

REPORTS THROUGH THE ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

REPORTS FROM THE ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

b25 [GM-CM] Regional Development Australia Fund - Round 5 Grants

SUBMITTED BY: Acting General Manager

FILE REFERENCE: Regional Development Australia, Grants - General

Valid



Supporting Community Life

LINKAGE TO INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK:

- 2 Supporting Community Life
- 2.1 Foster strong, cohesive, cooperative, healthy and safe communities
- 2.1.1 Work closely with government and community organisations to improve services to children and families, youth, elderly, Indigenous people, disadvantaged and minority groups and to build stronger and more cohesive communities

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

On Wednesday 19 June the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese MP made an announcement that \$150 million is to be shared between all local councils and shires across Australia to help build and renew community infrastructure.

This funding will be delivered through Round Five of the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) and the Liveable Cities Program.

The RDAF Round. 5 has been allocated to eligible Councils on a pro-rata basis. Eligibility is dependent upon a Council receiving the Financial Assistance Grant. Tweed Shire Council meets this eligibility criteria and has been allocated \$613,184.

Grant fund guidelines which will outline project eligibility will not be available until Friday 21 June. However it has been identified that the projects must be 'shovel-ready' and the funds can only be used to build and renew community infrastructure.

Council needs to nominate its prioritised project through an application process. The Minister also provided some examples of suitable projects as sporting facilities, libraries, town halls, playgrounds and essential community services such as child care facilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council determines priorities in relation to the *Tweed Heads Streetscaping* and *Rail Trail - Murwillumbah to Tweed Regional Art Gallery* as suitable projects to be submitted for Round 5 of the Regional Development Australia Grant Fund, pending the release of the Guidelines.

REPORT:

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Round Five key dates

Milestone	Date
RDAF Round Five announced	19 June 2013
RDAF Round Five Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions published to website— www.regional.gov.au	21 June 2013
Applications for RDAF Round Five open	21 June 2013
Assessment of applications	As applications are received
Applications for RDAF Round Five close	22 July 2013 (5:00 pm local time)
Department approval of grants under Round Five	Following assessment
Funding Agreements negotiated and executed	Funding agreements will be negotiated on a rolling basis and must be executed within six months of grant

Rail Trail - Murwillumbah to Tweed Regional Art Gallery

In its consideration of the Casino - Murwillumbah Transport Strategy, Council resolved to support a pilot project of the Murwillumbah to Casino Rail Trail. This pilot project is a shared walking / bicycle trail from South Murwillumbah to the Tweed Regional Art Gallery utilising the decommissioned rail line.

Tweed Heads Streetscaping

This project would upgrade the street scaping along Wharf St (from Frances St to Florence St) and Bay Street (from Navigation Lane westwards).

This is an update on the Notice of Motion from 24 January 2013 regarding Bay Street, Tweed Heads.

"RESOLVED that:

- 1. Council notes that the current negotiations for the sale of the part of the Bay St East Road reserve has stalled and no activity has occurred for a number of years.*
- 2. In light of the currently stalled negotiation Council declines to proceed with the current sale proposal.*
- 3. Council notifies the other party that it has withdrawn from the current negotiations for the sale of the land.*
- 4. Council explores with local businesses, residents, and their respective representatives, street and CBD beautification options with a view to bringing forward a report to the last meeting of Council in May 2013."*

Progress to date on Item 4 is as outlined below:

- A plan has already been adopted for beautification of the Tweed Heads CBD, *Tweed Heads Streetscape Final Master Plan*, prepared by Land Plan Studio in 1997.
- This plan was the subject of extensive consultation at the time and the rate was struck on areas to be benefited, the term of this special rate has now expired, funds were fully expended over a decade ago.
- The plan has been implemented in the areas:
 - Wharf St from the Border to Frances Street
 - Bay Street from Wharf St to Navigation Lane.
- The plan has not been implemented in:
 - Bay Street west of Navigation Lane
 - Bay Street east of Wharf Street (this area was not covered by the attached plan and was the subject of the later proposal to build over part of the street)
 - Wharf Street, Florence to Frances Street.
- There is an expectation of landowners and an obligation on Council to deliver the promised streetscaping to the areas rated who have not yet received streetscaping.
- This obligation was the subject of discussion at Council budget workshops regarding how the project should be funded to enable completion.

- There is an amount of \$50,000 in the draft 2013/14 budget to complete detailed design of the streetscaping in the missing areas (parts Bay and Wharf Streets). If this is confirmed on Thursday 20 June 2013, detailed design will be commenced in accordance with the adopted concept designs in the attached report. This detailed design process will include extensive consultation with the affected owners and tenants.
- A formal report will be presented to the July or August meeting, outlining the above process and identifying options for funding construction in the 2014/15 budget.
- There is a water main replacement job scheduled in 2013/14 (replace old asbestos main) on the west side of Wharf Street from the Border to Florence St. Much of the replacement main will be located in parking areas to avoid disturbance to streetscaping that has already been implemented. It is understood that when the existing streetscaping was done in the Bay St/Wharf St intersection area, the water main replacement was anticipated and new but unconnected pipes were laid for connection later when the replacement was scheduled.

OPTIONS:

The options available to Council are;

1. determine the priorities of the two nominated projects that it wishes to pursue for funding in Round 5 of the RDAF
2. to notify the Department that Council does not wish to submit an application to Round 5 of the RDAF

CONCLUSION:

This report recommends that Council decides potential projects to be submitted for Round 5 of the Regional Development Australia Grant fund.

COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS:

a. Policy:

Corporate Policy Not Applicable.

b. Budget/Long Term Financial Plan:

The Federal Government have allocated \$613,184 to Tweed Shire Council under the Regional Development Australia Fund - Round 5.

c. Legal:

Not Applicable.

d. Communication/Engagement:

Inform - We will keep you informed.

UNDER SEPARATE COVER/FURTHER INFORMATION:

Nil.
