	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Disaster Relief Donations Policy</i> <i>Policy No. FINPOL 12</i></p>	Version No:	4
		Responsible Officer/s:	Director Corporate Services
		Classification:	Council
		Issued:	20 January 2014
		Next Review:	June 2025

1. Background

In April 1984, following the 1983 Ash Wednesday Bushfires, the then Bond Corporation donated two houses in Tarpeena for the purpose of providing housing on a concessional basis for victims of the Ash Wednesday bushfires. The properties have since being sold and the proceeds deposited into a council reserve fund to be used for the purposes of relief from the effects, or prevention, of bushfires or other disasters. Council has entered into a Confirmatory Declaration of Trust which remains in place until the money has been dispersed. The full Council are the administering body of the Trust.

2. Purpose

The District Council of Grant has developed a Disaster Relief Donations Policy to ensure that money distributed from the Disaster Relief Reserve will meet the conditions outlined in the Confirmatory Declaration of Trust and needs of those affected by disaster in the most timely, effective and efficient way as well as being transparent and accountable.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to all Council donations for disaster relief in respect of disasters affecting countries, regions or community groups.


4. Definitions

Natural Disasters include:

- Fire
- Flood
- Cyclones/storms/tornados
- Tsunami
- Earthquake
- Famine
- Disease Threat
- Landslide
- Drought

Disasters other than Natural Causes include:

- Civil unrest
- War/invasion
- Political, cultural, religious conflicts
- Acts of terrorism

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5. Policy

5.1. Donation recipients

- Donations will be made to aid agencies accredited by AusAID, or an equivalent accrediting agency. Donations will also be made to community groups and other Local Government Authorities.
- Donations will not be made to individuals.

5.2. Budget

- Financial contribution will be based on the severity of the disaster and at the discretion of Council and will generally range between \$5,000 and \$20,000. The actual amount is to be decided by Council on a case-by-case basis.
- In-kind donations will be additional to this amount and will require the resolution of Council and for logistical purposes is best limited, but not restricted to disasters that occur within the Limestone Coast and Western Victoria.

5.3. Preferred types of donation

- The District Council of Grant will only make financial or in-kind donations.
- The decision about whether to give an in-kind or financial donation is entirely at the discretion of Council, although the wishes of the recipients will be taken into consideration.

5.4. Criteria for donation


- Donations are to be used for the for the purposes of relief from the effects, or prevention, of bushfires or other disasters
- Council is responsible for approving all donations.
- Donations will not be made to individuals.
- Funds will not be used to replace government grants or insurance
- Funds will not be provided to compensate for personal injury arising from a disaster event.

5.5. Donation requests that don't meet these criteria

- Unless requested by an Elected Member, only applications that fall within the above criteria will be forwarded to Council.

5.6. Disaster Recovery Reserve Account

- All monies contained in the Disaster Recovery Reserve are to be deposited into a separate account with the Local Government Finance Authority;
- The balance of funds held in the Reserve will be maintained at a minimum level of \$100,000;
- All interest accruing on monies held in the account shall be reinvested into the account.
- Council may, from time to time, replenish the account by way of annual budget allocation.

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5.7. Dispute Resolution

- All decisions by Council, about the amount, type or eligibility for donations are final. There is no avenue for appeal.

6. Responsibilities

All requests for assistance under this policy that fit the eligibility criteria will be considered by Council.

7. References / Other Documents

District Council of Grant Confirmatory Declaration of Trust

8. Review

This Policy shall be reviewed by the District Council of Grant at a minimum, once within every four (4) year Council term (or on significant change to legislation or other matters which could affect this policy).

Action	Date	Minute Reference
Adopted by Council	14 February 2011	11027.4
Reviewed	20 January 2014	14007.2.2
Amended	5 September 2016	16115.3
Amended	20 August 2018	18125.1.1
Minor formatting amendments	4 May 2020	Governance Officer
Amended	18 July 2022	22195.2