

Community Development Report

Committee Consideration – 08 April 2014
Council Resolution – 22 April 2014

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Committee	8 April 2014
Council	22 April 2014
Applicant	City of Nedlands
Officer	Marion Granich – Manager Community Development
Director	Michael Cole – Director Corporate Services
Director Signature	
File Reference	CRS/054
Previous Item	N/A

Executive Summary

This report is the result of a Mayoral request that Council consider making a donation to assist the Mundaring community with recovery from the recent bushfires.

Recommendation to Committee

Council donates an amount of \$ _____ to _____ towards disaster relief for the Mundaring community, following the January 2014 Mundaring bushfires.

Strategic Plan

KFA: Community Development
KFA: Governance and Civic Leadership

While a donation towards the Mundaring community's recovery from the recent bushfires is not directly related to achieving the City of Nedlands' own Community Development KFA, it is intended to assist with community development and recovery in the Shire of Mundaring. Such a donation would also relate to the City's Governance and Civic Leadership KFA, since it would involve the City demonstrating civic leadership amongst local government authorities, to assist the Mundaring community.

Background

Councillors will be well aware of the bushfires that caused significant destruction in the Shire of Mundaring in January this year. Detailed information on the fires is not provided in this report. However, the facts of 27 homes lost and 1 person dead indicate the seriousness of the impact of the fires on the Mundaring community.

It should be noted that community recovery from natural and other disasters is not a quick process and involves a significantly longer time-frame and further resources than the immediate response to the disaster. Recovery may involve many aspects, such as accommodation (which may be needed long term), replacement of belongings, on-going counselling, community events for strengthening community spirit and support, re-building of houses and community facilities and many other activities requiring funding. Recovery is generally seen as distinct from response, although needing to start at the same time. Donations from outside the affected and traumatized communities can help with the financial impact, but possibly even more significantly, can help those affected experience a sense of solidarity and support from the wider community.

Key Relevant Previous Council Decisions:

N/A

Consultation

Required by legislation: Yes No
 Required by City of Nedlands policy: Yes No

Legislation / Policy

Council's Policy Grants, Subsidies and Donations provides guidelines for occasions when Council is considering providing a range of donations. One of these specific donation types is a donation to the Lord Mayor's Relief Distress Fund. The policy states that "The purpose of the Lord Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund is to provide urgent relief in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. Any subsidy or donation by the City to the Lord Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund can only be made as a result of a decision by Council".

Budget/Financial Implications

Within current approved budget: Yes No
 Requires further budget consideration: Yes No

The City does not budget funds for the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund, as in most financial years such expenditure would be unnecessary. Therefore any donation decided on by Council would be outside the current approved budget and require consideration and approval by Council.

Risk Management

There are no significant risks associated with either providing or not providing this proposed donation.

Discussion

Should Council decide to provide a donation towards the community of Mundaring's recovery from the January 2014 bushfires, it could be done in a number of ways. These include:

- Donating to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund and
- Donating to the Shire of Mundaring.

The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund is, as suggested by the title, a fund that is coordinated and provided by the City of Perth. If Council were to donate to this Fund, then the donation would be made to the City of Perth, specifically to be used as part of the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund's donation to the Shire of Mundaring for recovery from the January bushfires.

Council may also wish to consider donating directly to the Shire of Mundaring. This donation would essentially have the same effect, but would simply not go through the City of Perth. In either instance, the donation would go to the Shire of Mundaring, to be used towards distress relief, for the Mundaring community.

Even a modest donation from the City of Nedlands to the Mundaring community would demonstrate the wider community's concern for the trauma and loss experienced by the Mundaring community. This can assist with the spirit of recover and the feeling of outside support. A donation from a City community to a country community could be particularly significant in this regard.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council consider making a donation either to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund or directly to the Shire of Mundaring, for the purpose of distress relief for the community of Mundaring following the January 2014 bushfires.

Attachments

Nil.