

POLICY NAME: DONATIONS - SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEER GROUPS

POLICY REF: D07

MEETING ADOPTED: 24 November 2022
Resolution No. 241122/13

POLICY HISTORY: 221118/31; 221118/31; 271114/34;
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OBJECTIVE

To provide financial assistance to cover the cost of obtaining insurance and certification for volunteer groups carrying out environmental restoration works on Council owned or controlled land.

POLICY

Council will provide assistance to eligible volunteer groups carrying out environmental restoration works on Council owned or controlled land in the form of the reimbursement of the cost of public liability insurance, personal accident insurance, first aid certification and chemical certification. This benefit is provided in recognition of the work that these groups are undertaking on behalf of Council.

In determining the financial assistance Council will consider the following guidelines:

Guidelines for Selection

1. The recipient organisation / group will be not for profit
2. The sole objective of that organisation / group will be the provision of environmental restoration works on Council owned and controlled land. This may at times include work on other publicly owned land (i.e. crown land)
3. The group must be working to an approved Vegetation Management Plan, Site Plan, Plan of Management or Development Application (approved by Ballina Shire Council and/or State Government Department)
4. The group must be carrying out regular working bees (minimum of 10 per annum)
5. The group must report regularly to Council on the progress of works through work sheets and attendance registers
6. The group must be a landcare group, dunecare group, coastcare group or similar group and should be registered with the relevant state government agency/industry organisation.

Strategies

1. The funding for this assistance will be sourced from the Open Spaces budget.
2. The General Manager, or nominated delegate, will determine the eligibility of volunteer groups using the Guidelines provided in this policy.
3. Council will, through its own insurance and certification brokers, identify a reasonable estimate as to the cost of purchasing insurance and certification. The provider of the insurance and certification must be approved by Council's General Manager, or nominated delegate, prior to accepting that insurance policy and/or certification.
4. The level of insurance coverage must be that level currently being implemented as part of Council's standard insurance practices. This level will be determined by the General Manager in conjunction with Council's insurance brokers.

5. When the volunteer group has obtained their insurance policy and/or certification they must forward to Council a copy of that policy and/or certification along with the cost details. Subject to the verification of that information reimbursement will then be authorised by the General Manager or nominated delegate.

BACKGROUND

Ballina Shire supports the activities of volunteer groups that perform environmental work on land owned or controlled by Council. These groups provide a significant voluntary service to the community.

These groups must hold their own public liability insurance and it is recommended to hold personal accident insurance before undertaking works on Council owned or controlled land. These groups must also have certified first aid responders and certified chemical users on their sites. Insurance and certification can be a significant cost to a voluntary group. To assist in ensuring that these groups have adequate funds to obtain insurance and certification, Council will pay for the cost of that insurance and certification in return for those groups undertaking environmental works on Council owned or controlled land. This then ensures that these groups maximise the funds they have available to carry out works and can do so in a safe and legislatively compliant manner.

The payment for this insurance and certification will be sourced from funds within the Open Spaces budget.

This policy provides a framework to guide how Council will determine and allocate that assistance

DEFINITIONS

Council Ballina Shire Council

Policy Donations - Support for Environmental Volunteer Groups

SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to volunteer groups that perform environmental work on land owned or controlled by Council.

RELATED DOCUMENTATION

This policy has been prepared with reference to the following publications:

- Civil Liabilities Act 2021
- Council's Operational Plan
- Local Government Act 1993
- Pesticides Act 1999
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017

REVIEW

This Donations - Support for Environmental Volunteer Groups Policy is to be reviewed at least every four years.