

Community Grants Program

Policy

Approved: 10/12/2025

This policy provides a fair, equitable and transparent grant program for the expenditure of public resources on activities that deliver a public benefit aligned with Rous's remit and business objectives.

Background

This policy establishes a program whereby public resources can be directed as grants for activities, programs and events that provide a public benefit aligned with Rous's function and purpose.

Policy statement

The *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) allows Council to provide financial assistance to its customers under a specific program.¹ Council has determined that it will voluntarily offer financial assistance in the form of the Community Grants Program, subject to available funding.

The guiding principles governing the Community Grants Program are fairness, equity and transparency with a particular aim to minimise the risk of misuse of public resources. A standardised business process will ensure that applications are considered, administered and managed consistently.

A 'grant' is an arrangement in which Rous provides a contribution of funds, to support a project or event that:

- offers opportunities for positive community engagement to support the achievement of shared objectives
- is of strategic value
- offers reputational benefits to Rous.²

A grant is not:

- An endorsement of any product, service or political or ideological cause by Rous.
- Reduced charges for access to or usage of drinking water or financial assistance due to hardship or concessions.
- A partnership or collaboration with an organisation on a joint event, program or similar (e.g. where Rous may be required to deliver a workshop or other activities as part of the event).

Where Rous has approved a discrete funding allocation for a specific activity or program of work as part of the annual budget process, that activity or program of work will be excluded from the operation of this Policy.

¹ Local Government Act (NSW) 1993, Part 1, [Section 356](#).

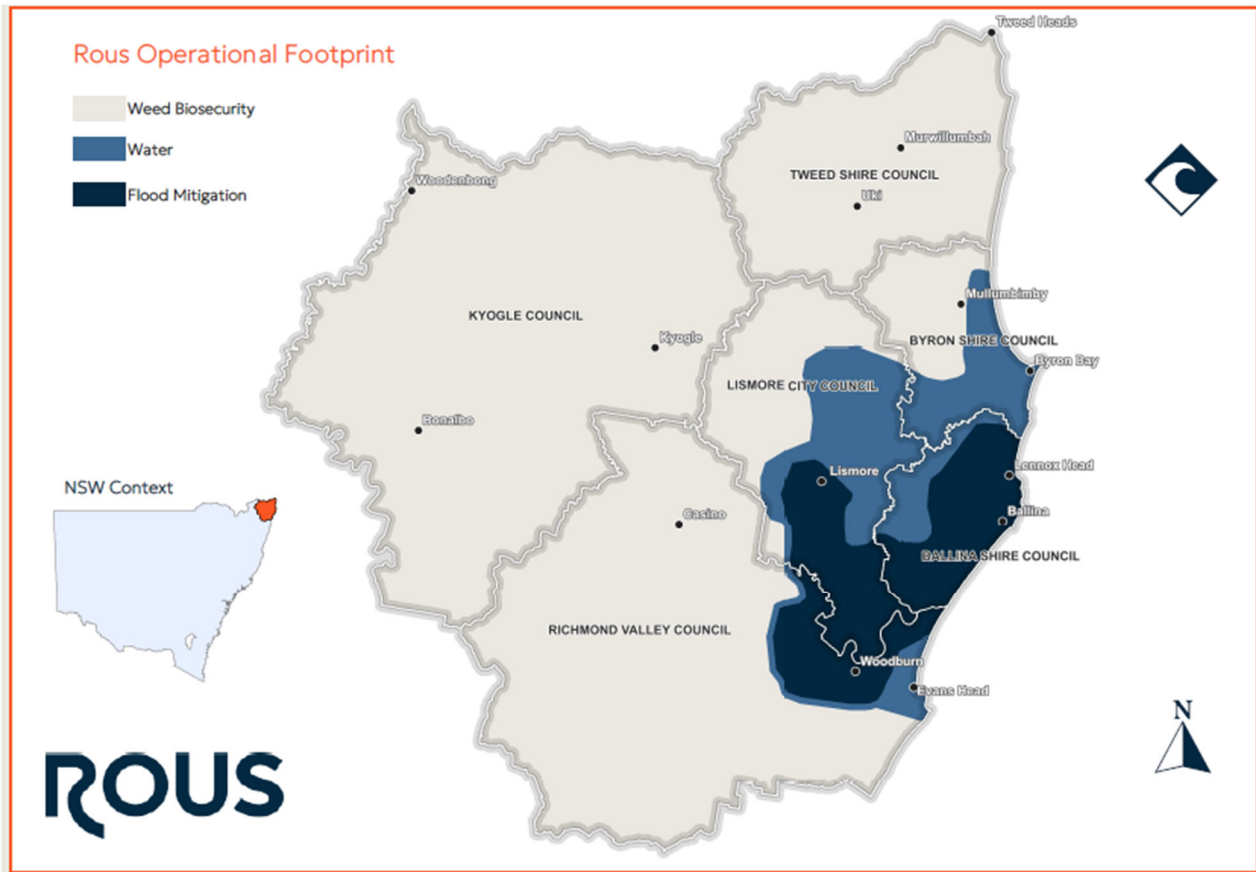
² 'Benefits' may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Strong engagement opportunities enabling Rous to connect with the community within its operational footprint.
- Acknowledgement of Council providing the grant when advertising and marketing the activity, program or event.

Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicants and activities

- Incorporated not-for-profit community organisations³,
- private organisations/businesses,
- education institutions, or
- sporting clubs or associations
- the activity, program or event must be –
 - held in the Rous operational area (see map below), and
 - covered by an appropriate public liability insurance policy, and
 - held in the same financial year as the grant request.



Examples of what is not eligible under the policy:

- Unincorporated organisations
- Individuals or groups of individuals
- Political parties or unions
- Record attempts
- Ongoing operating expenses, such as insurance, rent and utility bills
- Staff/volunteer costs, including salaries and professional development
- Items/equipment/activities primarily for use by one individual or a closed group of individuals only - equipment must have a broad community benefit
- Promotional items or uniforms

³ Incorporated not-for-profit bodies are organisations that are registered and approved as not-for-profit bodies by NSW Fair Trading.

- Projects already receiving financial assistance from another source of Rous funding
- Project planning costs
- Retrospective funding for programs, services or events which have already occurred.

Application process

Eligible applications for grants under this policy can be made, and will be managed, in accordance the following information set out in the Rous Community Grants program ‘Application Requirements’:

- Application process
- Assessment criteria
- Conditions of funding

Contact officer

Customer and Communications Manager

Related documents

Policies

Code of Conduct

Procedures

Grants

Code of Conduct – Conflict of Interests

Code of Conduct – Gifts, benefits and bribes

Legislation

Local Government Act 1993

Other

Community Grants program Application Requirements

File No.:		Next review date: 1 year	
Version	Purpose and description	Date adopted by Council	Resolution No.
1	To establish the Rous Community Grants Program.	10/12/2025	59/25