

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS GRANT ROUND 17

L&C | 68/18/1-01 | #7765657

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approves \$110,200 (ex GST) funding from the 2025/2026 and \$72,750 (ex GST) from the 2026/2027 Community Partnerships Grant Stream to the following applicants:
 - a) Cairns Basketball Inc for the 2026 U14 Boys State Championships to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).
 - b) Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc for Cairns Diwali Mela (Fair) to the value of \$16,600 (ex GST).
 - c) Cairns Thai Community Association FNQ Inc. for Songkran Festival 2026 – Thai New Year Celebration to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).
 - d) Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG) Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Cairns NAIDOC Friday in the Park to the value of \$25,000 (ex GST).
 - e) FNQ Thai Community Inc for Celebrate the 8th Cairns Thai Cultural Loy Krathong Festival to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).
 - f) Gordonvale District Chamber of Commerce Inc for the Gordonvale Sugar Solstice Country Fair to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).
 - g) HeartKids Limited for Two Feet & A Heartbeat to the value of \$150 (ex GST).
 - h) Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre Inc for the Community Fun Day to the value of \$4,000 (ex GST).
 - i) Northern Beaches Mudcrabs Rugby Union Club Inc. for the Mudcrabs 7s Tournament to the value of \$4,000 (ex GST).
 - j) Our Future Mentors Indigenous Corporation for Cairns NAIDOC Ebor Carnival to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).
 - k) Philippine Cultural Society of Cairns Inc. for the Cairns Filipino Barrio Fiesta to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).

- l) QCWA Branch Freshwater for Freshwater Festival (Freshwater Festival Street Fiesta) to the value of \$12,000 (ex GST).
- m) Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc. for the Redlynch Community Twilight Markets to the value of \$6,200 (ex GST).
- n) UMI Arts Limited for the Big Talk One Fire Cultural Festival to the value of \$25,000 (ex GST).

INTERESTED PARTIES:

See Attachment 1.

Note: The identification of interested parties is provided on a best endeavours basis by Council Officers and may not be exhaustive.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Twenty-two applications were received for the Community Partnerships Grant Round 17, with a total of \$386,067 (ex GST) requested. Council officers recommend funding 14 applications to a total value of \$182,950 (ex GST).

BACKGROUND:

The intent of the Community Partnerships Grant is to assist community groups and organisations with the delivery of events and activities that enhance the lives of local communities, celebrate important community occasions, and provide opportunities to develop social cohesion and connection in the Cairns region.

Council has also invited community groups to apply for support to deliver events and activities that specifically celebrate Cairns turning 150 years this year though this grant stream.

The Community Partnerships Grant provides assistance through cash and the provision of Council venues and resources. The maximum amount per application is \$25,000 (ex GST).

The following applications for Community Partnerships Grant Round 17 have been received:

Applicant	Event	Event date	Amount requested (ex GST)	Amount recommended (ex GST)
Cairns Association Incorporated	African Cairns African Festival	30 May 2026	\$13,974	\$0
Cairns Basketball Inc	2026 U14 Boys State Championships	2 – 5 Jul 2026	\$25,000	\$10,000
Cairns Hindu Inc	Samaj Cairns Diwali Mela (Fair)	24 Oct 2026	\$24,838	\$16,600
Cairns Community Association FNQ Inc.	Thai Songkran Festival 2026 - Thai New Year Celebration	11 Apr 2026	\$25,000	\$20,000

Applicant	Event	Event date	Amount requested (ex GST)	Amount recommended (ex GST)
Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG) Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Cairns NAIDOC Friday in the Park	3 Jul 2026	\$25,000	\$25,000
Earlville Sports Club Inc.	ESC Racquet Sports Festival	3 - 5 Apr 2026	\$25,000	\$0
Far North Qld Regional Swimming Assoc	FNQ Short Course and Long Course Championships	25 - 26 Jul 2026 27 - 28 Mar 2027	\$18,300	\$0
FNQ Thai Community Inc	Celebrate the 8th Cairns Thai Cultural Loy Krathong Festival	21 Nov 2026	\$24,087	\$20,000
Gondwana Choirs	Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir presents the World Premiere of "Songs of Country"	26 Jun 2026	\$18,000	\$0
Gordonvale District Chamber of Commerce Inc	Gordonvale Sugar Solstice Country Fair	12 - 13 Jun 2026	\$10,000	\$10,000
Guide Dogs Queensland Limited	Cairns Canine Carnival	4 Jul 2026	\$5,000	\$0
HeartKids Limited	Two Feet & A Heartbeat	13 Sep 2026	\$2,450	\$150
Hekili Outrigger Canoe Club Inc.	2026 Hekili Great Barrier Reef Ocean Challenge (GBROC) & Mini G – Celebrating 15 Years	31 May - 6 Jun 2026	\$6,000	\$0
Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre Inc	Community Fun Day	1 Aug 2026	\$4,000	\$4,000
Northern Beaches Mudcrabs Rugby Union Club Inc.	Mudcrabs 7s Tournament	26 - 27 Sep 2026	\$25,000	\$4,000
Northern Pride Rugby League Limited	Kenfrost Homes Northern Pride Women in League Round	8 Aug 2026	\$25,000	\$0
Our Future Mentors Indigenous Corporation	Cairns NAIDOC Edor Carnival	8 Jul 2026	\$25,000	\$10,000
Philippine Cultural Society of Cairns Inc.	Cairns Filipino Barrio Fiesta	18 Jul 2026	\$25,000	\$20,000
QCWA Branch Freshwater	Freshwater Festival (Freshwater Festival Street Fiesta)	15 May 2026 22 Aug 2026	\$16,000	\$12,000
Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc.	Redlynch Community Twilight Markets	1 May 2026 17 Jul 2026 4 Sep 2026 4 Dec 2026	\$13,418	\$6,200
Smile with Kids Inc	Japan Day of Future Generations	9 May 2026	\$5,000	\$0

Applicant	Event	Event date	Amount requested (ex GST)	Amount recommended (ex GST)
UMI Arts Limited	Big Talk One Fire Cultural Festival	24 Oct 2026	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total			\$386,067	\$182,950

COMMENT

Applications recommended for funding:

Cairns Basketball Inc for the 2026 U14 Boys State Championships to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 2 - 5 July 2026

Cairns Basketball Inc has been successful in securing the rights to host the 2026 U14 Boys State Championships which will be held at the Trinity Ford Stadium from 2 – 5 July 2026. The Basketball State Championships are the premier representative basketball competitions available to junior players in Queensland and provide a key pathway in junior basketball development.

It is anticipated that over 3,000 people will attend the four-day event, with 50 teams from Cairns to Gold Coast competing. Visitors are projected to stay an average of six nights, generating a total visitor spend of \$3.6 million to the Cairns region.

The Series also provides local athletes with an opportunity to compete at a state level without the barrier of travel costs.

Since 2020/2021, Council resolved to support the Cairns Basketball Inc to the value of \$24,720 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2023/2024	U14 Boys State Basketball Championships	\$10,000
2023/2024	Tree Removal - Go Clubs Essential Assistance	\$4,620
2021/2022	U14 Girls State Basketball Championships 2022	\$10,000
2021/2022	Young People in Sport	\$100

Cairns Basketball Inc is requesting \$25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$10,000 cash (ex GST).

Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc for Cairns Diwali Mela (Fair) to the value of \$16,600 (ex GST).

Event Date: 24 October 2026

Cairns Diwali Mela (Fair) is an inclusive celebration of Indian culture and heritage which brings together diverse communities across Far North Queensland. Diwali is traditionally celebrated worldwide in rural areas and townships to signify “victory of truth over evil, light

over darkness and knowledge over ignorance”. It is an opportunity to celebrate togetherness, promote cultural harmony and share the spirit of Diwali with the broader community in a welcoming and festive atmosphere.

Over 3500 people are expected to enjoy this year’s event which will commence with Lakshmi Puja followed by cultural performances, a children’s cultural zone, food and market stalls, photo booths and cultural displays, cultural storytelling and educational displays and fireworks.

Fogarty Park will be transformed with vibrant lighting, tradition rangoli designs, lanterns and themed installations that reflect the spirit and aesthetics of Diwali.

Since 2020/2021, Council resolved to support the Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc to the value of \$52,100 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Ganeshotsav	\$7,500
2024/2025	Diwali Mela 2025	\$14,600
2024/2025	Ganeshotsav	\$5,000
2023/2024	Ganeshotsav	\$5,000
2022/2023	Deepavali Mela (Diwali Festival Fair)	\$5,000
2021/2022	Ganeshotsav	\$5,000
2020/2021	Ganeshotsav 2021	\$10,000

Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc is requesting \$24,838 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$16,600 (ex GST) consisting of \$5,000 cash (ex GST) and the provision of venue hire and associated resources up to the value of \$11,600 (ex GST).

Cairns Thai Community Association FNQ Inc. for Songkran Festival 2026 – Thai New Year Celebration to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 11 April 2026

Songkran is a celebration of the new year in accordance with the solar calendar and is held each year over three days in Thailand. The event provides the opportunity for the Cairns community to come together to celebrate the new year and the rich culture and traditions of Thailand.

The Songkran celebration is renowned for its water festival, where participants of all ages join in the tradition of splashing water on one another. It is also a festival of unity, bringing together loved ones, relatives, and elders. In Thai culture and religion, Songkran holds great significance as it honours acts of kindness, love, compassion, and gratitude.

Held at the Western Events Lawn, this year’s Festival will follow a similar format to previous years. The celebrations will include water blessings, water fights, traditional cultural performances and market stalls selling arts, crafts, and authentic Thai food. It is expected that up to 3,000 people will join in the festivities.

Since 2021/2022, Council resolved to support the Cairns Thai Community Association FNQ Inc. to the value of \$72,014 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Songkran Festival 2025 (Thai New Year)	\$22,000
2023/2024	Songkran Festival 2024 (Thai New Year)	\$18,500
2022/2023	Songkran Festival 2023	\$16,000
2021/2022	Songkran Festival 2022 (Thai New Year)	\$15,514

Cairns Thai Community Association FNQ Inc. is requesting \$25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST) consisting of \$9,200 cash (ex GST) and the provision of venue hire and associated resources up to the value of \$10,800 (ex GST).

**Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG) Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Cairns NAIDOC Friday in the Park to the value of \$25,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 3 July 2026**

Cairns NAIDOC Friday in the Park is a prominent event in the annual Cairns NAIDOC Week program that promotes and honours the history, culture, language, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The event commences with the Cairns NAIDOC March from the Munro Martin Parklands to Fogarty Park and is followed by speeches from Traditional Owners, Indigenous leaders, local representatives, and community members.

4,000 people are expected to attend this free event that features information booths, Indigenous business stalls, market stalls, food vendors, entertainment, art, and traditional performances.

DIYDG is auspicing this application on behalf of the Cairns NAIDOC committee.

Since 2022/2023, Council resolved to support the Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG) Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation to the value of \$61,129 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Cairns NAIDOC "Friday in the Park" 2025	\$25,000
2024/2025	Cairns NAIDOC 'Friday in the Park' 2024	\$21,000
2023/2024	Cairns NAIDOC 'Friday in the Park' 2023	\$8,700
2022/2023	Cairns NAIDOC 'Friday in the Park' 2022	\$6,429

Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG) Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation is requesting \$25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$25,000 (ex GST) consisting of \$11,600 cash (ex GST) and the provision of venue hire and associated resources up to the value of \$13,400 (ex GST).

FNQ Thai Community Inc for Celebrate the 8th Cairns Thai Cultural Loy Krathong Festival to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 21 November 2026

Loy Krathong is celebrated annually throughout Thailand and neighbouring countries to pay respect to the Goddess of Water and Buddha. Celebrations include the floating of 'krathong' or buoyant decorated baskets, which are floated on rivers to thank the Goddess of Water. The origins of Loy Krathong can be traced back to both India and China.

FNQ Thai Community Inc will celebrate the 8th Thai Cultural Loy Krathong Festival at the Western Events Lawn this November. It is expected that over 2,000 people will enjoy the festival, which will feature cultural dances, performances and market stalls offering traditional Thai cuisine. The community will also have the opportunity to take part in the releasing of traditional lotus-shaped boats in the Esplanade Lagoon.

Since 2021/2022, Council resolved to support the FNQ Community Inc to the value of \$65,166 (ex GST) for the hosting of the annual festival as detailed below.

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Thai Cultural Loy Krathong Festival 2025	\$20,000
2024/2025	Thai Cultural Loy Krathong Festival 2024	\$20,300
2023/2024	Thai Cultural Loy Krathong Festival 2023	\$15,000
2022/2023	Thai Cultural Loy Krathong Festival 2022	\$5,000
2021/2022	Thai Cultural Loy Krathong Festival 2021	\$4,866

FNQ Thai Community Inc is requesting \$24,087 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST) consisting of \$8,600 cash (ex GST) and the provision of venue hire and associated resources up to the value of \$11,400 (ex GST).

Gordonvale District Chamber of Commerce Inc for the Gordonvale Sugar Solstice Country Fair to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 12 - 13 June 2026

The Gordonvale Sugar Solstice Country Fair is a community event that celebrates the beginning of the sugar cane crushing season and highlights the historical and cultural significance of Gordonvale and surrounds; particularly how agri-business has shaped the foundation of the community.

The Country Fair has grown to become an important community event for Gordonvale and surrounds and is supported by local businesses, schools, and sporting groups. It is anticipated that over 3,000 residents will enjoy the free and accessible celebration in Norman Park.

This year's 2026 festivities will celebrate 130 years of continuous operation of the Mulgrave Sugar Mill, beginning with a Friday night dinner and dance, followed by the Country Fair at Norman Park on Saturday.

The Fair will open with a parade departing from St Michael's School leading to Norman Park, where the fair will officially commence. Expected to attract more than 3,000 people, attendees will enjoy activities such as giant inflatables, face painting, dance troupes, a pipe band and musical entertainment.

The event will also celebrate Cairns' 150th anniversary, with First Nations groups, small businesses and community organisations invited to share stories, traditions and achievements that have shaped Gordonvale and the wider Cairns region over the past 150 years.

Since 2020/2021, Council resolved to support the Gordonvale District Chamber of Commerce Inc to the value of \$45,500 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Gordonvale Community Carols	\$5,000
2024/2025	Gordonvale Economic Development Plan 2025-2030	\$5,000
2024/2025	Gordonvale Sugar Solstice Country Fair	\$7,000
2023/2024	Gordonvale Sugar Solstice Country Fair	\$7,000
2022/2023	Gordonvale Sugar Solstice Country Fair	\$6,000
2021/2022	Gordonvale Sugar Solstice Country Fair	\$7,500
2020/2021	Gordonvale Sugar Solstice 2021	\$8,000

Gordonvale District Chamber of Commerce Inc is requesting \$10,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$10,000 cash (ex GST).

**HeartKids Limited for Two Feet & A Heartbeat to the value of \$150 (ex GST).
Event Date: 13 September 2026**

HeartKids Limited is the only national not-for-profit organisation solely focused on supporting and advocating for all people impacted by Childhood Heart Disease (CHD).

The organisation is planning their annual Two Feet and A Heartbeat event to be held at the Cairns Esplanade on 13 September 2026.

160 people are expected to attend this year's event, which will involve a 4km walk, BBQ, and face painting at the Sea Eagle Lawn on the Cairns Esplanade. The event is a wonderful opportunity for members of the community to come together, share stories, create awareness, and provide support for one another.

Since 2020/2021, Council has resolved to support HeartKids Limited to the value of \$684 (ex GST) for the following activities:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	2025 Two Feet and A Heartbeat	\$130
2024/2025	Cairns Two Feet and a Heartbeat	\$150

2023/2024	Two Feet and a Heartbeat Cairns	\$150
2022/2023	Two Feet and a Heartbeat Cairns	\$130
2021/2022	Two Feet & A Heartbeat Cairns 2021	\$124

HeartKids Limited is requesting \$2,450 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application up to the value of \$150 (ex GST) towards venue hire and associated resources.

Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre Inc for the Community Fun Day to the value of \$4,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 1 August 2026

Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre Inc (MCNC) will be hosting their annual Community Fun Day at their facility in Trinity Park in August.

The Fun Day provides an opportunity for the northern beaches community to connect and socialise and creates a sense of community for attendees.

The free and inclusive event provides an opportunity for the community to learn about programs and activities that are available at the Neighbourhood Centre, while enjoying a range of interactive activities for all ages. The day includes children's activities, music and performances with a sausage sizzle on offer for all. It is anticipated that up to 500 community members will participate in the day.

Since 2020/2021, Council resolved to support the Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre to the value of \$14,348 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2024/2025	MCNC Organic Community Garden	\$3,280
2024/2025	Community Fun Day 2025	\$3,000
2023/2024	Community Fun Day	\$2,500
2022/2023	Community Fun Day 2023	\$2,000
2021/2022	Community Fun Day 2022	\$2,000
2020/2021	MCNC Organic Community Garden	\$1,568

Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre Inc is requesting \$4,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$4,000 cash (ex GST).

Northern Beaches Mudcrabs Rugby Union Club Inc. for Mudcrabs 7s Tournament to the value of \$4,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 26 - 27 September 2026

Northern Beaches Mudcrabs Rugby Union Club Inc. plans to host a 7s Rugby Union tournament at their Yorkeys Knob club in September this year. Building on their successful one-day tournaments in 2021 and 2022, the club aims to expand the number of participating teams and grow the event into a two-day competition this year.

Bringing together local clubs and regional teams, the tournament is expected to attract an estimated 739 attendees and will provide meaningful opportunities for young people to engage in sport and connect with positive role models.

The event will support local vendors, food operators and suppliers with previous tournaments welcoming teams from Fiji, Weipa, and Brisbane. The 2026 tournament is anticipated to host 210 players and a total of 529 spectators, officials and support staff at their club grounds located at Wattle Street, Yorkey’s Knob.

Since 2025/2026, Council has resolved to support Northern Beaches Mudcrabs Rugby Union Club Inc. to the value of \$5,000 (ex GST) for the following activities:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Go Clubs – Essentials Assistance Program	\$5,000

Northern Beaches Mudcrabs Rugby Union Club Inc. is requesting \$25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$4,000 cash (ex GST).

Our Future Mentors Indigenous Corporation for Cairns NAIDOC Edoor Carnival to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 8 July 2026

Edoor is a traditional Indigenous game originating from Aurukun that has been modified to be played on a football oval with two goals and Oz tags. The objective is for the player designated as the ‘Edoor’ to pass through the goals while keeping both their tags on.

Our Future Mentors Indigenous Corporation has delivered the Edoor Carnival for four years with junior and youth divisions participating. An adult exhibition round further encourages community participation and fosters intergenerational engagement.

Held during Cairns NAIDOC week, the Carnival offers the opportunity for youth to engage and compete in a fun, local sporting event while also removing barriers to attendance by providing transportation for participants from Cairns West and southside outreach programs. The event will also include a Welcome to Country, traditional dancers, and a DJ.

The free event is expected to host 180 youth players aged 8 – 17 and a total of 260 attendees to Watsons Oval in Manunda.

Since 2023/2024, Council resolved to support Our Future Mentors Indigenous Corporation to the value of \$54,000 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Edoor Carnival	\$20,000
2024/2025	Edoor Carnival 2024	\$20,000
2023/2024	Edoor Carnival	\$14,000

Our Future Mentors Indigenous Corporation is requesting \$25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$10,000 cash (ex GST).

Philippine Cultural Society of Cairns Inc. for the Cairns Filipino Barrio Fiesta to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 18 July 2026

The Philippine Cultural Society of Cairns Inc. has been active in Cairns since 1991. The local organisation will be hosting the Cairns Filipino Barrio Fiesta for the second time with an aim to unite Filipino migrants in Cairns and share the traditional customs with the wider community.

Barrio Fiesta is a traditional Filipino ‘small community’ festival or celebration. The event will feature cultural performances such as dancing, singing, arts and crafts presentations, food, and market stalls.

With their successful inaugural festival in 2025, this year’s event is expected to attract over 1,000 people to the Western Event Lawn at the Cairns Esplanade.

Since 2024/2025, Council resolved to support the Philippine Cultural Society of Cairns Inc. to the value of \$15,100 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2024/2025	Cairns Filipino Barrio Fiesta	\$15,100

The Philippine Cultural Society of Cairns Inc. is requesting \$25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST) consisting of \$8,800 cash (ex GST) and the provision of venue hire and associated resources up to the value of \$11,200 (ex GST).

QCWA Branch Freshwater for Freshwater Festival (Freshwater Festival Street Fiesta) to the value of \$12,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 15 May and 22 August 2026

Since its inception in 2020, the Freshwater Festival has continued to grow, offering an affordable and welcoming opportunity for the community to come together with friends and family. The festival has quickly become a highlight in the local calendar.

Both Festivals will be held in Richmond Park with the May festival running from 5.30pm to 9.00pm and the August “Street Fiesta” extending onto Lavis Road from 11.00am to 6.00pm. The festivals will include live music, school performances, food vans, markets stalls and children’s activities.

The 2026 Freshwater Festivals will be hosted by the QCWA Branch Freshwater and delivered by The Festival Guy, Kane Brown with an estimated attendance of 2,000 people

at each event.

Since 2024/2025, Council resolved to support QCWA Branch Freshwater to the value of \$19,000 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Freshwater Christmas in the Park	\$7,000
2024/2025	Freshwater Festivals	\$12,000

QCWA Branch Freshwater is requesting \$16,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$12,000 cash (ex GST).

Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc. for the Redlynch Community Twilight Markets to the value of \$6,200 (ex GST).

Event Date: 1 May, 17 July, 4 September and 4 December 2026

The Redlynch Community Twilight Markets will be held four times this year at Xavier Herbert Park in Redlynch from 5:00pm – 8:30pm. The markets, which attract approximately 300 attendees each evening, provide the opportunity for the residents of Redlynch Valley to gather and connect and feature a festival atmosphere with live music, food and beverage stalls and children's activities.

Cairns 150 year's celebrations will be incorporated into the four markets during the year with corflutes displayed at vantage points throughout the markets. The heritage of the valley will be honoured with a cake cutting honouring Cairns 150 years at the first market.

Whilst Xavier Herbert Park is an ideal location to host these markets, the park does not have sufficient toilets or lights to support an evening activity and these items need to be hired for each market.

Since 2020/2021, Council resolved to support the Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc to the value of \$46,782 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Christmas Movie and Food Night	\$1,520
2025/2026	Tunnel of Terror	\$2,517
2024/2025	Redlynch Valley Twilight Markets	\$12,395
2023/2024	Redlynch Halloween Tunnel of Terror	\$2,108
2022/2023	Redlynch Community Twilight Markets	\$11,270
2022/2023	Redlynch Halloween Tunnel of Terror 2022	\$2,422
2021/2022	Redlynch Community Twilight Markets	\$10,000
2021/2022	Redlynch Community Markets	\$3,150
2020/2021	Halloween Tunnel of Terror 2021	\$1,400

Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc. is requesting \$13,418 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$6,200 cash (ex GST).

UMI Arts Limited for the Big Talk One Fire Cultural Festival to the value of \$25,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 24 October 2026

The Big Talk One Fire Cultural Festival is a free, family-friendly celebration of the rich traditions and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Far North Queensland.

The 2026 Festival will feature First Nation's market stalls, food and art workshops and demonstrations. An entertainment program will feature a concert showcasing Indigenous bands, along with traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance performances on the main stage.

Last year's event attracted performers from Lockhart River, Coen, Boigu Island, Darney Island, Kuranda and Yarrabah.

Munro Martin Parklands has once again been selected as the venue, with attendance expected to exceed 3,500 people.

Since 2020/2021, Council resolved to support UMI Arts Limited to the value of \$82,435 (ex GST) for the following activities:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Big Talk One Fire Festival	\$25,000
2024/2025	20th Anniversary Exhibition	\$11,500
2024/2025	Big Talk One Fire Festival (First Nations Cultural Festival)	\$16,000
2023/2024	Big Talk One Fire Festival	\$16,800
2022/2023	Big Talk One Fire Festival	\$9,885
2021/2022	Big Talk One Fire Art Symposium	\$3,250

UMI Arts Limited is requesting \$25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application up to the value of \$25,000 (ex GST) towards venue hire and associated resources.

Applications not recommended for funding:

The following applications are not recommended for funding:

Applicant	Event	Event date	Amount requested (ex GST)
Cairns African Association Incorporated	Cairns African Festival	30 May 2026	\$13,974

Applicant	Event	Event date	Amount requested (ex GST)
Earlville Sports Club Inc.	ESC Racquet Sports Festival	3 - 5 April 2026	\$25,000
Far North Qld Regional Swimming Assoc	FNQ Short Course and Long Course Championships	25 - 26 July 2026 27 - 28 March 2027	\$18,300
Gondwana Choirs	Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir presents the World Premiere of "Songs of Country"	26 June 2026	\$18,000
Guide Dogs Queensland Limited	Cairns Canine Carnival	4 July 2026	\$5,000
Hekili Outrigger Canoe Club Inc.	2026 Hekili Great Barrier Reef Ocean Challenge (GBROC) & Mini G – Celebrating 15 Years	31 May – 6 June 2026	\$6,000
Northern Pride Rugby League Limited	Kenfrost Homes Northern Pride Women in League Round	8 August 2026	\$25,000
Smile with Kids Inc	Japan Day of Future Generations	9 May 2026	\$5,000

OPTIONS:

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council:

1. Approves \$182,950 (ex GST), \$110,200 from the 2025/2026 and \$72,750 (ex GST) from the 2026/2027 Community Partnerships Grant Stream to the following applicants:
 - a) Cairns Basketball Inc for the 2026 U14 Boys State Championships to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).
 - b) Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc for Cairns Diwali Mela (Fair) to the value of \$16,600 (ex GST).
 - c) Cairns Thai Community Association FNQ Inc. for Songkran Festival 2026 – Thai New Year Celebration to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).
 - d) Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG) Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Cairns NAIDOC Friday in the Park to the value of \$25,000 (ex GST).
 - e) FNQ Thai Community Inc for Celebrate the 8th Cairns Thai Cultural Loy Krathong Festival to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).

- f) Gordonvale District Chamber of Commerce Inc for the Gordonvale Sugar Solstice Country Fair to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).
- g) HeartKids Limited for Two Feet & A Heartbeat to the value of \$150 (ex GST).
- h) Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre Inc for Community Fun Day to the value of \$4,000 (ex GST).
- i) Northern Beaches Mudcrabs Rugby Union Club Inc. for Mudcrabs 7s Tournament to the value of \$4,000 (ex GST).
- j) Our Future Mentors Indigenous Corporation for Cairns NAIDOC Ebor Carnival to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).
- k) Philippine Cultural Society of Cairns Inc. for the Cairns Filipino Barrio Fiesta to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).
- l) QCWA Branch Freshwater for Freshwater Festival (Freshwater Festival Street Fiesta) to the value of \$12,000 (ex GST).
- m) Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc. for the Redlynch Community Twilight Markets to the value of \$6,200 (ex GST).
- n) UMI Arts Limited for the Big Talk One Fire Cultural Festival to the value of \$25,000 (ex GST).

Option 2:

That Council does not endorse the recommendations and adopts an alternative funding allocation.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The recommendations contained within this report will be funded in Council's 2025/2026 & 2025/2027 proposed operating budget within the Community Partnerships Grant funding allocation.

Budget considerations:

2025/2026 Budget:

- The Community Partnerships Grant has an allocation of \$742,000 (ex GST) for the 2025/2026 financial year.
- \$596,099 (ex GST) of funds have already been allocated.
- Recommended in this report for Grant Round 17 is \$110,200 (ex GST).
- The remaining balance available for distribution is \$35,701.

2025/2026	
2025/2026 Budget	\$742,000
Currently allocated	\$596,099
Recommended in this report	\$110,200
Total Remaining 2025/2026 Budget	\$35,701

2026/2027 Budget:

- The Community Partnerships Grant has an allocation yet to be approved for the 2026/2027 financial year.
- \$103,000 (ex GST) of funds have already been allocated.
- Recommended in this report for Grant Round 17 is \$72,750 (ex GST).
- The current proposed committed amount is \$175,750.

2026/2027	
2026/2027 Budget	TBC
Currently allocated	\$103,000
Recommended in this report	\$72,750
Total Remaining 2026/2027 Budget	TBC

Community and Cultural Heritage:

The events contained in this report celebrate an aspect of community life, they foster community pride and enhance the profile of Cairns. A successful event is one that is embedded within the local community, which fosters community pride outcomes, in particular these events:

- Support community activations that address Council's community resilience priorities.
- Seek to partner with and promote local hotels, restaurants, cafes, and other traders.
- Seeks local volunteers to facilitate the operation and staging of the events.
- Brings people together, giving enjoyment and a sense of belonging.
- Builds capacity amongst local clubs and volunteer networks.
- Delivers programs that promote the event and community engagement.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The applications recommended in this report align with Council's Corporate Plan 2025 – 2030:

- Focus One – Robust Economy
Strategy: Optimise visitation and tourism opportunities
- Focus Four – Community Culture
Strategy: Support diverse sport, cultural and community groups

Statutory:

The Community Grant Policy and associated schedules are compliant with the specific community grant requirements of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Policy:

Council's Community Grant Policy has been applied in the assessment of these applications.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Interested Parties



Andrew Moore
Executive Manager Community Life



Destry Puia
Director Lifestyle and Community

ATTACHMENT 1: INTERESTED PARTIES

Organisation Name: Cairns African Association Incorporated

Committee Position	Name
President	Anna Jones
Secretary	Natacha Amora
Vice President	Sylvia Whittaker
Treasurer and Community Engagement	Jennifer Hakim

Organisation Name: Cairns Basketball Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Chris Van Dorssen
Vice President	Bernard Dent
Secretary	Cath Ardern
Treasurer	Dariusz Mirshafiei
Committee Member	Daniel Majer
Committee Member	Dylan Thomas
Committee Member	Aaron Luki
Committee Member	Dale Jackley
Committee Member	Gausa Arnold

Organisation Name: Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Nirmala Madam
Secretary	Arvind Naidu
Treasurer	Chaitali Nayak
Committee Member	Anil Goyal
Committee Member	Santosh Kashireddy
Committee Member	Manjiri Vidhyarthi
Committee Member	Rimple Dhillon

Organisation Name: Cairns Thai Community Association FNQ Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Prapasiri Techo
Vice President	Rampai Kumkuang
Treasurer	Jiraporn Janluang
Committee Member	Archa T Kloss
Committee Member	Marie Lombard

Organisation Name: Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG) Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation

Committee Position	Name
Chair	Nicole Caelli
Treasurer	Daniel Rosendale
Secretary	Georgiana Peddell

Committee Member	Semara Jose
Committee Member	Merissa Nona
Committee Member	Georgia McGrath
Committee Member	Lynette Dewis
Committee Member	Louise Hunter
Committee Member	Nathan Williams
Committee Member	Di Parter
Committee Member	Natalie Barney

Organisation Name: Earlville Sports Club Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Drew Kellahan
Treasurer	Emma Davies
Secretary	Drew Kellahan
Committee Member	Lachlan Johnston

Organisation Name: Far North Qld Regional Swimming Assoc

Committee Position	Name
President	Jason Salecich
Vice President	Peter Clark
Treasurer	Louise Nicholson
Technical Official	Kathy Hare
Race Secretary	Alice Foote
Secretary	Bronwyn Jones
Development Committee	Ramayana Loveridge
Development Committee	Lisa Brown
Development Committee	Toni Bartley
Committee Member	Kent Rowbotham
Committee Member	Roslyn Jaron
Committee Member	Cheryl Kidd
Committee Member	Tamzyn Adding
Committee Member	Georgina Twomey
Committee Member	Sarina Andronicus

Organisation Name: FNQ Thai Community Inc

Committee Position	Name
Committee Member	Thanpan Kulsant
Committee Member	Tongbai Jenkin
Committee Member	Lakhana Jenkins
Committee Member	Nattha Stillson
Committee Member	Nuchcha Hatthaprasert
Committee Member	Pancheewan Lay
Committee Member	Supachok Hatthaprasert
Committee Member	Anthony Robinson
Committee Member	Phumin Thammajak
Committee Member	Arisa Keawchamnan
Committee Member	Chanisa Buchanan

Committee Member	Suchada Keawkhaw
Committee Member	Nantana Tip
Committee Member	Gontiwa Ryan

Organisation Name: Gondwana Choirs

Committee Position	Name
Chair	Tessa Boyd-Caine
Executive Director	Louisa O'Toole
Artistic Director	Lyn Williams AM
Director	Mathisha Panagoda
Director	Kate Clark
Director	Alan Watt
Director	Tom Frith
Director	Hugh Dixson
Director	Alison Deitz
Director	C'Zarke Maza

Organisation Name: Gordonvale District Chamber of Commerce Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Susan Byrne-Callaghan
Treasurer	Karen Borsato
Secretary	Erle Wickham
Heritage	David Cannon
Membership and Networking	Robyn John

Organisation Name: Guide Dogs Queensland Limited

Committee Position	Name
President	Richard Anderson OAM
Vice President	Leanne Muller
Director	David Swain
Director	Drewe Jackson
Director	Tom du Preez
Director	Lydia Daly
CEO	Jock Beveridge

Organisation Name: HeartKids Limited

Committee Position	Name
CEO	Marcus Sandmann
COO	Jessica Keating
Financial Controller	Simon Kaleski
National Philanthropy & Development Manager	Sami Glastonbury
National Service Delivery Manager	Roseda Campbell
Executive Officer	Rachel Stetcher

Organisation Name: Hekili Outrigger Canoe Club Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Mrs Rangi Waitoa-Drewniak
Vice President	Mr Ivan Ridley
Secretary	Ms Jude Kennedy
Treasurer	Ms Nora Pennefather
Club Head Coach	Ms Emma Morgan
Club Head Coach	Mr Beal Thomas Vogel Beal
Club Captain	Mr Peter Harris
Club Captain	Mr Rhys Morgan
Committee Member	Ms Emma Finney
Committee Member	Ms Jill Matthews
Committee Member	Ms Sarah Kistle
Committee Member	Ms Shona Smith

Organisation Name: Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Nanatte Hickenbotham
Vice President	Loretta Lashmore
Treasurer	Darrin Broadbent
Secretary	Geoffrey Roberson
Committee Member	Irene Black
Committee Member	Gail Winters
Committee Member	Mavis Dwyer
Committee Member	Beth Donohue

Organisation Name: Northern Beaches Mudcrabs Rugby Union Club Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Joshua Bink-Macnee
Vice President	Buffy Esler
Secretary	Vaiari Inglis
Treasurer	Moera Blair

Organisation Name: Northern Pride Rugby League Limited

Committee Position	Name
Chairperson	Kym McPhee-Smith
Board Member	Leon Yeatman
Board Member	Stephen Devenish
Board Member	Mark Whitnall
Board Member	Joel Riethmuller
Board Member	Nick Kenny
Board Member	Andrew Leith
Board Member	Alannah Giuffrida
Board Member	Michael Luck

Organisation Name: Our Future Mentors Indigenous Corporation

Committee Position	Name
CEO/Director	Ester Gaffney
Chairperson	Genavive Tabuai
Treasurer	George Bell
Director	Thomas Holden
Director	Marc Harbrow
Director	Jarrold Harbrow

Organisation Name: Philippine Cultural Society of Cairns Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Rhodora Samaniego
Vice President	Dolly Del Rosario
Secretary	Joy Rentsch
Treasurer	Cris Delo Santos
Committee Member	Fidelis Barania
Committee Member	Mary Ann Grey
Committee Member	Yanna Inabayan
Committee Member	Mayzie Evans
Committee Member	Minda Evens

Organisation Name: QCWA Branch Freshwater

Committee Position	Name
President	Nina Annand
Vice President	Beryl Broadbent
Vice President	Deborah Evans
Treasurer	Sue Toms
Secretary	Wendy Milgate

Organisation Name: Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc.

Committee Position	Name
Chairperson	James Shean
Secretary & Treasurer	Vicki Shean
Committee Member	Shane Trimby
Committee Member	Oliver Voss
Committee Member	Loanne Robinson
Committee Member	Heidi O'Hanlon

Organisation Name: Smile with Kids Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Maki McCarthy
Secretary	Reina Komatsu
Treasurer	Takaaki Shingu

Organisation Name: UMI Arts Limited

Committee Position	Name
Chairperson	Constance Rovina
Director	Priscilla Major
Director	Dorothy Edwards
Director	Merilyn Kepple