



# Burdekin Shire Council

## CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

**1. 1710134\* 1108**

**Queensland Reconstruction Authority**

\$20 Million Betterment Fund Announcement – Rebuilding of Essential Public Assets Damaged by 2021/22 Natural Disaster Events – Queensland Reconstruction Authority

**2. 1713288\* 975**

**Queensland Local Government Grants Commission**

Approved Allocation – Recommendations for Financial Assistance Grant for 2022-23 – Queensland Government Grants Commission

**3. 1713085\* 125**

**City of Sydney**

Invitation to Recognise and Support Australian South Sea Islanders as a Distinctive Cultural Group

**4. 1712088\* 147**

**EveryAGE Counts**

Letter of Introduction – Australia's National Coalition and Grassroots Movement to End Ageism – EveryAGE Counts

**5. 1712047\* 925**

**Rotary Club of Home Hill**

Letter of Thanks for Council's In-Kind Support – 2022 Mega Markets held at Plantation Park on Saturday 6 August 2022

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Tuesday, 23 August 2022

# Queensland Reconstruction Authority

For reply please quote: – QRATF/22/3449

26 July 2022

Mr Terry Brennan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Burdekin Shire Council  
PO Box 974  
AYR, QLD, 4807

Dear Mr Brennan

I am pleased to announce that a \$20 million Betterment Fund is available to support the rebuilding of essential public assets damaged by 2021–22 natural disaster events to a more resilient standard.

This Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) administered program is delivered under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Efficiencies Framework, which allows DRFA funded project savings to be used for mitigation and resilience building programs.

This follows a similar betterment program released in 2020-21, where funding is available to increase resilience and mitigate the impacts of future disasters on essential public infrastructure damaged in any of the nine 2021–22 DRFA events activated for Category B Restoration of Essential Public Assets (REPA) funding.

As Burdekin Shire Council was activated for REPA assistance during one or more of these events, you are eligible to apply for Betterment towards those REPA funded projects.

Funding requests for Betterment are capped at \$3 million per project, with Betterment applications to be lodged together with the corresponding REPA submission, unless otherwise agreed with the QRA.

Although REPA submissions for the 2021–22 year can be submitted to QRA up until 30 March 2023, please be aware the \$20 million Betterment Fund may be exhausted prior to this date.

Should Council have already lodged the REPA submission for a project that would benefit from Betterment, Council should submit a Betterment application as an Estimate Update to the project, as soon as practicable.

The *Queensland Betterment Fund Guidelines* provide detailed information on the program and are available by visiting: <https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/betterment/2021-22-betterment-fund>.

Level 11, 400 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15428 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone **+61 7 3008 7200**  
Facsimile **+61 7 3008 7299**  
[www.qra.qld.gov.au](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au)

QRA Regional Liaison Officer, Jade Christensen, is also available to provide further information or to assist council with applications as required, on [REDACTED] or via email to: [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendan Moon', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brendan Moon  
**Chief Executive Officer**



Our ref: D22/146216

Your ref:

Councillor Lyn McLaughlin  
Councillor  
Burdekin Shire Council  
councillor.mclaughlin@burdekin.qld.gov.au

Dear Councillor McLaughlin

The Queensland Local Government Grants Commission (the Commission) has made the Financial Assistance Grant (FA Grant) recommendations for the financial year 2022-23 under the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld) and the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cth).

On 4 August 2022, the Honourable Kristy McBain MP, Federal Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, approved the Commission's FA Grant recommendations for Queensland councils.

#### *2022-23 FA Grant allocation*

Burdekin Shire Council's approved allocation for 2022-23 is \$5,317,828, which represents a 43 per cent increase on your 2021-22 allocation.

The full schedule of 2022-23 FA Grant allocations for Queensland can be found on the Commission's website here: <https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/local-government/governance/queensland-local-government-grants-commission/financial-assistance-grant>.

As you would be aware, the Commonwealth Government made the decision to pay 75 per cent of the 2022-23 FA Grant to councils as an up-front pre-payment in April 2022. As a result, the total remaining funding to be provided to your council during 2022-23 is \$2,207,973, which will be distributed in four quarterly payments.

#### *Implementation of the Commission's FA Grant methodology review*

As previously advised, the 2022-23 FA Grant is the first year of a three-year implementation period for the Commission's new FA Grant allocation methodology.

The increase in Queensland's FA Grant allocation for 2022-23 to \$576 million is larger than typically received. However, councils should continue to use the Commission's advice about the expected outcome of the implementation of new FA Grant methodology, as communicated in our correspondence of 6 December 2021, as a guide when budgeting for future FA Grant outcomes.

Queensland Local Government  
Grants Commission  
PO Box 15009  
City East Queensland 4002  
**Telephone** +61 7 3452 6735  
[www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au](http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au)

Further detail on the new methodology can be found in the information paper published on the Commission's website here: <https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/local-government/governance/queensland-local-government-grants-commission/2021-methodology-review>. A comprehensive outline of the new methodology will also be provided in the Commission's next Annual Report.

If you require any further information, please contact Mr Stephen Robbins, Executive Director (Finance, Performance and Programs) in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, by telephone on [REDACTED] or by email at [QLGGC.Enquiries@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au](mailto:QLGGC.Enquiries@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au), who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Paul Bell AM  
**Chairperson**  
**Queensland Local Government Grants Commission**

Cc Mr Terry Brennan, Chief Executive Officer  
[REDACTED]

**From:** "Lord Mayor Clover Moore" <ProtocolRSVP@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Fri, 12 Aug 2022 11:51:18 +1000  
**To:** "RES: Mailbox - Email Registration" <EmailRegistration@burdekin.qld.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Australian South Sea Islander Recognition - Thursday, 25 August 2022  
**Attachments:** City of Sydney Recognition of and Support for Australian South Sea Islanders.pdf



Mr Terry Brennan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Burdekin Shire Council

Dear Terry

### **Australian South Sea Islander recognition**

We invite your Council to join the City of Sydney in recognising and supporting Australian South Sea Islanders as a distinctive cultural group.

On 11 April 2022, Council unanimously adopted an historic resolution towards this goal moved by Councillor (Waskam) Emelda Davis. Cr Davis is a proud second generation Australian South Sea Islander with kinship bloodlines to First Nations families of Chinderah Northern Rivers NSW and regions across Far North Queensland, Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands through Santo mob. Cr Davis has co-signed this letter, and we enclose a copy of the resolution.

We are pleased that a number of Councils have already shown interest in passing a similar resolution. Inner West Council, the Australian National Maritime Museum and the Australian Museum in Sydney already recognise Australian South Sea Islanders through annual events. These gestures have helped provide the community with a greater sense of belonging.

### **Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson)**

Australian South Sea Islanders are the descendants of some 60,000 men, along with an unknown number of women and children, who were forcibly removed or kidnapped from the 80 Pacific islands of Vanuatu and Solomon Islands and brought

to Australia through an Atlantic Slave trade practice known as 'blackbirding'.

Our National Cultural Calendar marks Australian South Sea Islanders recognition each year on 25 August. This year will mark 175 years since Benjamin Boyd illegally trafficked the first 200 South Sea Islander men to NSW.

You can learn more about the history of Australian South Sea Islanders and the work of Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) at [assipj.com.au](http://assipj.com.au).

### **Demonstrating your support**

The City will be proud to host our flag raising at Sydney Town Hall in recognition of 25 August and community activities for this important date, as part of our commitment to creating a more inclusive democracy for all and towards justice for our First Nations peoples.

***We invite you to join the City's flag raising ceremony and to demonstrate your Council's alignment with the enclosed resolution by passing a motion in support of Australian South Sea Islanders around this important date. We also invite you to develop your own program of recognition for 2023.***

Our offices can provide support should you or your Council require assistance in adopting a similar resolution that recognises the important relationship with Australian South Sea Islanders and which looks to move towards a collective healing for all Australians.

We look forward to receiving your response and confirmation of your support to recognise Australian South Sea Islanders.

If you or your Council would like to speak with our staff about this matter, you can contact Larry Galbraith, Senior Policy Officer – Office of the Lord Mayor, on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

You may also contact Cr Davis on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clover Moore." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke underlining the name.

Clover Moore  
**Lord Mayor of Sydney**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "(Waskam) Emelda Davis". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being more prominent.

(Waskam) Emelda Davis  
**City of Sydney Councillor**  
**Chairperson**  
**Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson)**



## Resolution of Council

**11 April 2022**

### **Item 11.1**

#### **City of Sydney Recognition of and Support for Australian South Sea Islanders**

The original motion was moved by Councillor Davis and seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor).

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) Australian South Sea Islanders value their South Sea Islander (SSI) heritage and Pacific islands of origin: the eighty islands of Vanuatu and Solomon's, inclusive of Tuvalu, Kiribati, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia;
- (ii) Australian South Sea Islanders are the descendants of Pacific peoples that were coerced and forcibly removed or kidnapped from their islands and brought to Australia, through an Atlantic Slave trade practice known as blackbirding in the 1800s. The trade saw South Sea Islanders trafficked under the guise of 'Indentured Labour' contracts. They worked mainly in sugar cane farming, but also as seafarers, wharfies and deckhands. Other industries were pastoral, maritime, cotton, fishing, beche-de-mer and the railway economy across Queensland and New South Wales;
- (iii) in the early 1970s, the term 'Australian South Sea Islanders' was agreed upon by a widely consulted community made up of many first generation born leaders and elders. It was agreed that the word 'Australian' gave the mass displaced community a sense of belonging, place and identity as severely disadvantaged peoples;
- (iv) 2022 marks 175 years since entrepreneur politician Benjamin Boyd illegally trafficked the first 200 South Sea Islanders (SSI) to Eden, NSW, to labour alongside Maori and First Nations peoples (1847);
- (v) between 1863 and 1904, some 55,000 to 62,500 South Sea Islanders were forcibly brought to Australia;

- (vi) Sydney and NSW were deeply implicated in this immoral human trafficking, noting for example:
  - (a) Burns Philp, once a leading Australian and international food processing, retail and shipping conglomerate had its foundations in owning and operating ships engaged in blackbirding;
  - (b) Robert Towns (1794-1873), Member of the NSW Legislative Council, President of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce and leading businessman, owned ships used for blackbirding and profited from the forced labour transported on these ships; and
  - (c) The Colonial Sugar Refinery, located on the site which is now Waterfront Park, Pyrmont, processed sugar harvested on the Queensland canefields by blackbirded labour;
- (vii) in 1901, the Parliament of the newly federated Commonwealth of Australia passed the Pacific Island Labourers Act, as part of the larger White Australia policy, making it illegal to import South Sea Islanders and mandating the forcible deportation of all Islanders from Australia, even though many had established lives and families in Australia;
- (viii) some exemptions were made, with those South Sea Islanders who were allowed to remain having limited employment and other opportunities;
- (ix) this sorry, and still largely unknown history for many Australians, has resulted in a legacy of discrimination and disadvantage which is largely unrecognised still today in the 21st century;
- (x) on 6 May 1993, the Commonwealth Government tabled the report 'The Call for Recognition', A Report on the Situation of Australian South Sea Islanders, completed by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) in December 1992;
- (xi) the 1992 Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Report 'The Call for Recognition' included six recommendations, with the first recommendation being:
 

“The Government should formally recognise Australian South Sea Islanders a unique minority group which is severely disadvantaged as a consequence of racial discrimination.”
- (xii) in 1993 the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous and Minority Peoples identified Australian South Sea Islanders as 'population transfer';
- (xiii) on 25 August 1994, the Commonwealth Government formally responded in Parliament to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Report 'The Call for Recognition', explicitly accepting the report's first recommendation, with the Government's response receiving bipartisan support;

- (xiv) this recognition included the Government acknowledging:
  - (a) Australian South Sea Islanders were a “distinct ethnic group in Australia with its own history and culture”;
  - (b) the injustices of the indentured labour system;
  - (c) the severe disadvantage suffered by the South Sea Islanders and their descendants; and
  - (d) their contribution to the culture, history and economy of Australia;
- (xv) the annual anniversary of the Government’s formal response is now commemorated by Australian South Sea Islanders as Recognition Day and is marked in the National Cultural Calendar;
- (xvi) in 1995, the then NSW Premier, Bob Carr, issued a Premier's Memorandum requesting all NSW Government agencies to ensure that the particular needs of Australian South Sea Islanders are adequately reflected in their programs and services, with particular reference to housing, employment, education and health services;
- (xvii) on 15 August 2013, the NSW Legislative Assembly formally noted 25 August 2013 as Australian South Sea Islander Recognition Day and acknowledged the contribution the Australian South Sea Islander community makes to New South Wales and its history in Australia; and
- (xviii) on 12 September 2013, the Communities Relations Commission Chairperson Stephen Kerkyasharian AO, sent an official letter to all New South Wales State Agencies drawing their attention to the resolution passed in New South Wales Parliament and the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism, for their internal policies, programs and services to enable people of South Sea Islander heritage to be recognised and included;

(B) Council:

- (i) recognises that the official term ‘Australian South Sea Islanders’ relates to the descendants of blackbirding to NSW in 1847; while the historical term, ‘South Sea Islanders’ refers to both their ancestors, and today, the contemporary community of South Sea Islanders who have migrated to Australia;
- (ii) recognises the discrimination, injustice, disadvantage and prejudice experienced by South Sea Islanders throughout Australia’s history and the significant disadvantage the community still faces today as Australian South Sea Islanders. This history must also be uncovered, acknowledged and embedded into the City of Sydney’s planning for the future;
- (iii) is committed to achieving a City for All: a sustainable, inclusive, diverse city that is welcoming and embraces people from all walks of life; and
- (iv) commits to formally acknowledge Australian South Sea Islander Recognition Day on 25 August, from 2022 onwards;

(C) Council note:

- (i) community consultations by the City in the planning for Sustainable Sydney 2050 uncovered a number of key concerns. Common themes that emerged during the consultation process included retaining:
  - (a) the unique character of Sydney; a city that is bold and daring and where residents participate in shaping their own future;
  - (b) a socially connected community that embraces sharing of spaces, resources and knowledge; and
  - (c) an equitable and inclusive community that celebrates diversity and difference;
- (ii) as part of their consultation and planning for Sustainable Sydney 2050, the City of Sydney undertook The First Peoples Dialogue Forum on 6 May 2019. This was set up to help ensure that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice was incorporated into the strategic planning process;
- (iii) Recognition Day, and a surrounding Recognition Week, provide the City of Sydney an opportunity to program and promote initiatives especially designed in collaboration with Australian South Sea Islanders, with the goal to strengthen the community's awareness of, and pride in, this distinct culture; and
- (iv) prior Recognition Week ceremonies have seen the official Australian South Sea Islander flag raised annually at locations including Petersham and Leichhardt Town Hall (supported unanimously by Inner West Council) and the Australian National Maritime Museum to coincide with the Australian South Sea Islander 25th Anniversary since Commonwealth recognition. These gestures have helped provide the Australian South Sea Islander community a greater sense of belonging; and

(D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) investigate the raising of the Australian South Sea Islanders flag over Town Hall annually for Recognition Week on 25 August, and/or light the Town Hall in the flag colours;
- (ii) investigate the scheduling of a Recognition Week program, where learning and cross-cultural awareness events, workshops and panel discussions could assist the community to better understand, learn about and share the lived experience of Australian South Sea Islanders;
- (iii) in consultation with the Australian South Sea Islander community, develop a briefing on the history of Australian South Sea Islanders and invite senior City of Sydney Staff to attend. This briefing will enhance the City's capacity to address these issues in a culturally appropriate way and provide feedback on long time community priorities such as grants, procurement and tracking;

- (iv) investigate a potential Dialogue Forum that brings together Australian South Sea Islanders, specialists, stakeholders, cultural institutions, and City of Sydney Staff, to assist in identifying long term community priorities and the appropriate frameworks for engaging with Australian South Sea Islander organisations and community representatives, that relates to and is inclusive of Australian South Sea Islander methods of cultural governance and practice through lived experiences;
- (v) where the City does not have the power to directly implement or affect these programs and services, advocate to the NSW and Commonwealth Governments to influence more equitable outcomes, including the continued implementation of the recommendations of the 1992 Call for Recognition report, the 1994 Commonwealth Government response to this report and the 1995 Premier's Memorandum; and
- (vi) provide an indicative timeline and framework for the above via the CEO Update.

The motion, as varied by consent, was carried unanimously.

X086660



1 August 2022

Burdekin Shire Council  
PO Box 974  
AYR QLD 4807

Dear Cr Lyn McLaughlin and Burdekin Shire Council Councillors  
CC Mr Terry Brennan

I write today to warmly invite Council to join the increasing number of local councils around Australia who have become supporters of EveryAGE Counts which is Australia's national coalition and grassroots movement to end ageism.

Ageism is stereotyping, discrimination and mistreatment based solely on age. All Australian Governments have recognised that ageism is widespread, highly tolerated and has devastating impacts – on individuals, our communities and economy.

We ask that you formally draw our letter to the attention of Council for its consideration and invite any interested councillor to be in contact if they require further information or if you require a briefing for the entire Council.

We can assure you that we are strictly non-party political and indeed enjoy cross party support. Our national coalition is comprised of many members including Council on the Ageing Australia, National Seniors. You can read further information on our work and our support in local communities on our website [everyagecounts.com.au](http://everyagecounts.com.au)

We have already received strong support from numerous local government authorities for our work including the full backing of the Municipal Association of Victoria and have engaged with many local councils at the Australian Local Government Association Conferences. We seek the backing of your Council for our work because it will send a strong message of support and inclusion from Council to your local communities that all people living within your local government area are valued and respected.

We have been especially delighted by the creative ways other local councils have used our resources and developed their own initiatives to end ageism.

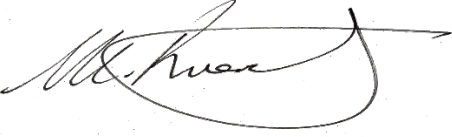
You will note on our website at <https://www.everyagecounts.org.au/councils> that we have a dedicated place to highlight the work of local councils. We would love to include you on that list and showcase your activities to the wider Australian community. You will also see on the website a draft motion of support that we ask that Council consider.

Councillors may also be interested to know that Ageism Awareness Day is coming up on 7 October. More information can be found at [https://www.everyagecounts.org.au/aad\\_2022](https://www.everyagecounts.org.au/aad_2022). We are developing some exciting new resources and it will be a great opportunity to bring people together to challenge ageism.

Attached you will find all the relevant information regarding our campaign and a membership agreement form. I have copied in Monica Rutte who will be able to assist Councils with their membership application

I would of course be more than happy to discuss any questions you may have. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you!

Yours in building an Australia without ageism,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Krasovitsky', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Dr Marlene Krasovitsky  
Co-chair and Director  
EveryAGE Counts



7 August 2022

The CEO  
Burdekin Shire Council

**Re:- Support for Mega Markets**

Dear Terry

The Rotary Club of Home Hill sincerely thanks the Burdekin Shire Council for the in kind support provided to assist us in running the 2022 Mega Markets.

While the number of stall holders was down this year all 38 stall holders reported increased turnover with some actually selling out of product. The Rotary food stall did exceptional trade, we doubled the number of egg and bacon wraps sold this year against last year's figures. Our wagon full of groceries raffle was very popular.

We had visitors from Townsville in the north and to Proserpine in the south. The entire Park was alive for this event and because of the support we received from Council the market area was fully enclosed and there was no dust because of the application of water as part of Council's support.

Rotary would like you to pass on our thanks to all the Council employees involved in providing Council's in-kind support.

Thank you once again

Yours Sincerely

John Woods  
Secretary

President:- Roxanne Roberts

Secretary:- John Woods