

Name of policy:	NAIDOC Funding		
Adoption by Council:	13 December 2023	Minute number:	530/2023
Last review date:	August 2023		
Review timeframe:	2 years		
Next scheduled review date:	August 2025		
Related legislation:	Local Government Act 1993		
Associated policies/documents:	MCC Code of Conduct MidCoast 2030 Community Strategic Plan NAIDOC Funding Application Form		
Responsible division:	Liveable Communities		

Policy objective

This policy provides a framework for the provision of financial assistance by MidCoast Council (“Council”) to eligible organisations for the purposes of delivering all-of-community events to celebrate NAIDOC Week.

Policy statement

Council is committed to maintaining an annual budget allocation to provide financial assistance, through the NAIDOC funding program, to support the delivery of all-of-community events that celebrate NAIDOC week, that pursue our values of a connected community and unique, diverse and culturally-rich communities.

Council is committed to ensuring that processes and decision-making relating to the NAIDOC funding program are fair, consistent and transparent.

Coverage of the policy

This policy applies to financial support provided by Council to eligible organisations through the NAIDOC Funding program for the delivery of projects and activities in the MidCoast Council local government area.

This policy does not apply to sponsorships or events where:

- their primary purpose is outside the objectives outlined in this policy; and/or
- Council receives or requires something of value in return for their contribution.

Strategic Plan link

Outcome: A resilient and socially connected community.

Strategy: We celebrate our history, culture, creativity and diversity.

Policy content

Council provides annual financial assistance to eligible organisations to celebrate NAIDOC week.

Purpose:	To provide eligible organisations with a one-off donation to deliver all-of-community events across the MidCoast LGA.
Value:	Eligible organisations may apply for financial support of up to \$4,000. Eligible organisations may only be granted one donation under this program per funding round.
Application:	Funds under this program are made available on application through an annual competitive funding round, in February of each calendar year. Applicants must complete Council's 'NAIDOC Funding Application Form' to apply.
Assessment criteria:	Applications will be assessed against the following considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an event that targets and welcomes the whole community• an event must take place within the boundaries of the MidCoast Local Government Area• the event must be planned and organised by a NAIDOC Planning Committee• the Planning Committee must meet with Council 2 months prior to the event to review approvals required, traffic plans if required, etc• the applicant must be able to provide a certificate of currency for public liability insurance• the extent to which the project or activity budget demonstrates good value for money and is comprehensive and realistic together with the organisation's current financial position (budgets must include the cost of Council application fees, waste collection and other related charges as these costs cannot be waived)• the extent of 'in-kind' support and/or additional sources of funding.

<p>Exclusions:</p>	<p>The following will not be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding for items related to ongoing operations or administrative costs such as uniforms, newsletters, utilities, stationery or wages (although one-off facilitation fees associated with the delivery of an event activity are permitted); • projects and services that duplicate core business of Council and/or state or federal government departments • applications from the Commonwealth, State or any Government Agency, schools and/or P&C organisations • applications from a Councillor or employee of Council • applications from an applicant that has outstanding debts to Council • cash prizes for individuals or teams • reimbursement of funds that have already been spent or expenses that have already been incurred; and/or • fundraising via direct requests for donations.
<p>Assessment process:</p>	<p>Applications are assessed by a panel of three Councillors appointed by Council for a period of two years. A team of three Council Officers, led by the Aboriginal Liaison Officer, will conduct a pre-assessment of applications against the policy and make recommendations for the panel's consideration.</p> <p>Where necessary, advice may be sought from relevant Council committees and/or officers as part of the assessment process.</p> <p>The Assessment Panel will take into consideration the need to ensure equitable geographic coverage of the funding.</p>
<p>Accountability:</p>	<p>Recipients are requested to provide Council with a NAIDOC outcomes report and photos after the event.</p>

Definitions

Donation is defined as a cash or in-kind contribution for a specified purpose in line with section 356 of the Local Government Act.

Eligible organisation is defined as an incorporated Aboriginal not-for-profit organisation that operates and delivers activities in the MidCoast Council local government area.

An unincorporated Aboriginal community-based group that operates and delivers activities in the MidCoast Council local government area may apply for assistance under this Policy under the auspice of an Eligible Organisation.

Individuals, commercial organisations and organisations that are the responsibility of State or Federal Governments (eg Schools) are not eligible to apply for assistance under this Policy.

Financial Support is defined as cash contribution and in-kind coverage of Council Service provided within the adopted Fees and Charges including but not limited to venue hire, license and application fees, copying and printing, waste services, road closures and advertising.

NAIDOC Planning Committee – a committee comprising Local Aboriginal Land Council, Aboriginal businesses/community groups and/or community members.

Not-for-profit organisation is defined as an organisation whose income, assets and surplus funds are used to achieve its purpose and objectives and are not distributed to members, owners or shareholders while it is operating and ceases to operate. The legal status of these organisations may include incorporated associations, companies limited by guarantee, charities and co-operatives.

Responsible officer

Manager Libraries and Community Services