

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS REQUEST – THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CAIRNS NORTH QUEENSLAND INC**

L&C | 63/18/1 | #7615410

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Supports the application received from The Historical Society Cairns North Queensland Inc for support towards the Cairns Celebrates 1876-2026 150 years (C150) program to the value of \$25,000 (ex GST).
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters relating to the above agreement.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Committee Position	Name
President	Dr Clive Skarott
Vice President	Mark Kamsler
Secretary	Dr Jan Wegner
Treasurer	David Goodman
Committee Member	Dr Nicky Horsfall
Committee Member	Megan Lilly
Committee Member	Fiona Jose
Committee Member	Karen Oakes
Committee Member	Dr Sarah Collins

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Historical Society Cairns North Queensland Inc has submitted a request for assistance with the delivery of the Cairns Celebrates 1876-2026 150 years (C150) program. The formal request to Council is for a total of \$25,000 (ex GST).

This request has fallen outside of the Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Grant round, and as such is assessed on an out-of-round basis.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of \$25,000 (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.

Cairns is celebrating 150 years in 2026. While there is no specific date as such to mark 150 years, a series of significant milestones will be celebrated throughout the year.

The Historical Society Cairns North Queensland Inc is currently preparing a year-long program in 2026 in celebration, which includes releasing an official Cairns Celebration 150 Years book, historical bulletins, website blogs and a series of exhibitions and public lectures at the Cairns Museum.

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).

COMMENT:

The Historical Society Cairns North Queensland Inc was founded in 1958 to record and preserve the History of North Queensland, Australia. It was formed under the sponsorship of the Cairns School of Arts and is located in the School of Arts Building, which also houses The Cairns Museum.

The Society operates the Cairns Museum, the CHS Research Centre and the History on the Move School Trailer program. With an active volunteer base of approximately 80 people, the Society also manages a significant collection of over 85,500 individual items.

On the 18 May 2022 Council approved a draft 2022 -2026 Resource and Performance Agreement for the Historical Society. This agreement established the nature, extent, quality and cost of core Museum and local heritage services.

This request falls outside of this Resource and Performance agreement and is being considered as part of the Council's official Cairns Celebrates 150 years program.

Cairns Celebrates 1876-2026 150 years (C150) program details

The proposed Cairns Celebrates Program will recognise the city and regions shared history and will engage with all members of the community with a particular focus towards primary and secondary school children and overseas students.

It is intended that the Program will feature:

- A soft cover publication which is intended to be a legacy book for locals and visitors. Yet to be named the book is proposed to be launched on 9 May 2026.
- Six exhibitions displayed at the museum. With the themes of First Nations, Early Settlement, Local Business, Multiculturalism, Sustainable Living, and the Future, it is intended that each exhibition will run for approximately two months.

- City Banner program
- 10 public lectures
- Up to 8 historical bulletins
- Up to 12 website blogs

Council has been approached to contribute towards this program by supporting a portion of overall costs.

Since 2022, Council has resolved to support The Historical Society Cairns North Queensland Inc R & P Agreement as follows (noting CPI may alter the amounts):

Financial Year	In Kind Contribution	Approx. In-Kind Value \$	Cash Contribution \$	Total Annual Contribution \$
2022/23	Financial support services 11 x Parking Permits	10,000 18,900	376,000	404,900
2023/24	Financial support services 11 x Parking Permits	10,200 18,900	384,648	413,548
2024/25	Financial support services 11 x Parking Permits	10,404 19,656	393,495	423,151
2025/26	Financial support services 11 x Parking Permits	10,612 19,656	402,545	432,201
4 Year Totals (based on est. CPI)		117,112	1,556,688	1,673,800

The Historical Society Cairns North Queensland Inc is requesting \$25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the Cairns Celebrates 1876-2026 150 years (C150) program.

In addition, the Society has agreed to supply 20 high resolution images to Council for usage throughout the Official Cairns Celebrates 150 years promotion and program at no cost to Council.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend providing support of \$25,000 (ex GST) cash.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council:

1. Supports the application received from The Historical Society Cairns North Queensland Inc for Cairns Celebrates 1876-2026 150 years (C150) Cairns Historical Society to the value of \$25,000 (ex GST).

- 2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters relating to the above agreement.

Option 2:

That Council does not support this recommendation and adopts an alternative funding allocation.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The recommended cash funding can be accommodated within Council's Community Partnership Grant funding allocation for 2024/2025 Community Partnerships Grant funding allocation.

2024/2025 Budget:

- The Community Partnerships Grant has an allocation of \$729,467 (ex GST) for the 2024/2025 financial year.
- \$680,030 (ex GST) of funds have already been allocated.
- Recommended funding amounts is \$25,000 (ex GST).
- The remaining balance available for distribution is \$24,437.

2024/2025	
2024/2025 Budget	\$729,467
Currently allocated	\$680,030
Recommended in this report	\$25,000
Total Remaining 2024/2025 Budget	\$24,437

Community and Cultural Heritage:

The program contained in this report celebrates an aspect of community life, it fosters community pride and enhances the profile of Cairns. A successful event is one that is embedded within the local community, which fosters community pride outcomes. In particular this program

- Supports community activations that address Council's community resilience priorities.
- Seeks to partner with and promote local hotels, restaurants, cafes, and other traders.
- Seeks local volunteers to facilitate the operation and staging of the program.
- Brings people together, giving enjoyment and a sense of belonging.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The application recommended in this report aligns with Council's Corporate Plan 2021 – 2026:

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

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 this application.



Andrew Moore
Executive Manager Community Life



Destry Puia
Director Lifestyle and Community