

Policy Type	Corporate
Function	Environmental Management
Policy Owner	Manager Environmental and Health Services
Policy Contact	Coordinator Environment and Health Projects
Effective Date	13 December 2022

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to promote a consistent approach to the distribution of the Environmental Levy.

Scope

This policy applies to eligible applications for funding under Council's Environmental Levy Program.

Objectives

The aim of the policy is to establish criteria to guide how the Environmental Levy will be applied and to establish basic reporting and recording guidelines.

Policy Statement

Eligibility Criteria

The Environmental Levy is to be used to undertake projects that have an environmental and community benefit for our Shire residents. To achieve this Council has established the following criteria to guide how the Burdekin Shire Council Environmental Levy will be applied:

- (1) To provide funding support, that can assist or enable community groups or individuals to gain access to grants and other funding opportunities.
- (2) For funding projects that are considered to have environmental benefit but are not eligible for funding from existing Government schemes or grants or whose funding application was not successful.
- (3) To undertake rehabilitation, care or maintenance of the natural environment in areas such as:
 - (a) Aquatic weed management
 - (b) Wetland management
 - (c) Herbicide subsidy (excluding individuals who are eligible under the Herbicide Subsidy Scheme)
 - (d) Coastal management and beach protection
 - (e) Biodiversity conservation, preservation or enhancement
 - (f) Storm water litter management
 - (g) Water quality preservation
 - (h) Natural resource management
 - (i) Salinity and erosion management
 - (j) Management of local biosecurity matters such as declared pest animals and weeds
 - (k) Tree planting
 - (l) Fish restocking

- (4) To provide for the preservation or remediation of environmentally important areas. Such programs will only be considered after exploring other opportunities available through government agencies to gain rate relief and/or other funding.
- (5) To undertake acquisition of land that has particular environmental value.
- (6) To promote and encourage sustainable practices in a public field such as energy efficiency, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, utilisation of alternative energy sources, waste minimisation and/or water efficiency.
- (7) To promote and publish in an appropriate manner, e.g. via signs and promotional material, specific projects which have benefited from the levy.
- (8) Notwithstanding the above, the Council may utilise funds from the Environmental Levy to fund budgeted projects provided such projects have an environmental and community benefit.
- (9) All approved applications are required to have completed the Acquittal of Grant Funding and Project Report – Enviro Levy at the end of the project. Progress reports may be required depending on the length of the project.
- (10) All Environmental Levy funds are to be recorded in Council's financial records and reported at regular intervals in such a manner that fully discloses, in a transparent manner, the purpose for which it is used.
- (11) Any unspent funds from one financial year are to be placed in an environmental reserve fund set aside specifically to fund environmental levy projects in subsequent years.

Exceptions

Nil.

Risk Management

Any identified risks will be evaluated and managed in accordance with the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Policy and the adopted ERM Framework.

The Council's Revenue Statement allows for the making of the Environment Separate Charge which raises the revenue that may fund projects that have an environmental benefit to the Burdekin community. The Policy provides further detail and eligibility criteria for the consideration and approval of projects by Council. The associated reporting process and consideration at Council level adds value and reduces the risk of approving non-eligible projects.

Legislation

Nil.

Definitions and Abbreviations

Biodiversity	The existence of a wide variety of plant and animal species in their natural environments
Herbicide Subsidy Scheme	Co-contribution subsidy available to landholders to assist with the cost of herbicide. Please refer to the Herbicide Subsidy Policy for details

Related Documents

Reference Number	Document Title
ENV-FRM-0002	Environmental Levy Funding Application Form
ENV-POL-0006	Environmental Policy
ENV-FRM-0001	Acquittal of Grant Funding and Project Report – Enviro Levy Grant
ENV-PRO-0001	Guideline – Environmental Levy Application
ENV-POL-0005	Herbicide Subsidy Policy

Document History and Version Control

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