

Palerang Council shortlists federal grants to communities

Palerang Council today announced proposed distribution of its \$310,000 Federal Infrastructure Grant to 13 of the shire's communities.

The grants range from \$15,000 for a kitchen renovation at Araluen's Federation Community Hall to \$50,000 to repair the roof and water damage to the Captains Flat Community Hall and for a lighting project in Wilkins Park.

Other projects being funded include:

- Braidwood: \$30,000 to re-tile the community swimming pool and install solar panels;
- Bungendore: \$41,000 to develop an extensive streetscape design plan to enhance and link the commercial and tourist centers and a for landscaping of Frogs Hollow on the western entrance to the town;
- Burra: \$16,150 to resurface the Burra Community tennis courts and for some minor community hall repairs;
- Bywong: \$32,000 to build two composting toilets on Les Reardon Reserve and \$10,000 for a new children's bus shelter;
- Carwoola: \$20,000 to modify the existing community hall to provide external access to the toilets, verandah repairs and painting;
- Majors Creek: \$10,000 towards refurbishment of the community tennis courts;
- Manar/Mulloon: \$10,000 for a children's bus shelter on the Kings Highway;
- Mongarlowe/Charleys Forest: \$9,500 for termite treatment and minor repairs to Charleys Forest hall;
- Nerriga \$2,500 on a project yet to be determined;
- Other rural areas: \$38,500 for locality signs; and
- Wamboin: \$25,000 to upgrade the power supply and provide an emergency generator for the Wamboin rural fire service complex and community hall.

A spokesman for the Council subcommittee allocating the grants said it had been difficult as communities had nominated almost a million dollars worth of projects.

"These all were worthy projects," he said. "So as well as taking into account the Federal Government's guidelines for the grants we had to establish our own supplementary set of criteria to fine-tune the allocations.

"These included demonstrated needs within each community, whether projects would assist local business and employment and if they would provide benefits for Palerang residents beyond the locality proposing the project."

The spokesman said the Council recommendations now had to be submitted to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for approval. Work on all approved projects and expenditure of the funds had to be completed by September 30, 2009.

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Attachment 1

Palerang Council Assessment Criteria for Australian Government Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP)

On 21 November 2009, the Australian Commonwealth Government issued a media release announcing the guidelines and the official timetable for its \$300 million Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program, which is available at:

www.infrastructure.gov.au/local/rlcip_guidelines.aspx

It stated that the \$300 million in funding would go towards boosting local economies and helping all 565 councils and shires to build and refurbish community infrastructure such as swimming pools, sports grounds, community centres, libraries and walkways. Palerang Council was allocated \$310,000 (three hundred and ten thousand dollars) to apply to local qualifying projects.

Proposals submitted to Palerang Council totalled almost \$1 million.

On 4 December 2008, Palerang Council passed resolution 402/2008 — “RESOLVED that Council establish a subcommittee of Cr Graham, Cr Bransdon and Cr Cockram to liaise with the General Manager, the community and other Councillors, with delegated authority being given to the subcommittee to develop and submit recommendations for distribution of the funding on a general pro rata and needs basis.”

The sub-committee has established the following general assessment criteria against which local project proposals for Grants funding will be considered:

1. General Principle of Distribution to Diverse Community Localities:

- Identify populations of the localities where communities are seeking a portion of the \$310,000 RLCIP funding grant to Palerang LGA?
- Consider if there are needs where:
 - a locality should receive greater portion of funding than the population-based share on which the Federal Government allocated grants to Councils and if so by how much in percentage terms?
 - a locality should receive less funding than the population-based share and if so by how much in percentage terms?
 - significant rural growth imposes relatively greater pressure on a locality to provide or renew community infrastructure?
- If projects relate to a specific age or demographic group within a community, specify numbers involved in that group (base on Bureau of Stats 2006 Census data where available).

2. Demonstrated Priority of Infrastructure Needs Within the Community

- Access, with the community association leaders where available, how proposed projects should be prioritised and how they will meet local community needs.
- Are there any special considerations. For example, will a project contribute to bringing people within a locality together or will a project contribute to bringing Palerang localities together as a healthy cohesive LGA community?)
- Would this project be less likely to be a priority for funding from the Management Plan and Budget (rates) process?

3. Project Meets Objectives of the Grant

- Does the application demonstrate how the project will meet the aims/objectives of the Federal Government infrastructure grant to councils? Will it:
 - assist local businesses and employment?
 - accelerate, encourage and stimulate economic development?
 - improve the quality of life in Palerang localities?

4. Extended Benefits to Palerang’s General Population?

- Will the project reduce ongoing infrastructure maintenance or operational costs?
- Will it deliver quality facilities to a Palerang community/locality?

- Does the project provide benefits beyond the locality proposing the project, or provide opportunities for interactivity among our many localities, for example, tourism or transportation?

5. *Meets Eligibility Set Out in the Guidelines Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program 2008-09 Document (RLCIP) including:*

- The project is of the type that qualifies for funding.
- The project can be completed as required by September 2009.
- The project can be effectively monitored and evaluated.

Assessment of Proposals

Projects need not be proposed by community groups only, but may also be proposed by individual residents, Councillors and Council Management.

As part of the assessment process, further information may be sought from the locality community association by the sub-committee.

The determination of the sub-committee for projects submitted for RLCIP funding is final.