

<b>ORDINARY MEETING</b>  <b>15 APRIL 2026</b>	<b>5.5</b>
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## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS GRANT – OUT OF ROUND APPLICATIONS**

L&C | 63/18/1 | #7797481

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Approves \$45,000 (ex GST) funding from the Community Partnerships Grant stream to the following applicants:
  - a. Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation for the BDO Arrow Experience – Wangetti Edition to the value of \$5,000 (ex GST).
  - b. GOPIO Cairns Inc for the Unity Cricket Cup 2026 to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).
  - c. North Queensland International Motor Raceway Association Incorporated for Thunder in the Canefields 2026 to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).
  - d. Southern Suburbs Junior Rugby League Club for the Nate Myles Cup to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).
2. Supports the application received from The Cairns Agricultural Pastoral and Mining Association for the Annual Cairns Show 2026 and enters into a one-year Resource and Performance Agreement to the value of \$80,000 (ex GST).
3. 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.

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### **INTERESTED PARTIES:**

See Attachment 1.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Four organisations have requested support through the Community Partnerships Grant stream to a total value of \$64,015 (ex GST). These applications have been considered on an out of round basis due to the event dates falling outside of the current grant round.

In addition, the Cairns Agricultural Pastoral and Mining Association has submitted a request to Council to assist with the delivery of the Annual Cairns Show 2026 to the value of \$100,000 (ex GST).

Given the significance of this annual event, officers propose that Council enter into a one-year Resource and Performance Agreement providing a total of \$80,000 (ex GST), consisting of up to \$20,000 in-kind (ex GST) and \$60,000 cash (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 through 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).

### **Out of Round requests**

Out of round requests are considered when an event or activity of significant importance is delivered outside of standard grant round timeframes. In order for these events or activities to be supported, consideration is required in a timely manner. Support for The Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation, GOPIO Cairns Inc, North Queensland International Motor Raceway Association and Southern Suburbs Junior Rugby League Club is recommended in this report.

### **Resource and Performance Agreements**

Through the Community Grants Policy, Council will, as required, consider entering into tailored agreements with specific community organisations to support programs, events and activities that are considered by Council to be in the public interest and to be of substantial benefit to the Cairns region broadly consistent with the following criteria:

That the event or activity is a:

- local community festival of significance; or
- sporting and/or other community event held locally; or
- local community facility development activity; or
- team competing in State or National competition; or
- local community cultural facility activity; or
- economic development activity; or
- environmental protection or enhancement activity; or
- other programs, events and activities considered to be in the public interest and be of substantial benefit to the Cairns region.

The Cairns Agricultural Pastoral and Mining Association has been considered for a Resource and Performance Agreement as their request aligns with the above criteria, specifically that the activity is a community festival of significance.

Summary of requests:

Applicant	Event	Event date	Amount requested (ex GST)	Amount recommended (ex GST)
<b>Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation</b>	BDO Arrow Experience – Wangetti Edition	26 July 2026	\$9,015	\$5,000
<b>GOPIO Cairns Inc</b>	Unity Cricket Cup 2026	9 May 2026	\$15,000	\$10,000
<b>North Queensland International Motor Raceway Association Incorporated</b>	Thunder in the Canefields 2026	31 Jul – 8 Aug 2026	\$25,000	\$20,000
<b>Southern Suburbs Junior Rugby League Club</b>	Nate Myles Cup	10-11 July 2026	\$15,000	\$10,000
<b>The Cairns Agricultural Pastoral and Mining Association</b>	Annual Cairns Show 2026	15-17 Jul 2026	\$100,000	\$80,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$164,015</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>

**COMMENT:**

**Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation for BDO Arrow Experience – Wangetti Edition to the value of \$5,000 (ex GST).  
Event Date: 26 July 2026**

The BDO Arrow Experience – Wangetti Edition is a one-off community walk to be delivered to commemorate Cairns' 150th anniversary and promote the newly developed Wangetti Trail.

For this year only, the event will replace the traditional Arrow Experience, with participants walking the Wangetti Trail rather than the usual Arrow tracks at Edge Hill. Due to the length of the trail, participants will be transported by bus from Palm Cove to Ellis Beach before completing the walk through coastal and rainforest corridors, concluding with a finish-line celebration in Palm Cove. The event is expected to attract more than 1,000 participants and community members.

The finish-line activation will form part of the Cairns Celebrates 150 Years celebrations and will welcome the broader community to attend and participate. Activities will include local market stalls, food vendors and cultural storytelling, creating an inclusive and family-friendly event atmosphere while supporting local businesses and boosting economic activity in the Palm Cove area.

The event delivers strong community benefit by promoting active and healthy lifestyles, strengthening social connection, providing an inclusive community experience, raising funds for local health services through the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation, and showcasing the region's natural and cultural landscapes.

Since 2018, Council resolved to support Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation to the total value of \$25,900 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Year	Grant	Activity	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Community Partnerships	QSuper Cardiac Challenge 2025	\$3,000
2024/2025	Community Partnerships	QSuper Cardiac Challenge 2024	\$3,000
2023/2024	Community Partnerships	QSuper Cardiac Challenge 2023	\$3,000
2023/2024	Community Partnerships	PakMag Halloween Party	\$2,500
2022/2023	Community Partnerships	QSuper Cardiac Challenge 2022	\$2,700
2021/2022	Community Partnerships	QSuper Cardiac Challenge 2021	\$1,200
2018/2019	Community Partnerships	Arrow Experience 2019 – 2022	\$10,500

Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation is requesting \$9,015 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$5,000 cash (ex GST).

**GOPIO Cairns Inc for the Unity Cricket Cup 2026 to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).  
Event Date: 9 May 2026**

The Unity Cricket Cup 2026 is a multicultural sporting and community celebration designed to bring together teams, families and the broader community through friendly cricket matches, cultural exchanges, and shared food experiences.

Following a successful test event earlier in the year, GOPIO Cairns Inc is seeking funding to support the growth of Unity Cricket Cup into an annual multicultural celebration. The event delivers strong community benefit by promoting participation in sport, strengthening social cohesion, celebrating cultural diversity and providing meaningful opportunities for community connection.

The event will be held at the Walker Road Sporting Precinct and delivered by GOPIO Cairns in collaboration with the Sri Lankan and Bhutanese community groups, reflecting a strong partnership approach and ensuring the event represents a broad cross-section of Cairns' multicultural community rather than a single-community initiative. Several nations will be invited to participate in the day, including India, Australia, Bhutan, Nepal, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, alongside members of the wider South Asian and multicultural communities.

An estimated 1,520 people are expected to attend, with the event offering a full day of community-focused activities alongside the cricket matches. Activities include multicultural markets, food stalls, community and small business displays, dance performances, live music and community-led cultural showcases. These activities will create an inclusive and

welcoming environment that encourages cultural understanding, social connection and community pride, while also supporting local small businesses and community groups through participation and exposure.

Since 2024, Council resolved to support GOPIO Cairns Inc to the value of \$37,177 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Cairns Indian Festival 2025	\$16,500
2024/2025	Cairns Indian Festival 2024	\$20,677

GOPIO Cairns Inc is requesting \$15,000 (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).

**North Queensland International Motor Raceway Association Incorporated for Thunder in the Canefields 2026 to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).**

**Event Date: 31 July – 8 August 2026**

Thunder in the Canefields is an annual Pro-Sprintcar series held at Cairns Speedway from 31 July to 8 August 2026. Organised by the North Queensland International Motor Raceway Association Incorporated, the series commenced in 2021 with participation in the event growing year on year.

The event has become a well-respected event for Speedway Sprintcars and draws racing teams from all over Australia with teams from Victoria, Western Australia, New South Wales and many parts of Queensland participating each year. In addition to racing car action, organisers are planning to have Sprintcars on show at the Cairns Esplanade and will be hosting a 'meet and greet' at the Reef Hotel Casino where enthusiasts will have the chance to talk racing with top Australian Pro-Sprintcar drivers.

Held over two weekends, it is estimated that more than 5,000 attendees will attend the event at Edmonton. Of these, it is estimated that the event will attract 1,640 visitors to the region who are intending to stay in Cairns for the eight nights. The potential direct and indirect economic impact of Thunder in the Canefields is estimated to be \$754,755 to the Cairns region.

Since 2023 Council resolved to support North Queensland International Motor Raceway Association Incorporated to the value of \$38,850 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Thunder in the Canefields 2025	\$15,000
2024/2025	Thunder in the Canefields 2024	\$15,000
2023/2024	Thunder in the Canefields 2023	\$8,850

North Queensland International Motor Raceway Association Incorporated 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 cash (ex GST).

**Southern Suburbs Junior Rugby League Club for Nate Myles Cup to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).**

**Event Date: 10 – 11 July 2026**

The Nate Myles Cup is a premier Under 13s junior rugby league carnival delivered by the experienced Nate Myles Cup Committee and is proudly affiliated with the Southern Suburbs Junior Rugby League Club.

The two-day tournament is hosted at Alley Park in Gordonvale and brings together junior teams from across Queensland, positioning the event as a significant grassroots sporting fixture in the region. The carnival provides a high-quality junior sporting experience through a structured series of matches that conclude with a Grand Final. The event offers young athletes the opportunity to represent their communities, develop their skills in a competitive but inclusive environment, and participate in a large-scale sporting event supported by volunteers, referees, families, and local organisations.

Beyond on-field competition, the carnival promotes teamwork, sportsmanship, resilience, and community pride, while canteen operations and event activities support ongoing player and coach development through reinvestment of profits.

The 2026 Nate Myles Cup is expected to attract approximately 2,900 attendees, including an estimated 700–800 visitors from outside the region, including the Tablelands, Innisfail, Mossman and Port Douglas. These visitors are anticipated to stay in Cairns for four to five nights, generating significant flow-on benefits for accommodation providers, hospitality venues, and local businesses. The combined direct and indirect economic impact of the event is estimated at \$568,602 for the Cairns region, highlighting the carnival's value as both a community and economic contributor.

Since 2020, Council resolved to support Southern Suburbs Junior Rugby League Club to the value of \$31,500 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2022/2023	Nate Myles Cup 2023	\$8,500
2021/2022	Nate Myles Cup 2022	\$10,500
2020/2021	Nate Myles Cup 2021	\$12,500

Southern Suburbs Junior Rugby League Club is requesting \$15,000 (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).

**The Cairns Agricultural Pastoral and Mining Association for the Annual Cairns Show 2026 to the value of \$80,000 (ex GST).**

**Event Date: 15 – 17 July 2026**

The Annual Cairns Show, which began in 1891, is a three-day agricultural, pastoral, horticultural, industrial, art, craft, cultural, historical, mining and community event that includes a variety of competitions, demonstrations and exhibits of farming and commercial goods, arts and crafts, educational information, entertainment, sideshows and amusement rides.

The Cairns Show is the largest regional show in Australia and will take place from 15 to 17 July 2026, making it a key event in the region’s social calendar. Volunteers, performers, exhibitors, community groups, emergency services, schools and families all participate in the accessible and inclusive event.

The 2026 Cairns Show is expected to attract approximately 71,800 people of which 15,000 are projected to be intrastate visitors. The potential direct and indirect economic impact of the 2026 Cairns Show is estimated to be \$1,992,631 to the Cairns region.

Essential event operating costs have increased above CPI over the past five years, while ticket prices and corporate sponsorship have remained largely unchanged. Council funding is sought to help maintain event quality, safety, and compliance, while ensuring the event remains accessible and continues to deliver positive community outcomes through the Community Partnerships Grant.

Since 2020, Council resolved to support The Cairns Agricultural Pastoral and Mining Association to the value of \$374,700 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Cairns Show 2025	\$70,000
2023/2024	Cairns Show 2024	\$70,000
2022/2023	Cairns Show 2023	\$70,000
2022/2023	Turf Aeration Field Remediation	\$4,700
2022/2023	Cairns Show 2022	\$70,000
2020/2021	Cairns Show 2021	\$90,000

The Cairns Agricultural Pastoral and Mining Association is requesting \$100,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the Annual Cairns Show 2026.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend providing support up to \$80,000 (ex GST), consisting of \$60,000 cash and the provision of up to \$20,000 in-kind assistance.

**OPTIONS:**

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council:

1. Approves \$45,000 (ex GST) funding from the Community Partnerships Grant stream to the following applicants:

- a. Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation for the BDO Arrow Experience – Wangetti Edition to the value of \$5,000 (ex GST).
  - b. GOPIO Cairns Inc for the Unity Cricket Cup 2026 to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).
  - c. North Queensland International Motor Raceway Association Incorporated for Thunder in the Canefields 2026 to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).
  - d. Southern Suburbs Junior Rugby League Club for the Nate Myles Cup to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).
2. Supports the application received from The Cairns Agricultural Pastoral and Mining Association for the Annual Cairns Show 2026 and enters into a one-year Resource and Performance Agreement to the value of \$80,000 (ex GST).
  3. 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:**

Risk Management:

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The recommendations contained within this report will be funded in Council's 2025/2026 & 2026/2027 proposed operating budgets 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.
- \$711,299 (ex GST) of funds have already been allocated.
- Recommended funding amount is \$30,701 (ex GST).
- There are no remaining funds available for distribution.

2025/2026	
2025/2026 Budget	\$742,000
Currently allocated	\$711,299
Recommended in this report	\$30,701
<b>Total Remaining 2025/2026 Budget</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### 2026/2027 Budget:

- The Community Partnerships Grant has an allocation yet to be approved for the 2026/2027 financial year.
- \$175,750 (ex GST) of funds have already been allocated.
- Recommended funding amount is \$94,299 (ex GST).
- The current proposed committed amount for the 2026/2027 budget is \$270,049 (ex GST).

<b>2026/2027</b>	
2026/2027 Budget	TBC
Currently allocated	\$175,750
Recommended in this report	\$94,299
<b>Total Remaining 2026/2027 Budget</b>	<b>TBC</b>

### 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.

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Andrew Moore  
Executive Manager Community Life

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DP', written in a cursive style.

Destry Puia  
Director Lifestyle and Community

## **ATTACHMENT 1: INTERESTED PARTIES**

### **FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND HOSPITAL FOUNDATION**

<b>Committee Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chairman	Dr Ken Chapman
CEO	Gina Hogan
Financial Controller	Gillian Shaw
Board Member	Lesley Ray
Board Member	Dr Edward Strivens
Board Member	Joanne Parisi
Board Member	Jodi Peters
Board Member	Lisa Whitton
Board Member	Danae Jones
Board Member	Leena Singh

### **GOPIO CAIRNS INC**

<b>Committee Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
President	Subash Chetry
Vice President	Dr Suresh Kesavan
Treasurer	Manish Mathew
Secretary	Aju J Mathew
Assistant Secretary	Harman Kaur
Assistant Secretary	Frey Dsouza
Women Representative	Rojian Banskota

### **NORTH QUEENSLAND INTERNATIONAL MOTOR RACEWAY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

<b>Committee Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
President	Wes Jenkins
Vice President	Rob Goodwin
Treasurer	Robert Wilkins
Secretary	Gordon Greaves
Board Member	Gwesyn Dalliston
Board Member	Nathaniel Bertuch

### **SOUTHERN SUBURBS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB**

<b>Committee Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
President	Charlie Piccolo
Vice President	Lee Slatcher
Vice President	Edward Fisher
Secretary	Melissa Fenech
Treasurer	Jasmine Toohey
Registrar	Nicole Fuller
Coaching Co-ordinator	Haydn Busch
Volunteer Co-ordinator	Jean Cullen
Sponsorship Co-ordinator	Carly Piccolo

Merchandise Co-ordinator	Belinda Francis
Canteen Co-ordinator	Renee Bailey
Social Media Co-ordinator	Rebecca Derrington

## THE CAIRNS AGRICULTURAL PASTORAL AND MINING ASSOCIATION

Committee Position	Name
President	Ian Allen
Senior Vice-President	Desmond Tong
Vice President	Nathan Lee Long
Vice President	Francs (Ley) James
Vice President	Glen Hunter
Vice President	Bevan Clayton
Treasurer	Narelle Phipps
Assistant Treasurer	Chris Van Dorssen
Assistant Treasurer	Linda Halliwell
Committee Member	Carol Allen
Committee Member	Leslie Plath
Committee Member	Daniel Sale
Committee Member	Louis Underwood
Committee Member	Kent Hams
Committee Member	Michael Tonion
Committee Member	Janice Anderson
Committee Member	Michael Fisher
Committee Member	Judy Alyce
Committee Member	David Green
Committee Member	Dean Hoult
Committee Member	Amanda Hunter
Committee Member	Glenda McAuliffe
Committee Member	Warren March
Committee Member	Robert O'Malley
Committee Member	Michael Pattini
Committee Member	William (Bill) Smith
Committee Member	Christine Stoddart
Committee Member	Raven Cook
Committee Member	Malcom O'Hara
Committee Member	Margit Allen

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