

## 1. INNOVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION – ROUND TWO

### Introduction

This report is presented to Council as a matter of urgency as the application for funding requires Council endorsement with funding applications closing on 9 June 2017.

### Background

In March 2017 the Office of Local Government advised of Round Two of the Innovation Fund. The Innovation Fund is a targeted program to support small Councils to develop new and innovative ways of working.

Local Councils in Regional NSW that have a population of less than 10,000 are eligible to apply for a grant. Councils which received funding in Round One are eligible to reapply in Round Two.

A one off grant can be applied for up to \$150,000 with the funding for each grant based on Council making a co-contribution of at least 30% towards the project.

The project that is being sought for funding is the purchase of iPads and the implementation of an online Work Health and Safety risk reporting system. A planned, systematic, comprehensive and early risk identification system will assist in minimising the likelihood and consequence of each risk. In addition the online reporting solution aims to reduce the current level of paperwork being undertaken, improving Council's efficiency and productivity, and more importantly reduce Council's injury rates.

The total application to be applied for is \$44,000 with Council co-contributing \$13,000 towards the project.

#### **a) *Legal Implications including Directives and Guidelines***

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Clause 241(3) – business may be transacted at a meeting of Council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the Councillors, if (a) a motion is passed to have the business transacted at the meeting, and (b) the business proposed to be brought forward is ruled by the chairperson to be of great urgency.

#### **b) *Financial Implications/Considerations***

The total funding to be applied for under the Innovation Fund Round Two is \$44,000 with Council's co-contribution being \$13,000 which is provided for in Council's 2017/18 budget.

#### **c) *Policy Provisions – Council Policy and Practice***

Nil

**1. INNOVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION – ROUND TWO (Cont'd)****d) Strategic Implications – Implications for Long Term Plans/Targets**

Item L3.1 of Council's Community Strategic Plan and Item L3.1.2 of Council's Delivery Program – minimise Council's exposure to risk and promote a strong risk management culture within Council.

**Discussion/Comments**

Council is requested to consider this report as a matter of great urgency and resolve that the business be transacted at the meeting given that Council must endorse the submission of the grant application under Round Two of the Innovation Fund which closes 9 June 2016.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:-

- (a) Determine the matter is of great urgency and the business be transacted at the meeting; and
- (b) Endorse the submission of a grant application under the Innovation Fund Round Two for the purchase of iPads and the implementation of an online Work Health and Safety reporting solution.

John Sevil

**Director Finance and Corporate Strategy**