



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LOCAL AUTHORITY

FUNDING GUIDELINES

Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

TABLED DOCUMENTS

Committee: *Estimates*

Paper No: *2.5* Date: *10/6/16*

Submission No:

Signed: *[Signature]*

1. PURPOSE

To encourage the continued development of the local authorities and their respective communities through the provision of funding to undertake priority community projects that are in line with these guidelines.

2. OBJECTIVES

- Assist in building stronger communities;
- To assist local governing bodies and the constituent communities they represent to become stronger and self sustaining;
- Assist in the provision of quality community infrastructure that facilitates community activity and integration; and
- Assist in developing local government capacity to provide legitimate representation, effective governance, improved service delivery and sustainable development.

3. FUNDING POOL

The Local Authority funding pool commenced in 2014-15 and is recurrent funding set at \$5.0 million per annum. The funding is non-application based and is distributed through a methodology developed by the Northern Territory Grants Commission.

4. EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE PURPOSES FOR EXPENDITURE

- Repairs and maintenance of community assets;
- Acquisition of plant and equipment directly related to local government service delivery; and
- Upgrade/enhancement of community sporting facilities.

5. EXAMPLES OF UNACCEPTABLE PURPOSES FOR EXPENDITURE

- Purchase of vehicles for predominately private use;
- Payment of salaries;
- Purposes that are not of a local government nature that are relevant to another Department.

6. PROCESSES FOR PAYMENT

Once the respective allocations are approved by the Minister the regional councils will receive a letter of offer and acceptance documentation from this Department.

This advice will comprise the total grant amount being offered to the regional council as well as a breakdown of the amount to be made available to each local authority as outlined in Guideline 8 of the *Local Government Act*.

Regional councils eligible to receive these grants will need to comply with the following:-

- Ensure that there are no outstanding grant acquittals relevant to this Department otherwise there will be no payment made of approved grant/s; and
- Return the signed acceptance form back to the Department with appropriate authorisation.

These grants will be released around mid-August.

7. ACQUITTAL OF GRANT

There will be no formal acquittal process but there is expectation that the money will be expended in line with these guidelines and address community priority projects as identified by the local authorities.

This funding will however be subject to random audits from the Department to ensure the integrity of the program is maintained.

NB Administration and/or project management fees are not to be levied on this grant funding.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

If you require further information either of the following people will be able to assist you:

Mr Peter Thornton
Manager
Local Government Grants
(w) 08 899 98523
(mob) 0401117633
(email) peter.thornton@nt.gov.au

OR

Mrs Donna Hadfield
Senior Grants Officer
(w) 08 899 98820
(email) donna.hadfield@nt.gov.au