure items deemed to improve sporting or community facilities benefiting a small group of beneficiaries (i.e. shelters, pathways, landscaping,) where long term tenure of the facility is not secured
- General office equipment such as photocopiers, computers, printers, phones
- Operating costs such as rent, electricity, telephone
- Ongoing salary costs that will be incurred irrespective of the project. (Salaries incurred as a direct result of the project may be considered)
- General maintenance
- Projects that are deemed core business of local, state or federal government departments (eg. bikeways, roads infrastructure)
- Unrelated to project outcomes including travels costs or conference attendances.

How much funding is available?

There will be a three-tiered approach to application funding:

1. \$1,000 up to \$5,000

One-off funding for small local programs, events, activities or initiatives.

Unincorporated organisations/associations can apply for up to a maximum value of \$5000 only.

2. \$5,001 up to \$10,000

One-off funding for local programs, events, activities or initiatives.

3. \$10,001 up to \$50,000

One-off major funding for local programs, events, activities, infrastructure or initiatives. One-off events will only be funded to a maximum value of \$15,000.

Unincorporated organisations/associations are not eligible for this tier of funding.

Note that the final grant amount awarded to a successful applicant may vary from the amount originally requested in its application.

Within what timeframe should funding be expended?

Projects should be delivered, and funds expended within the specified timeframes for each funding tier:

1. \$1,000 and up to \$5,000

Successful applications for one-off funding for small local programs, events, activities or initiatives must spend the final grant amount within twelve (12) months from the date on which the Grant was provided to the Successful Applicant by Stockland.

2. More than \$5,000 and up to \$10,000

Successful applications for one-off funding for small local programs, events, activities or initiatives must spend the final grant amount within twelve (12) months from the date on which the Grant was provided to the Successful Applicant by Stockland.

More than \$10,001 and up to \$50,000

Successful applications for one-off funding for local programs, events, activities or initiatives must spend the final grant amount within twenty-four (24) months of receipt of the grant.

What is the funding application submission process?

Applications for funding must be submitted via the online application process (which includes completing an online Stockland Aura Community Grant application form) at <https://www.stockland.com.au/residential/qld/aura/news-and-events/community-grants>

Applications by email or other communication method will not be accepted.

Applications open on the relevant application round opening date and must be received by 5pm AEDT on the relevant application round closing date.

As the number of applications submitted may be substantial, not every application that meets the eligibility criteria will necessarily be awarded a grant.

What is the application assessment process?

Applications will be reviewed and assessed by Stockland (the Original Developer) who is the trustee of the Community Benefit Fund (*Clause 32.1 of the Infrastructure Agreement*) also

known as the Stockland Aura Community Grants Program. A representative from Sunshine Coast Council will also be involved in review and assessment.

Stockland and a representative from Sunshine Coast Council will undertake an initial review of the applications against the eligibility criteria and Stockland will prepare a report to the (existing) Caloundra South Steering Committee (Steering Committee) listing all applications and those recommended for funding.

The members of the (existing) Steering Committee are currently representatives from Sunshine Coast Council, Economic Development Queensland and Stockland.

The Steering Committee will review and assess the recommended applications against the key criteria and agree the applications that will receive funding and the funding amount for each.

Following the appropriate due diligence on each application and approval by the Minister for Economic Development Queensland, Stockland will disburse the funding from the Community Benefit Fund within 10 business days or as soon as practically possible. *(Clause 32.13 of the Infrastructure Agreement)*

All decisions on the eligibility of the applications are at the sole discretion of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered in to relating to the decision process or the outcome.

How is the funding acquitted by successful applications?

The final grant amount awarded to a successful applicant must be used and applied solely for the purpose outlined in the funding application. If at any time, the stated purpose in the application is no longer possible or cannot be completed in the manner described in the application submitted, the recipient must immediately advise Stockland in writing of that inability and discuss an alternate use of the grant.

Each successful applicant must provide a report on the expenditure of funds allocated and the outcome of the program, event, activity or initiative to which the funds were applied within 2 months of completion. (Noting the agreed timeframe that funding must be expended for each funding tier).

This report is required via an online acquittal form. Income and expenditure (including receipts) relating to the application must be provided. Five or more photographs showing relevant before, during and after images are a requirement of the online acquittal form.

The recipient must advise Stockland in writing of any unexpended funds received. The recipient may apply for a change of purpose for Stockland's approval, which Stockland may approve or reject in its discretion and any unspent money must be returned immediately.

Are there any promotion and communication requirements? *(Clause 32.9.4 of the Infrastructure Agreement)*

Stockland Aura Community Grant recipients must agree to liaise with Stockland and Sunshine Coast Council for the joint promotion and communication of the project, program, event or initiative funded.

Any promotions and communications about the project, program, event, or initiative funded must acknowledge the funding provided by the Stockland Aura Community Grant.

A Stockland representative may visit the project site before and throughout the term of the grant, at times as agreed between Stockland and the recipient of funds.

Privacy

Stockland collects personal information including the name, position and contact details of the representative applying for funding via the completion of the online Stockland Aura Community Grant application form. The primary purpose of collecting this information is to administer the Program, including to assess the application for funding and if its application is successful, for the purposes of awarding funds.

Stockland may disclose collected information to providers of external services to profile the Stockland Aura Community Grant Program to a broader audience.

A copy of Stockland's Privacy Policy may be accessed at <https://www.stockland.com.au/privacy-policy>

Managing the Community Benefit Fund *(Clause 32.15 of the Infrastructure Agreement)*

Stockland will prepare a report to Minister for Economic Development Queensland and Sunshine Coast Council which contains an audited statement, prepared by a registered company auditor in accordance with the requirements for a 'limited scope audit' under the Australian Auditing Standards being an audit against the requirements and obligations of the Community Benefit Fund, that identifies:

- The balance of the Community Benefit Fund at 1 July of the previous year
- The amount received during the year from 1 July of the previous year to 30 June of the current year
- Interest accrued on money in the Community Benefit Fund during the year from 1 July of the previous year to 30 June of the current year
- Any amount disbursed through the Stockland Aura Community Grant Program during the year from 1 July of the previous year to 30 June of the current year and the purpose for which it was disbursed (including the recipients of the funds, amount disbursed for each application, the type and location of the project, program, event or initiative and purpose of funding)
- The current balance of the Community Benefit Fund as at 30 June of the current year.
- Stockland is entitled to be reimbursed from the Community Benefit Fund for the cost of preparing the audited statements. *(Clause 32.12.2 of the Infrastructure Agreement)*

