



Title: Donations to Appeals for Emergency Relief

Category: Service Delivery

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Modification history: This is a new policy

Related legislation: Local Government Act

Related policies:

Related procedures:

Related forms:

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1. Purpose

This policy establishes guidelines for the allocation of funds to be made available to relief and emergency efforts.

Background

There are from time to time a number of national and international natural and man-made disasters that impact on communities in our city. Examples of events in recent years that have attracted direct financial aid from Council include the recent crisis in Lebanon, Tsunami Relief in South East Asia, East Timor, Bali Victims, Greece and Pakistan Earthquake Relief efforts as well as bushfire, cyclone, and flood appeals in different parts of Australia.

Rationale

Council is empowered to make grants and donations under Section 356 of the Local Government Act (1993), in accordance with a resolution of the Council.

In order to ensure a capacity to respond in times of crisis and to ensure compliance with the Act, assistance to national and international relief efforts should be part of a program adopted by Council within our City Plan.

This policy establishes parameters on which allocations may be considered, and clarifies the circumstances in which part of a pool of funds can be made available to relief and other emergency efforts, reducing the need to respond to requests for assistance on a case by case basis.

2. Objective

The objective of this policy is to provide emergency, humanitarian and material assistance on behalf of the residents of the City of Canterbury, to victims of natural and man-made disasters, both within Australia and around the world, with priority given to situations where the circumstances of the disaster or aid efforts impact on the lives of residents of the City of Canterbury.

3. Scope

This policy applies to councillors and members of staff when determining the allocation of funds to relief and other emergency efforts.

4. Definitions

Emergency Relief Program refers to a program established for the allocation of funds in the City Plan and Budget for distribution as necessary to relief and other emergency efforts.

5. Principles

Donations for international relief efforts and support for victims of national emergencies will be provided on a resolution of Council, under an Emergency Relief Program.

5.1 Recipients

Donations will be granted through reputable charities and acknowledged relief aid providers identified in the Council resolution or as delegated by Council to the General Manager.

Donations will generally not be made to individual persons, families or local community groups through this program and, where possible, information concerning the specific benefit of the donation will be sought from recipients.

5.2 Allocation of funds

Our City Plan will reflect our commitment to the Emergency Relief Program and an allocation will be provided in the budget of \$30,000 per annum towards this program.

Allocations will usually be made up to \$5,000 towards an appeal except in exceptional circumstances approved by Council, where a limit of \$10,000 will be applied.

5.3 Public accountability

All Council decisions to make donations under the program will be publicised in the local media.

6. Responsibilities

Councillors are responsible to ensure that motions put to Council for a particular donation to be made under the Emergency Relief Program comply with this policy.

The General Manager is responsible to ensure that donations made under the Emergency Relief Program comply with this policy.