

Replacement Report

REPORTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

5 [GM-CM] Community Building Partnership 2011

ORIGIN:

Business and Economic Development

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

The NSW Government will conduct the Community Building Partnership (CBP) program in 2011. The CBP program provides funds for community groups and local councils to invest in community infrastructure throughout the State.

These grants are competitively allocated from a fixed amount for each State Electorate. Each State Member will review and prioritise applications from their electorates which will then be determined by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Applications from local councils require a commitment of matching funding by the Council and close on 31 October 2011.

Projects must be ready to commence by early 2012 and be completed before the end of March 2013.

This report recommends that Council submit two applications, one for each State Government electorate within Tweed Shire.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Submits a grant funding application to the Community Building Partnership 2011 for \$130,000, for the Hastings Point Park Upgrade Project within the Tweed State Electorate.**
- 2. Submits a grant funding application to the Community Building Partnership 2011 for \$20,000, for the upgrade of Newell Park for the Lismore State Electorate.**

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REPORT:

Community Building Partnership 2011

The NSW Government will conduct the Community Building Partnership ("CBP") program in 2011. The CBP program provides funds for community groups and local councils to invest in community infrastructure throughout the State.

In 2009, 1,180 grants were approved for community groups and local councils to build or upgrade local facilities. In 2010, a total of 1,775 grants were approved.

Community organisations and local councils are once again encouraged to apply for funding to build and improve community facilities in their local area. Grant funding of up to \$300,000 is available for every electoral district with an additional \$100,000 for the forty eight electorates previously identified with higher unemployment rates. The funding for the two State electorates in Tweed Shire are;

Tweed Electorate (NSW State):	\$400,000
Lismore Electorate (NSW State):	\$400,000

The objectives of the NSW 2011 Community Building Partnership program are to:

- Improve local community participation and cohesion through the delivery of social, environmental or recreational services or activities by enhancement of community infrastructure.
- Improve opportunities for people from disadvantaged or otherwise isolated groups to be included in community activities.

Criteria

Applicants should demonstrate how their project will benefit their local community through the building or improvement of facilities to deliver positive social, recreational or environmental outcomes.

Applications from local councils require a commitment of matching funding by the council. Projects must be ready to commence by early 2012 and be completed before the end of March 2013.

Eligible Projects

Applications should demonstrate how they will deliver positive results for communities, especially community social, recreational, environmental or employment outcomes. Funded projects will provide community benefits through:

- Construction of new capital works;
- Refurbishment, repairs and maintenance to existing capital facilities; or
- The purchase of capital equipment with a life expectancy of 15+ years that enables the delivery of new or enhanced community services.

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The Grant fund will **not** fund the following;

- Non capital equipment (e.g. computers, IT equipment, sports equipment etc).
- Projects that have commenced prior to 31 October 2011.
- Projects that involve the development of private or commercial ventures including licensed areas of registered clubs.
- Projects that seek funding for the organisation's operating recurrent expenses (eg: staff, consumables etc).
- Projects that seek funding to stage events, exhibit a display or for filming.
- Projects to undertake studies or investigations.
- Purchase of land or buildings is generally not appropriate.

Timetable

14 September 2011	Applications open
24 October 2011	Closing date for registration of Organisation by Applicants
31 October 2011	Applications close
6 December 2011	Complete application checking against eligibility criteria completed
7 December 2011 – 13 January 2012	Local MPs consult with their communities and assessment of applications commence by Local MPs and Independent Review Committees
March 2012	Announcement of successful projects and formal offers and documentation provided to applicants
30 September 2012	Applicants to obtain final planning for construction projects where required
31 March 2013	All projects completed and grant money spent

Assessment and Approval

Members of Parliament will:

- encourage applications from community groups and local councils in their electoral district
- provide comments and recommendations on the suitability and priority of eligible proposals within their electoral district for the Premier's consideration.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet will make recommendations to the Premier based on the assessment criteria and information provided by the Members of Parliament and independent review panels.

PROJECTS

1. Hastings Point Park Upgrade Project

According to Australian Bureau of Statistics 2003 there were 20,000 people or 27% of the population identified within the shire as having a disability, so potentially a quarter of the parks user group. For this large group to participate, adequate and complying infrastructure must be installed. The literature has clearly identified that lack of access within the built environment can negatively impact on the capacity of people with a disability to fully access their community and all it has to offer (National People with

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Disabilities and Carer Council 2009; SHUT OUT; The Experience of People with Disabilities and their Families in Australia).

Play is seen as a social leveller. When children engage on play equipment they don't judge on social backgrounds, they may be intimidated by size or confidence but often it can be a starting point. Open space in parks also allows for all social groups, disadvantaged or otherwise to mingle and mix as one large group.

Hastings Point Park is designed to have free BBQ's with all access picnic settings close by. Other furniture is also designed for the park which allows for isolated individuals to come, sit and watch, to be a part of the greater community, to say hello to passers by or watch others find their way in life. Tweed Shire has an over 65 years of age population group 10% higher than the national average. Opportunities for this age group would include mainly passive recreational activities such as reading and talking with room for more slow paced active pursuits such as walking or cycling.

The park's location also encourages fishing in the local creek as well as more informal walking along the beach. The setting again is the backdrop that encourages all the other activities to be performed, by designing an environment that allows for a wide range of uses by an extended range of users it encourages a more tolerant community, one that sees and accepts the diversity as a greater good and a better place to call their own.

Total costs to undertake these upgrade works would be \$300,000. It is proposed that these works be funded from the following sources;

Source	Amount	%
Parks Upgrade Funds	\$170,000	57%
Community Building Partnership Grant	\$130,000	43%

It is therefore recommended that Council submits an application to the Community Building Partnership 2011 for \$130,000, for the upgrade of Hastings Point Park in the Tweed State Electorate.

2. Newell Park Upgrade, Murwillumbah

It is proposed to undertake works to redevelop Newell Park to incorporate a more accessible grade to the Murwillumbah Bridge and integration with the central business districts (CBD). This park upgrade was originally incorporated into a proposed project to construct a covered walkway across the Murwillumbah Bridge.

Total cost to undertake these works would be \$60,000. It is proposed that these works be funded from the following sources;

Source	Amount	%
World Heritage Rainforest Centre Redevelopment Fund	\$20,000	33%
Parks Upgrade Funds	\$20,000	33%
Community Building Partnership Grant	\$20,000	33%

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It is therefore recommended that Council submits an application to the Community Building Partnership 2011 for \$20,000, for the upgrade of Newell Park for the Lismore State Electorate.

LEGAL/RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report recommends that Council submit two grant funding applications that must be matched from Council's budget for 2011/2012.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

UNDER SEPARATE COVER/FURTHER INFORMATION:

To view any "non confidential" attachments listed below, access the meetings link on Council's website www.tweed.nsw.gov.au (from 8.00pm Wednesday the week before the meeting) or visit Council's offices at Tweed Heads or Murwillumbah (from 8.00am Thursday the week before the meeting) or Council's libraries (from 10.00am Thursday the week of the meeting).

Nil.

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