

DISASTER RELIEF RESERVE FUND COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

The Disaster Relief Reserve Fund Policy provides parameters for the disbursement of funds from the City of Bunbury Disaster Relief Reserve Fund.

Emergency situations that arise from natural disasters such as floods, fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones and storms are common in Australia. Donations to Disaster Relief Funds play a significant role in assisting communities affected by natural disasters to respond to and recover from such events. Local Government has the means to assist with community fund raising activities and to make donations to disaster fund raising appeals organised by appropriate charities and aid organisations.

In the past, the City of Bunbury has provided relief funding to the communities affected by the Esperance, Waroona, NSW and Perth fires (2015, 2016, 2020 and 2021 respectively), as well as Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa Province for disaster recovery works following Typhoon Damrey (2017).

The City of Bunbury recognises that a timely decision to donate either financial or in-kind aid is essential and most effective when made within the immediate stages following a disaster to assist with rescue efforts and to help minimise loss and suffering.

POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies to natural disasters occurring within Australia. The provision of funding internationally shall only be via resolution of Council.

Contributions shall be limited to financial and in-kind aid. Any other fundraising events and activities will be dealt with outside of this policy.

POLICY DETAILS

1. The City of Bunbury has an established Disaster Relief Reserve Fund (the Reserve), the purpose of which is to “provide relief of personal hardship and distress arising from natural disasters”.
2. The Reserve may be used to provide funds to appropriate charities and aid organisations for the relief of personal hardship and distress arising from natural disasters occurring within Australia.
3. Subject to the scope of this policy, determinations for funding will be made by an informal panel comprising the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive Officer. Where either the

Mayor or Deputy Mayor are unavailable, the Chief Executive Officer will include a Councillor/s to ensure that two Elected Members are included in the decision-making process at all times.

4. Where unanimous consensus cannot be reached under clause 3, the matter will be referred to Council for consideration.
5. Donations from the Reserve will be assessed in a fair, equitable and timely manner and also be subject to the “Criteria for Donation” section of this policy.
6. Subject to clause 4 and sufficient funds being available for this purpose in the annual budget, the Chief Executive Officer is authorised to implement any unanimous determination made under clause 3.
7. Donations should generally only be made to widely-recognised aid agencies.

CRITERIA FOR DONATION:

The following is to be considered when deciding on an appropriate donation:

- The scale of the disaster;
- The capacity of other government agencies and organisations to respond to the disaster;
- The need for ongoing support, ie. rebuilding disaster stricken areas
- The impact of any such crises on the City’s immediate region and community; and
- Any connections that the affected area has to the cultural origin of the City of Bunbury.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1995*

INDUSTRY

ORGANISATIONAL

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