

**POLICY NAME:** DONATIONS – RATES AND CHARGES

**POLICY REF:** D03

**MEETING ADOPTED:** 23 May 2024  
Resolution No. 230524/11

**POLICY HISTORY:** 230720/30; 230120/13; 221118/18; 230818/14;  
230715/13; 260913/30; 250713/17; 240311/21;  
270111/14; 270308/20A; 260707/14;  
280906/42; 190106/34



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## OBJECTIVE

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

## POLICY

Council will annually donate land rates and charges (e.g. water, wastewater, etc.) to assist organisations in delivering community based services with the Ballina Shire. 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.

### Guidelines for Selection

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

### Strategies

1. Based on the guidelines Council has identified two categories of donations, being organisations that are entitled to a 100% donation of their rates and charges each year and organisations entitled to a portion of their rates and charges being donated each year.
2. The two categories are defined as:

Category A – Council will donate all rates and charges, as the organisation has:

- (i) no control over the levying of the number or amount of the land rates and access / annual charges and little or no control over the consumption component of any charge or the donation is consistent with an historical lease agreement, which is the case with the Ballina CWA. That lease agreement has now expired.

Category B – Council will donate the access / annual charges component of the rates and charges bill however the organisation will be responsible for charges based on usage, or optional charges, where the organisation has the ability to manage that usage or determine whether it wishes to be provided the service.

Category/ Organisation	Rates	Water		Sewer		Waste	Storm water	On Site Septic
		Access	Consumed	Access	Usage			
<b>Category A (donation of all rates and charges)</b>								
Surf Life Saving Clubs	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
CWA Hall Ballina	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Category B (donation of rates and any other fixed charges not directly related to a measurable "user pays" charge)</b>								
Pre-schools / Playgroups	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%
Scouts and Girl Guides	100%	100%	Nil	100%	Nil	Nil	100%	100%
Rescue Services	100%	100%	Nil	100%	Nil	Nil	100%	100%
Community Gardens	100%	100%	Nil	100%	Nil	Nil	100%	100%

3. Details of the organisations approved by Council to be included in categories A and B are as follows.

<p><b>Category A</b></p> <p><b>Surf Life Saving Clubs</b> Surf Life Saving FNC Branch Inc Lennox / Alstonville SLSC Ballina / Lismore SLSC</p> <p><b>CWA Buildings</b> CWA of NSW – Ballina</p> <p><b>Category B</b></p> <p><b>Pre-schools and Playgroups</b> Fox Street Pre-School Ballina Playgroup River Street Pre-School Biala Special School * Lennox Head Pre-School (* partial Council) Alstonville Community Pre-School Wollongbar Pre-School Rainbow Children's Centre</p> <p>Lennox Head Playgroup</p> <p><b>Girl Guide and Boy Scout Associations</b> Lennox Scouts Ballina Scouts and Girl Guides Alstonville Scouts</p>	<p><b>Public Halls</b> Newrybar Hall Northlakes Community Centre Pimlico Hall Wardell District War Memorial Hall Wigmore Hall Wollongbar Hall McLeans Ridges Hall * Tintenbar School of Arts * Meerschaum Vale Hall * Rous Mill Hall * Pearces Creek Hall * RSL Sub Branch Hall (13 Bugden Ave A'ville) * Alstonville Plateau Historical Society</p> <p><b>Agricultural Societies</b> Alstonville Agricultural Society *</p> <p><b>Rescue Services</b> Marine Rescue NSW (formerly known as Ballina Jetboat Surf Rescue) * Marine Rescue NSW</p> <p><b>Community Gardens</b> Ballina Community Garden Lennox Head Community Garden</p>
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(\* ) The organisations marked with an asterisk are not located on Council owned or controlled land however they are included in the list of eligible organisations as Council recognises they provide services of a similar nature to the other organisations listed.

## 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.

## DEFINITIONS

<b>Council</b>	Ballina Shire Council
<b>Not for Profit</b>	An organisation that provides services to the community and does not operate to make a profit for its members or any other people.
<b>Policy</b>	Donations – Rates and Charges Policy

## SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to:

- Community organisations operating in the Ballina Shire
- Council employees
- Councillors

## RELATED DOCUMENTATION

Related documents, policies and legislation:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Fees and Charges

## REVIEW

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