

7.1 REPEAL OF DISASTER APPEALS - DONATIONS AND ASSISTANCE POLICY (4.1.27)

Attachments: 1. **Disaster Appeals - Donations and Assistance Policy (4.1.27)**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council repeal the Disaster Appeals – Donations and Assistance Policy (4.1.27) at Attachment 1.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To seek Council approval to repeal the [Disaster Appeals – Donations & Assistance Policy \(4.1.27\)](#).

BACKGROUND:

The Disaster Appeals – Donations & Assistance Policy (4.1.27) has been reviewed, in alignment with the City's Policy Document Register and Review Plan.

It was first adopted in November 2005 and last reviewed April 2018. The objective of the policy is to provide guidance to the Council when considering requests for the provision of financial assistance and other support to alleviate the impact of disasters and other significant emergencies.

On review it was found there was no need for a documented position on this topic and some aspects of the policy regarding in kind assistance did not align to current emergency management practices.

DETAILS:

The policy was found to provide minimal direction to assist Elected Members in making a decision in relation to Disaster Appeals.

The policy states that it is Council's role to make a determination on a Disaster Appeal donation and does not provide significant guidance beyond this practice apart from specifying a maximum amount that may be donated.

If a request were to come for an unbudgeted donation outside our current funding streams, it would require Council approval. Administration provides comprehensive reports to provide Council with sufficient and relevant information to make a decision.

It is Administrations view that a documented position on this matter is not required.

The elements of the policy that contravene current emergency management practices relate to in-kind assistance notably that Council can make determinations regarding emergency accommodation for those affected by a disaster.

In-kind support of this nature is covered by our Local Emergency Management Plan and the City's relationship with the State Emergency Management Committee. A preferred approach for emergency in-kind support would be to activate a response quickly, outside of the Council meeting schedule.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

No community consultation is required for the repeal of the policy.

LEGAL/POLICY:

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Low: It is low risk for Council to repeal the policy.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028*:

Innovative and Accountable

We are open and accountable to an engaged community.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

This does not contribute to any specific sustainability outcomes of the *City's Sustainable Environment Strategy 2019-2024*, nor have any negative environmental impacts.

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS:

This does not contribute to any public health outcomes in the *City's Public Health Plan 2020-2025*.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

POLICY NO: 4.1.27**DISASTER APPEALS – DONATIONS AND ASSISTANCE****OBJECTIVES**

To provide guidance to the Council when considering requests for the provision of financial assistance and other support to alleviate the impact of disasters and other significant emergencies.

POLICY STATEMENT**1. Council to Approve Requests**

All requests to provide financial assistance and other support to alleviate the impact of disasters and other significant emergencies shall be in response to an appeal launched by the Federal, State, Local Government or other bona fide agency (Lord Mayor's Disaster Appeal) and shall be reported to the Council for consideration and determination.

2. Financial Support

- (a) Financial support shall be limited to a maximum of **\$7,009** (Indexed by CPI on 1 July of each year – includes 2017 increase) to any one disaster or other significant emergency appeal.
- (b) In the event of more than one relief organisation/agency being involved in the Disaster Appeal, the Council shall determine the most appropriate relief organisation to receive the support.
- (c) Financial support will only be made to approved agencies/organisations and cash donations will not be made directly to individuals.

3. Non-financial Support

The Council will consider support, other than financial, which includes but is not limited to:

- (a) the provision and use of the City's resources, machinery, vehicles, equipment for disasters which occur within Australia;
- (b) the use of the City's buildings and facilities for emergency accommodation and other approved purposes;
- (c) support for employees with professional expertise who wish to assist in the disaster by releasing the person on payment of their current salary and conditions, assistance to travel costs and incidental costs, provision of emergency clothing, equipment and the like which is necessary for the duration of the employees absence to a maximum of **\$7,009** (Indexed by CPI on 1 July of each year – includes 2017 increase);
- (d) the use of City as a receiving agent for any donations by the public; and
- (e) any other bona fide requests which may arise from a disaster or emergency.

4. Disasters outside Australia

Requests for all “non-financial” support for disasters and emergencies outside Australia will be considered on their merits.

5. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following will be applied:

- (a) Natural Disasters include:
- Floods
 - Fire
 - Cyclones/storms
 - Tsunami
 - Earthquake
 - Famine
 - Disease Threat
 - Landslide
- (b) Disasters other than Natural Causes include:
- Civil unrest
 - War/invasion
 - Political, cultural, Religious conflicts
 - Acts of terrorism.

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| Date Adopted: | 22 November 2005 |
| Date Amended: | |
| Date Reviewed: | November 2010, April 2018 |
| Date of Next Review: | November 2015, April 2023 |

DISASTER APPEALS – DONATIONS AND ASSISTANCE POLICY NO: 4.1.27

CPI INCREASES FROM JULY 2009 (Perth Based CPI)

| Year | CPI | Page 1, Clause 2(a) | Rounding | Page 1, Clause 3(c) | Rounding |
|-----------|------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| July 2009 | 1.4% | \$5,950 | | \$5,950 | |
| July 2010 | 3.5% | \$6,158.25 | \$6,158 | \$6,158.25 | \$6,158 |
| July 2011 | 3.0% | \$6,343.00 | \$6,343 | \$6,343.00 | \$6,343 |
| July 2012 | 1.0% | \$6,406.43 | \$6,406 | \$6,406.43 | \$6,406 |
| July 2013 | 2.5% | \$6,566.59 | \$6,566 | \$6,566.59 | \$6,566 |
| July 2014 | 3.3% | \$6,783.28 | \$6,783 | \$6,783.28 | \$6,783 |
| July 2015 | 1.8% | \$6,905.38 | \$6,905 | \$6,905.38 | \$6,905 |
| July 2016 | 0.9% | \$6,967.53 | \$6,968 | \$6,967.53 | \$6,968 |
| July 2017 | 0.6% | \$7,009.33 | \$7,009 | \$7,009.33 | \$7,009 |