

TITLE:	Government Grants and Funding Agreements Policy		
DIVISION:			
ADOPTED BY:	Council		
DATE OF ADOPTION:	December 12, 2013	DATE OF REVIEW:	December 2017
MOTION NUMBER:	179/13		
POLICY NUMBER:	CP000016		
AUTHORISED:	Chief Executive Officer		

THIS POLICY APPLIES TO:

All employees and Elected Members

The Policy sets out principles for guidance of the CEO when applying for, or accepting government grants and entering into funding agreements.

PREAMBLE

The aim of all policy is for Councillors to provide strategic input into the effective operational framework of the organisation under S.11 of the Local Government Act

SUMMARY

The Policy sets out principles for guidance of the CEO when applying for, or accepting government grants and entering into funding agreements.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this policy is to ensure that the Council is not dis-advantaged when accepting government grants and entering into funding agreements.

BACKGROUND

The Barkly Regional Council is heavily reliant on grants to support its activities. Some of these grants support Council's own activities but others relate to agency functions which the Council performs on behalf of the Northern Territory, or Commonwealth Government.

In the past the Council has sometimes entered into Funding Agreements where it acts as an agent for a Government Department or other Agency which do not allow the Council to recover the full cost of the service to be provided. Sometimes the Council has been unable to meet the requirements of the funding agency as the grant itself is insufficient for the intended purpose. Often funding agreements such as those for the 'Active Remote Communities' recreation grant and the 'Municipal and Essential Services and Housing Maintenance Service,' which often arrive part way through the financial year, include new conditions or requirements which may prove burdensome to Council.

A Review of Councils' Financial Sustainability undertaken by Deloitte in 2012 for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services made the following recommendations:

- Cost of personnel: Contracts with funding providers must include provision for recruitment, training and accommodation of personnel delivering the program.
- Whole of life costs: Whole of life costs must be determined in relation to gifted capital assets and should be considered by the Councils when accepting a gifted capital.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Policy of Council is to:

- Only apply for grants which are consistent with the Region or other Council Plan, and only to apply for grants with a value in excess of \$10,000 unless the reporting/acquittal requirements are minimal;
- Only accept a Grant and enter into a Funding Agreement where the CEO is confident that the Council can meet the requirements of that Grant;
- To consider whole of life costing for assets prior to accepting capital grants.

Where the Council is acting as the agent for another Agency, Council policy is to:

- Only accept a Grant and enter into a Funding Agreements where the full cost to Council of acting in that agency capacity will be recovered (including costs associated with recruitment, training and accommodation of the personnel delivering the program) together with a margin sufficient to justify Council's involvement.

IMPLEMENTATION AND DELEGATION

The CEO has delegated authority to implement this policy

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This Policy is to be reviewed every four (4) years, and may be reviewed at other times at the discretion of Chief Executive Officer.