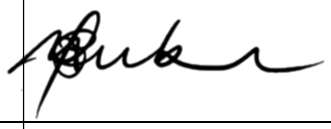
Grant Guidelines

Administration

ED004: Town Beautification Fund

Signature	
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Refer to the last page of this document for the Document History Table

District Council of Elliston

ED004: Town Beautification Fund

1. Introduction

The District Council of Elliston (**Council**) recognises the unique character and identity of each of its townships. Well-maintained public spaces, attractive streetscapes and welcoming community infrastructure contribute significantly to community pride, visitor experience and the overall liveability of our district.

The Town Beautification Fund has been established to encourage community groups to identify and deliver projects that create lasting improvements to the appearance and amenity of their local communities. Council recognises that many of the best ideas come from local people who understand the needs and aspirations of their town, and this Fund is intended to support those ideas becoming reality.

Through this initiative, Council seeks to work in partnership with community organisations to deliver projects that enhance public places, celebrate local identity and create a positive legacy for current and future generations.

2. Funding Available

Council has allocated $50,000 each financial year to the Town Beautification Fund.

The available funding may be distributed across one or more successful applications, depending on the quality of submissions received and the funding requested. Council reserves the right to approve the full amount requested, provide partial funding, or determine not to allocate the entire annual budget if applications do not sufficiently meet the objectives of the Fund.

Funding is provided as a one-off contribution towards approved projects.

3. Fund Objectives

The Town Beautification Fund aims to support projects that:

- improve the visual appeal and presentation of townships throughout the district;
- enhance community infrastructure and public spaces;
- strengthen local identity and community pride;
- create welcoming environments for residents and visitors;
- encourage community participation and volunteer involvement;
- deliver lasting public benefits; and
- complement Council's strategic vision for the district.

Council encourages innovative projects that provide enduring value to the broader community.

4. Strategic Alignment

The Town Beautification Fund forms part of Council's commitment to creating vibrant, attractive and sustainable communities.

While every eligible application will be considered on its individual merits, preference may be given to projects that demonstrate strong alignment with Council's Strategic Management Plan and other adopted strategies.

Projects that are likely to receive greater consideration include those that:

- improve the appearance and amenity of public places;
- strengthen the identity and character of individual townships;
- complement existing Council infrastructure or strategic projects;

- encourage environmental sustainability through landscaping or tree planting;
- improve accessibility and inclusion;
- leverage additional funding or significant volunteer contributions;
- demonstrate broad community support; and
- provide benefits that will be enjoyed by the wider community over many years.

5. Who Can Apply

Applications are welcomed from incorporated not-for-profit organisations operating within the District Council of Elliston, including:

- Progress Associations;
- Community Associations;
- Sporting and Recreation Clubs;
- Service Clubs;
- Volunteer Organisations;
- Community Committees; and
- other incorporated community organisations.

Groups that are not incorporated may apply through an incorporated auspicing organisation.

6. Eligible Projects

Council is seeking projects that create permanent or long-term improvements to public places and community infrastructure.

Examples of suitable projects include:

- town entrance statements and signage;
- landscaping and significant tree planting;
- public gardens and streetscape enhancements;
- community seating and public gathering spaces;
- public artwork, murals or sculptures;
- interpretive and heritage signage;
- beautification of reserves or public open space;
- visitor infrastructure;
- projects that enhance community pride and sense of place; and
- other infrastructure that contributes positively to the appearance and functionality of a township.

These examples are not exhaustive, and Council welcomes innovative proposals that align with the objectives of the Fund.

7. Projects Not Eligible for Funding

The Fund is intended to support capital improvements rather than ongoing operational activities. Funding will generally not be provided for:

- routine maintenance;
- operational or administrative expenses;
- salaries or wages;
- projects that have already commenced;
- retrospective funding requests;
- improvements to privately owned assets or land;
- projects located outside the Council area; or
- activities that primarily benefit an individual or private business.

8. Application Process
Applications will be invited once each financial year and will remain open for eight (8) weeks. Applicants are required to complete the Town Beautification Fund Application Form and provide sufficient information to enable Council to assess the proposal.

Applications should include:
- a description of the project;
- the intended community benefits;
- the proposed location;
- a project timeline;
- a detailed budget;
- quotations where appropriate;
- evidence of community support (where available);
- details of other funding sources (if applicable); and
- proposed ongoing maintenance arrangements.

Council officers are available to discuss project ideas prior to submission and encourage applicants to seek advice early in the planning process.

9. Assessment Process
Applications will first be assessed by Council officers against the objectives and assessment criteria of the Fund.

Officer recommendations will then be presented to Council for consideration, with Council making the final determination on successful applications.

Council reserves the right to seek additional information or clarification during the assessment process where required.

10. Assessment Criteria
Applications will be assessed having regard to:
- the extent to which the project aligns with the objectives of the Town Beautification Fund;
- demonstrated community benefit;
- contribution to improving the appearance and amenity of the township;
- value for money;
- project feasibility and readiness;
- the applicant's capacity to successfully deliver the project;
- evidence of community involvement or support;
- long-term maintenance arrangements; and
- the availability of funding.

No single criterion will determine the outcome, with applications considered holistically.

11. Successful Projects
Successful applicants will be expected to work collaboratively with Council to ensure projects are delivered to an appropriate standard.

Funding recipients will be required to:
- obtain any necessary approvals or permits prior to commencing works;

- secure landowner approval where works occur on land not owned by the applicant;
- complete the project within the financial year in which funding is awarded;
- acknowledge Council's support where appropriate;
- provide photographs of the completed project; and
- submit a brief completion report.

Council may inspect projects during construction or following completion.

12. Project Timeframes
Projects funded under the Town Beautification Fund are expected to be completed within the same financial year in which funding is approved.

Where unforeseen circumstances arise, applicants should contact Council as early as possible to discuss alternative arrangements. Any extension of time will be at Council's discretion.

13. Acquittal
Upon completion of the project, recipients will be required to submit a brief acquittal outlining the outcomes achieved, accompanied by photographs of the completed works and evidence that the funding has been expended in accordance with the approved application.

Council may request additional information where necessary.

14. Further Information
Council encourages all interested community organisations to discuss their ideas prior to lodging an application.

By working together, Council and community groups can continue to create attractive, welcoming and vibrant townships that reflect the pride our communities have in the district.