



City of
Norwood
Payneham
& St Peters

NAME OF POLICY: Emergency Disaster Donations

POLICY MANUAL: Governance

BACKGROUND

Tragic events, such as natural disasters, throughout the world and within our own country focus our attention on other communities during those times when their need for both financial and practical assistance is of the utmost importance.

It is at times like these when the community rallies to support and contribute to ensure our neighbours can rebuild their communities as quickly as possible.

This policy has been developed to provide a set of pre-determined criteria that will be taken into account when making donations of “public” money to assist with emergency and/or disaster relief efforts.

DISCUSSION

The Council has a leadership role to play to ensure it acts as a responsible representative of its community in times of great tragedy. The Council must also exercise responsible financial management when considering how to respond to requests for assistance and to what capacity this assistance can be made, whilst meeting moral and social obligations.

This Policy provides definitions, key principles and a set of criteria to guide the Council when determining a monetary donation and/or other practical support to assist with relief efforts associated with a major emergency and/or a natural disaster.

DEFINITIONS

The *State Disaster Act 1980*, provides the following definitions that will be applied for the purposes of this policy:

Disaster:

“Any occurrence, including fire, flood, tempest, earthquake, eruption, epidemic of human, animal and plant disease, hostilities by an enemy against Australia, and accident, that:

- (a) causes, or threatens to cause, loss of life or injury to persons or animals or damage to property;*
and
- (b) is of such magnitude that extraordinary measures are required in order to protect human life or property.”*

Major Emergency:

“Any occurrence, including fire, flood, tempest, earthquake, eruption, epidemic of human, animal and plant disease, hostilities by an enemy against Australia, and accident, that:

- (a) causes, or threatens to cause, loss of life or injury to persons or animals or damage to property; and*
- (b) that whilst not constituting a disaster should, in the opinion of the State Coordinator, be dealt with under the Act because of the diverse resources required to be used in response to the emergency, the likelihood of the emergency escalating into a disaster or for any other reason.”*

KEY PRINCIPLES

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters has a leadership role within the local, State, National and global community.

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters acknowledges its humanitarian obligation to assist in the recovery of individuals and communities when affected by natural disasters and other unforeseen major emergencies.

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters is committed to ensuring all assistance provided is aligned with Local, State and National relief agencies to ensure effective and accountable distribution of aid.

Monetary support will be considered by the Council to assist with Local, State, National and International relief efforts where a “disaster/emergency” has been declared by the relevant authorities.

The Council may also consider, if deemed appropriate, an in-kind donation, (such as the temporary provision of staff to assist in immediate day to day administration, the temporary provision of construction equipment to assist in the rebuilding of affected areas, and surplus but still functional computer equipment, etc.), to a local non-profit organisation or local government body in an affected area.

Where monetary aid is considered to be the ideal means of providing assistance to relief efforts, the Council will determine a suitable amount of funds according to the criteria outlined within this policy.

GUIDELINES

The Council has acknowledged that due to the infrequency of natural disasters and major emergencies, this Policy needs to be flexible enough to ensure it encapsulates the political and social climate of the time.

The Council, at the first available Council meeting following the emergency and/or natural disaster, will, via a report to the Council, consider the nature of the assistance to be provided and how best to provide the assistance (i.e. via relevant agency or agencies).

To enable both an informed and financially responsible response to the emergency and/or disaster, the report will provide an assessment of the criteria listed in this Policy as well as a recommendation regarding the size and type of donation and/or support proposed relevant to the particular situation.

When determining a monetary donation to assist with relief efforts the amount will be based upon the criteria within this Policy, up to an amount of \$10,000.00 on a once only basis per event. Donations will not, under any circumstances, be made to any individual person(s).

Where the provision of in-kind support is deemed more effective/appropriate than a monetary donation, consultation with the relevant agencies assisting with the relief efforts will be sought.

The criteria to be considered is as follows:

- the location of the disaster (i.e. Local, State, National, International) with priority given to natural disasters or major emergencies occurring in South Australia;
- the frequency of the type of disaster (eg, one off event, annual flooding, etc);
- the scale of social and economic impact felt by the affected community;
- whether a “State of Emergency” has been declared;
- whether the organisation distributing aid is a reputable one; and
- to what extent other levels of government are involved in providing relief.

REVIEW PROCESS

The Council will review this Policy within twelve months of the next Local Government General Election to be held in 2022 The Council does however have the ability to review this Policy at any time if considered desirable.

INFORMATION

The contact officer for further information at the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters is the Council's General Manager, Governance & Community Affairs, telephone 8366 4549.

ADOPTION OF THE POLICY

This Policy was adopted by the Council on 6 June 2005.

This Policy was reviewed and amended by the Council on 2 March 2009.

This Policy was reviewed by the Council on 6 May 2019.

TO BE REVIEWED

By November 2023