

AMENDED REPORT

13 May 2009
To the Ordinary Meeting

Director's Report
Shire Services Department

6.5 Federal Government Jobs Fund Grant Program

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SUMMARY

This report provides details of projects proposed for selection by Council for implementation under the Australian Government Jobs Fund Grant Program announced the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, on 5 April. Advertisements calling for applications appeared in national print on the 29th April 2009.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the projects identified in Attachment 1 – Proposed Jobs Funding Projects to the approximate value of \$17,621,000.

BACKGROUND

The Jobs Fund is a \$650 million Australian Government initiative to support and create jobs and increase skills through innovative projects that build community infrastructure and increase social capital in local communities across the country.

Through the Jobs Fund the Government will invest in one-off capital projects and provide seed funding for social enterprises. In the first funding round, \$100 million is available under the Local Jobs and the Get Communities Working streams. The Jobs Fund will provide one-off grants of up to \$2million for projects from 1 July 2009. The aim of the Jobs Fund is to create jobs, build skills and produce long-term improvements in communities affected by the global economic recession.

The Jobs Fund has three streams:

- **Local Jobs** - \$300 million of funding is available over two years for community infrastructure projects with a focus on the promotion of environment-friendly technology and heritage. Of this stream:
 - \$60 million has been specifically set aside for heritage-related projects
 - \$40 million for the construction of bike paths. A joint funding contribution of 50 percent will be expected for bike paths.

Funding of heritage related projects and bike paths will not extend past 30 June 2010.

• **Get Communities Working** - \$200 million of funding is available over two years. Seed capital will be available for self-sustaining projects which create jobs and provide activities and services to improve community amenity.

• **Infrastructure Employment Projects** - \$150 million of funding is available over two years to provide for investment in infrastructure projects which generate jobs in regions affected by the economic downturn. The Government has not yet finalised the infrastructure conditions and details necessary to confirm funding for infrastructure projects at this time.

Local Jobs \$300 Million	Get Communities Working \$200 Million	Infrastructure Employment Projects \$150 Million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects of up to \$2 million • Create local green and community jobs • Heritage conservation and interpretation (\$60m)* • Bike path development (\$40m)* ** • Promote green technology and Environment-friendly projects, eg. energy audits and water efficiency. <p>* Note: \$6m will be allocated to 2008-09 for projects generated by DEWHA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects of up to \$2 million • Build social enterprises and community capacity • Innovative local action to create jobs • Temporary Financial Assistance to support not for profit organisations suffering the impact of the economic downturn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For local/state/territory Government • Build small scale infrastructure • Generate local jobs • Support longer term economic and social development of the region

The Jobs Fund projects will focus on directly generating jobs for people in communities with already high unemployment levels, rising jobless rates or which are particularly vulnerable.

The Jobs Fund will commence on 1 July 2009. Funding under the Jobs Fund will not extend past 30 June 2011. Where proponents want their projects to continue beyond this period, they will need to demonstrate an alternative source of funds.

Jobs Fund projects must address at least one of the following four target areas:

- create jobs or retain people in jobs at risk due to the downturn
- build skills for the future
- build community infrastructure or improve community amenity which generates local jobs, or
- provide seed funding for social enterprises to start up, maintain or expand services, generating jobs and improving community services.

All projects must also meet a common set of gateway criteria:

- be in areas experiencing high unemployment, a significant rise in unemployment or vulnerability
- be viable and ready to start (Eligible projects must be 'ready-to-start' within six months of signing the Funding Agreement). Where projects involve construction, construction must commence within the six month timeframe, and
- be self-sufficient and/or not require Commonwealth funding beyond 30 June 2011, as funding will not extend past 2010-11.

The closing time and date for this round of proposals is 4.30pm EST Friday 22nd May 2009.

The recommended projects are listed in Attachment 1 – Proposed Jobs Funds Projects.

ATTACHMENTS

1 Proposed Jobs Funds Projects

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