

From: Paul Drew
Sent: Tuesday, 6 February 2007 9:17:04 AM
To: Meredith Smith
Subject: FW: Uki Heritage River Walk project

-----Original Message-----

From: Pieter Verasdonck [mailto:Pieter.Verasdonck@business.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Thursday, 1 February 2007 3:28 PM
To: Paul Drew
Cc: Jenni Funari
Subject: Uki Heritage River Walk project

Paul,

Thanks for your call regarding CTC@Uki request for \$7,000 in bridging finance, to be repaid on completion of the Uki Heritage River walk project.

This is to confirm that the Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD) is funding CTC@Uki under the Main Street / Small Towns Program for the project. The first payment of \$7,000 plus GST was made almost a year ago, and the second payment of \$7,000 plus GST will be made at the completion of the project. (Copy of contract attached, and copy of first payment approval made by me for the project at the bottom of this email)

DSRD's Community Economic Development (CED) projects are often run in partnership with local government councils. In this case Tweed Council CPO Jenni Funari has been an active and important part of the project. Where councils act as a bank for a community project, it is to overcome cash flow problems with work in progress. DSRD makes the final payment at the completion of the project.

Tweed Council temporary financial assistance to CTC@Uki would be of great assistance to the community. The usual process used for ensuring that the money is not used up before the community organisation has met project KPIs, is to release money on recommendation by the CPO and the DSRD CED manager for project milestones (i.e. satisfactory completion of Business Plan, DVD, Brochure, Website).

It would be good to consult Jenni on the request and on her role in the payment process before finalising Council's answer to the request. The entire \$7,000 plus GST should not be paid in one lump sum to CTC@Uki. Jenni would liaise with the CTC and with me on determining what project element is completed to satisfaction, and what elements should not be funded yet. DSRD would OK Jenni's recommendation, so there is no confusion about it.

The Uki Heritage River walk will assist Uki community to achieve environmental regeneration objectives for the Tweed River bank at Uki, as well as developing business plans and marketing materials to create income streams from tourism. The project is an important part of CTC@Uki sustainability goals. To date the organisation has satisfactorily completed

most of the KPIs set for the project, and it is expected the completion of works will be by June 30 2007.

This process of Councils providing financial bridging support is used by many councils in the Northern Region (26 LGAs) as an effective way of assisting self-help community initiatives. Please let me know if you require any further information

Best regards,

Pieter

Exerpt from DSRD's Uki Heritage River Walk First Payment Approval:

CTC@Uki was approved for assistance totalling \$14,000 plus GST, with the first payment totalling \$7,000 plus GST of \$700 due at the start of the project.

CTC@Uki has complied with all the conditions set down in the letter of offer and therefore the first amount being \$7,000 plus GST of \$700, is recommended for payment. A copy of the signed letter of offer, copies of coordinator briefs, contact details of interim coordinators, relevant minutes of meetings confirming appointments, a revised budget for the project, media clippings and a tax invoice for payment are attached.

Pieter
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