

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS GRANT – OUT OF ROUND APPLICATION

L&C | 63/18/1 | #7915328

RECOMMENDATION:**That Council:**

1. Supports the application received from Stratford Bowling Club Inc for Stratford Sounds to the value of \$12,000 (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:

See Attachment 1.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Stratford Bowling Club Inc has submitted a request to Council to assist with the delivery of Stratford Sounds at Stratford Village. The formal request to Council is for a total of \$20,000 (ex GST).

This request has fallen outside of the current Community Partnerships 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 \$12,000 (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.

Stratford Sounds Bowling Club Inc has been considered for funding because their request fits the Community Partnerships Grant's intent, specifically as it:

- Drives community and social outcomes to enhance the overall quality of life in local communities.
- Contributes to the region's balanced portfolio of community, arts, cultural and sporting events.
- Drives future growth and sustainability of local events, activities, and programs.

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:

**Stratford Bowling Club Inc for Stratford Sounds to the value of \$12,000 (ex GST).
Event date: 12 September 2026**

Stratford Sounds is a free community music festival delivered by WHYNOT Presents and auspiced by Stratford Bowling Club Inc, as WHYNOT Presents is not currently a registered not-for-profit organisation. Stratford Bowling Club Inc will also participate in the event as one of the hosting venues across the festival. The 2026 event is expected to attract more than 2,000 attendees across multiple venues throughout Stratford Village.

The event was initially developed and delivered by Cairns Regional Council's Creative Life team in 2025. Following discussions with the Creative Life team and with their guidance, WHYNOT Presents has taken over the coordination and delivery of the event, ensuring its continued growth and long-term sustainability as a community-led initiative.

Held across multiple venues throughout Stratford, the event transforms the precinct into a walkable live music destination showcasing local musicians, food, hospitality and entertainment experiences.

The festival delivers significant community benefit through increased visitation to Stratford, support for local businesses, employment opportunities for approximately 30 local musicians and other local suppliers. The event celebrates local culture, supports the creative industry and contributes to the social, cultural and economic vibrancy of the Cairns region.

Council funding will provide the organisation with the support required to build on the success of the inaugural event, strengthen its long-term sustainability and support the transition from a Council-led initiative to a self-sufficient annual community event.

Since 2020, Council resolved to support Stratford Bowling Club Inc to the value of \$30,922 (ex GST).

This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2020/2021	Tree Trimming – Go Clubs Essentials	\$3,122
2021/2022	70 th Anniversary of the Stratford Bowls Club – Community Partnerships	\$2,000
2023/2024	Aeration Herbicide, fertiliser and Top Dress – Go Clubs Essentials	\$2,600
2025/2026	Concrete works – Go Clubs Infrastructure	\$25,000

Stratford Bowling Club Inc is requesting \$20,000 (ex GST) toward 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).

OPTIONS:

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council:

1. Supports the application received from Stratford Bowling Club Inc for Stratford Sounds to the value of \$12,000 (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 recommendations contained within this report will be funded in Council's 2026/2027 proposed operating budget within the Community Partnerships Grant funding allocation.

Budget considerations:

2026/2027 Budget:

- The Community Partnerships Grant has an allocation of \$723,500 (ex GST) for the 2026/2027 financial year.
- \$453,219 (ex GST) of funds have already been allocated.
- Recommended in this report is \$12,000 (ex GST).
- The remaining balance available for distribution is \$258,281 (ex GST).

2026/2027	
2026/2027 Budget	\$723,500
Currently allocated	\$453,219
Recommended in this report	\$12,000
Total Remaining 2026/2027 Budget	\$258,281

Community and Cultural Heritage:

The events and activities recommended in this report celebrate community life, foster community pride, and enhance the profile of Cairns. Through funding community-led initiatives, Council provides:

- Support to community organisations to build social cohesion and resilience by connecting people with each other and with institutions and services in the community, creating a sense of belonging.
- Activation and promotion of local organisations, businesses, and industries.
- Local volunteering opportunities through the facilitations of programs and events.
- Capacity building for local clubs, organisations, and volunteer networks.

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

Stratford Bowling Club Inc:

Executive Committee:	Name
President	Wayne Chivers
Vice President	Simone Miller
Secretary	Stuart Rifkin
Treasurer	Simone Miller
Committee Members	Jeremy Cooper
Committee Members	Darrin Miller
General Committee Members:	
Games Director	Ray Kuchel
Games Selector	Jeremy Cooper
Green Directive	Darrin Miller
Green Keeper	Graeme Brooks
Providore	Jeremy Cooper
Functions Contact	Simone Miller

WHYNOT Presents (delivery team):

Committee Position	Name
Project Manager	Liam Carey
Marketing Manager	Molly Brennan
Artist Liaison	Marty Brown

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