

10.5 Donations - Rates and Charges 2016/17.DOC

POLICY NAME: DONATIONS – RATES AND CHARGES
POLICY REF: D03
MEETING REVIEWED: 23 July 2015 | Resolution No 230715/13
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OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to provide guidelines for the management of recurring donations by Council for rates and charges.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Section 356 of the Local Government Act Ballina Shire Council annually donates rates and charges to a range of community groups. This policy provides a framework to explain how Council allocates that assistance. Section 356 of the Local Government Act also requires a council resolution for each donation. Therefore the policy provides a framework for the donation but not the authority to donate.

POLICY

Council will annually donate a range of rates and Council charges (eg. water, sewer, etc) to assist organisations in providing community based services to the Ballina local government area. This assistance is provided as Council recognises that many community based organisations have limited resources and by providing this donation Council can assist these organisations in providing those services.

Details of the assistance provided are as follows:

Guidelines for Selection:

- The recipient organisation must be not for profit and provide a community service within the Ballina Local Government area.
- The organisation will typically be located on community owned or controlled land, being either Council or crown land.

Strategies:

1. Council has identified broad categories of service providers that provide community services within the Ballina Shire and where community organisations fit into those categories they will be eligible for the donations listed in the following table (refer to next page)

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Ballina Shire Council

Donations - Rates and Charges

Category/ Organisation	Rates	Water		Sewer		Waste	Storm water	On Site Septic
		Access	Consumed	Access	Usage			
Category A (donation of all rates and charges)								
Surf Life Saving Clubs	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
CWA Hall (1)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Volunteer Marine Rescue NSW	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Category B (donation of rates and any other fixed charges not directly related to a measurable "user pays" charge)								
Pre-schools Playgroups	100%	100%	Nil	100%	Nil	Nil	100%	100%
Scouts and Girl Guides	100%	100%	Nil	100%	Nil	Nil	100%	100%
Agricultural Societies	100%	100%	Nil	100%	Nil	Nil	100%	100%
Public Halls	100%	100%	Nil	100%	Nil	Nil	100%	100%
Surf Life Saving Clubs - Jet Boat Rescue Service	100%	100%	Nil	100%	Nil	Nil	100%	100%
Category C (as per other Council policies)								
Backlog Sewer Program Policy	Nil	Nil	Nil	100%	100%	Nil	N/A	N/A

- (i) Donated in accordance with lease conditions

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2. Details of the organisations included in categories A and B of the previous table, as at the date of the last review of this policy, are as follows.

<p>Category A</p> <p>Surf Life Saving Clubs</p> <p>Ballina/Lismore Jnr SLSC Lennox/Alstonville SLSC Ballina/Lismore SLSC Volunteer Marine Rescue NSW Tower</p> <p>CWA Buildings</p> <p>CWA of NSW - Ballina (99 lease)</p> <p>Category B</p> <p>Pre-schools and Playgroups</p> <p>Biala Special School Fox Street Pre-School Ballina Playgroup River Street Pre-School Lennox Head Pre-School Sugartown Pre-School Alstonville Playgroup Wollongbar Pre-School Rainbow/Early intervention Lennox Head Playgroup</p> <p>Agricultural Societies</p> <p>Alstonville Agricultural Society</p>	<p>Public Halls</p> <p>Lennox Head Hall Meerschaum Vale Hall McLeans Ridges Hall Newrybar Hall Northlakes Community Centre Pearces Creek Hall Pimlico Hall Rous Mill Hall Tintenbar School of Arts Wardell War Memorial Hall Wigmore Hall Wollongbar Hall RSL Sub Branch Hall (13 Bugden Ave A'ville)</p> <p>Girl Guide and Boy Scout Associations</p> <p>Lennox Scouts Ballina Scouts Ballina Girl Guides</p>
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3. Backlog Sewer Program and Policy

Council also has adopted a backlog sewer program, (refer to Council Policy titled "Backlog Sewer Program Policy") that aims to provide sewer infrastructure to environmentally sensitive properties located on the urban fringes. Under this policy Council has agreed to provide an 80% subsidy for the costs of reticulation and associated infrastructure for residential properties.

Council will recoup the costs of the 20% that is payable by residential and 100% due by non-residential property owners via the imposition of a higher annual sewer charge over a five year period for residential and ten year period for eligible non-residential properties. (refer to Backlog Policy).

For the properties in the next table Council resolved (Resolution 270308/20A) to waive the individual sewer charge for a period until the cumulative financial assistance granted matches the backlog sewer charge as they are not operated on a commercial basis.

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Australian Seabird Rescue Inc	264 North Creek Road, Ballina
**Ballina Christian Education Association Ltd	7 Gallans Road, Ballina
Ballina Congregation of Jehovah's Witness	105 Smith Drive, Ballina

**The final Council donation for this property was made on 12 July 2013 (water billing period 4 of 2013).

REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed at least every four years.