

**14.4 AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS****File Number:** 56745**Author:** Tony Klein, Community Services Manager**Authoriser:** Paul Hockings, Chief Executive Officer**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Item 2.6 of Council's 2021/22 Operational Plan states, "Review delivery of shire Australia Day events". This report provides background and possible considerations for this review. The report seeks Council's approval to undertake community engagement on the matter including these possible considerations.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve officers to:

1. undertake appropriate community engagement in relation to possible options for the shire's Australia Day events, and;
2. develop an appropriate report on the matter, after engagement has been undertaken, before a final decision is made.

**REPORT**

Unlike many other local governments, Barcoo Shire Council does not have a whole of shire Australia Day celebration event. Such events can provide an opportunity for the whole community to come together and to celebrate Australia Day. Traditionally, Council has financially supported community led Australia Day events in Stonehenge, Jundah and Windorah. Initially on a \$10 per head basis then in 2019 Council resolved to fund each town's community group \$1,000 towards the event (see resolution below).

**10.2 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - AUSTRALIA DAY EVENT**

Jundah Social Sports Club is seeking financial assistance to hold an Australia Day event in Jundah on Sunday, 26 January 2020.

**RESOLUTION NO: 2019.11.013**

*That Council approve a \$1000 donation to a community group from each town in the Shire to hold their Australia Day event.*

**MOVED: Cr Fitzgerald****SECONDED: Cr Batt****CARRIED: 5/0**

In addition, Council coordinates a whole of shire Australia Day awards program, where recipients are recognised at these individual events.

Barcoo Shire covers a vast land mass with large distances between townships, which could affect attempting to coordinate a whole of shire Australia Day event.

Attendance at Australia Day events are also affected by the timing of the day most times clashing with arrangements for returning children to boarding schools. This affects Councillors, staff and public attendance.

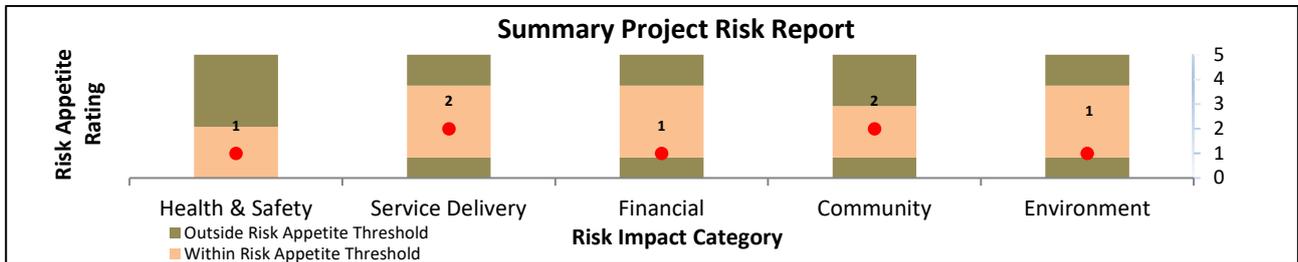
**CONSIDERATIONS / IMPLICATIONS**

Potential options to be put forward as part of the community engagement could include:

1. Maintain the status quo.
2. Council to coordinate and fund only 1 Australia Day event for the whole shire rotated annually across the 3 townships.

3. Maintain the status quo and Council to coordinate and fund 1 Australia Day event on a weekend prior to 26 January each year (to maximise attendance).
4. Others as determined through community consultation.

**Risk Rating**



**Risk**

As above

**Corporate Plan / Operational Plan Reference**

*Co3 Build community connectedness through community events, activities and use of public facilities*

**Financial**

To be determined through consultation process and recommended preferred option.

**Statutory / Policy / Delegations**

Nil

**Communication / Engagement**

*New or significant change to service delivery/facilities/area amenity*

The recommendations of this report are in accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Policy and Strategy.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil