

## **1. DROUGHT COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME**

Author: Director Community and Economic Development  
Responsible Officer: Director Community and Economic Development  
Link to Strategic Plan: This report relates to Item 4.3.03.01: Maximise opportunities for utilising grants to supplement and support identified Council priorities and projects. There are also additional links to community and economic growth throughout the strategic plan and Economic Development Strategy.

---

### **Executive Summary**

This report provides information to Council on the Drought Communities Programme and the funding that is to be provided to eligible Councils.

---

### **Report**

The guidelines for the Drought Communities Programme have now been finalised and are available to Eligible Councils. The application's portal has now also opened and priorities for application are now being considered. The following overview is provided for the information of Councillors.

### **Overview**

---

The extension of the Drought Communities Programme provides funding of \$75 million in 2018-19 to Eligible Councils to deliver benefits to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia. The program will support local community infrastructure and other drought relief projects for communities impacted by drought.

Funding will target infrastructure and other projects that:

- provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought
- stimulate local community spending
- use local resources, businesses and suppliers
- provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

### **Eligibility criteria**

---

To be eligible you must

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be an Eligible Council, listed on business.gov.au and GrantConnect
- be invited to apply by the Minister

**1. DROUGHT COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (Cont'd)**

We can only accept applications:

- where it is submitted by the Chief Executive Officer of an Eligible Council or other council officer authorised to sign a grant agreement.

To be eligible your project must:

- be located in an Eligible Council area
- meet project requirements
- include eligible activities and eligible expenditure
- have at least \$25,000 per application in eligible expenditure
- be undertaken in the project period and completed by 30 June 2019.

***Financial Implications***

There are no financial implications at this time.

***Legal and Regulatory Compliance***

Drought and Communities Programme eligibility criteria  
Tendering and procurement guidelines

***Risk Management Issues***

Not applicable at this time

***Internal/ external Consultation***

Priorities for consideration have been undertaken in line with the eligibility criteria. Additional consultation in regards to further priorities for community projects will be undertaken.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the information be noted.

Phil Johnston  
**Director Community and Economic Development**