



## Funding boost for community grants program

Increasing requests for support from community organisations have been answered with Bundaberg Regional Council providing a significant boost to its grants program.

Announced as part of its 2021-22 budget, Bundaberg Regional Council's community grants program had been bolstered to \$100,000.

Community Service portfolio spokesperson Cr Tracey McPhee said the program allowed not for profit organisations to apply for up to \$5000 in support.

"In the past 12 months and throughout the region's recovery from COVID we have seen an influx in requests for support coming from community groups throughout the region," Cr McPhee said.

"We understand many have been dealing with the ramifications of the pandemic which mean greater restrictions, a higher level of coordination and more investment to ensure they can continue to offer the same great services to our community.

"For this reason we have increased the annual budget for this program by \$20,000."

Cr McPhee said last year the program had supported 25 local community groups for a range of projects from equipment purchases to facility repairs and upgrades.

The micro grants program, with a budget of \$30,000, will also be continued allowing not for profit organisations across the region to apply for up to \$1000 in support.

Council will also maintain its support of a range of organisations which deliver community services through rates rebates and concessions.

"In the next financial year we have not for profit organisations from across the region including local halls, community kindergartens and sport and recreation facilities eligible to receive a rebate on rate notices.

"We have also granted a full concession of rates and charges to the Bundaberg, Elliott Heads and Moore Park Surf Life Saving Clubs and all rural fire brigades.

"Council recognises the vital roles these organisations play within our community and, by providing these rebates and concessions, is supporting them so that they can continue to focus on what they do best."