



Cloncurry Shire Council

**POLICY
NO.**

CS 0017

INVESTMENT ATTRACTION INCENTIVE POLICY

1. Background and Context

Council encourages business development in the Shire and offers incentives to new development through a range of assistance. The level of possible incentives available is influenced by the degree of economic, social, and environmental benefits which the new development will bring, and the business's ongoing and independent sustainability.

Of primary importance to Council is the creation, retention and development of business and employment opportunities within the Shire. The level of assistance able to be offered will be at the absolute discretion of the Council and administered via the Cloncurry Investment Attraction Incentive Program.

2. Scope

The Cloncurry Investment Attraction Incentive Program provides a framework for the assessment of assistance and/or financial incentives applicable to either new business investment or the significant expansion of existing business in the Cloncurry Shire.

To be considered for assistance, an applicant must demonstrate that the development will provide significant net economic benefits through employment creation or retention and other community benefits.

3. Objectives

The Investment Attraction Incentive Policy is aimed at supporting an economy and business operating environment that encourages investment. This Policy establishes Cloncurry Shire Council's framework with regards to investment attraction and support for business in the region.

Through this policy, Council will deliver targeted strategies and programs to support economic growth. The policy is focused on targeted investment support, whereby the nature and scale of the proposed investment will stimulate significant economic benefits diversity and value-add to the wider regional economy beyond the growth of the business itself.

Cloncurry Shire Council's Investment Attraction Incentives are designed to attract investment in key strategic industries and designed to stimulate significant and sustainable economic growth, diversify our industry base and value-add to our regional economy.

The Incentives Package is a discretionary scheme which seeks to attract and support projects that will deliver the greatest benefits to the Cloncurry Shire. The focus of the incentives package is on projects that will:

- Value-add through enhanced supply chains,
- Generate growth within key strategic industries and locations,
- Demonstrate innovation and environmental sustainability,
- Diversify and make the local economy more sustainable,
- Encourage the establishment, growth and retention of sustainable businesses,
- Create employment opportunities,
- Increase the level of business investment,
- Support innovative businesses that demonstrate solid market potential and a sound business model, including long-term financial viability,
- Foster new partnerships and collaboration between businesses and Council,
- Facilitate and streamline the processes to establish or expand a business, and
- Attract key strategic industries to the region.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The Policy and administration of the Cloncurry Investment Attraction Incentive Program is the responsibility of the Director of Community and Economic Development.

Incentives offered under the Cloncurry Investment Attraction Incentive Program will be decided by resolution of Council.

5. Investment Attraction

For the purpose of this policy, investment attraction, or incentives to invest, involves proactive and strategic targeting of investment support. It involves initiatives to support an environment that encourages investment and/ or incentives that specifically encourage or achieve a required activity.

Council's support for new investment in the region may be provided in a number of ways, both non-financial and financial. These incentives are available for strategically important projects within industries and locations which will diversify the economy, support jobs growth and investment growth and provide a net community benefit.

6. Eligibility Criteria

To be considered eligible for assistance, as either a non-financial and/or financial support, an applicant must demonstrate that the development will provide either economic, financial, social or environmental benefits to the region.

Applicants who do not meet the requirements or do not provide the relevant documentation will not be considered.

Retrospective assistance for developments that have already commenced is not available.

7. Who is eligible to apply?

Businesses or investors who are located or intend to locate within the Council area.

An eligible business is defined as an organisation that:

- a) sell goods by retail or wholesale,
- b) sell services, or
- c) hire goods.

8. Who is not eligible to apply?

- Religious or political organisations.
- Government departments or agencies.
- National retail and hospitality chain outlets and bank branches. (Independently owned franchise businesses may apply).
- Businesses without an ABN.
- Those who are not located in the Council area, or not considering relocation if successful in obtaining Council assistance.
- Businesses who vacate commercial premises within the Council area to set up in different premises unless significant expansion can be demonstrated.
- Gambling operations and producers and retailers of tobacco products.

Only Australian permanent residents or citizens are eligible to be classified as employees for the purpose of this assistance.

9. Types of assistance available

The range of assistance that may be provided by Council may include:

- Rating concessions.
- Fast-tracked development applications.
- Reduced or deferred infrastructure charges.
- One off financial assistance.
- One off in-kind support or works assistance.
- A key point of contact to help facilitate:
 - Statutory Planning including rezoning and subdivision.
 - Council infrastructure requirements.
 - Public Health.
 - Natural Resources Management.

- Compliance/ Local Laws.
 - Waste and Wastewater Management.
 - Meetings with Councillors and Council employees.
 - Meetings with State and Federal MPs.
 - Meetings with key State and Federal Government Departments.
 - Contacts with key utility providers.
 - Contacts with Property and Employment Agencies.
 - Contacts with Business Networks.
 - Provision of relevant documentation and reports including regional and site-specific maps, plans and strategies.
- Assistance with funding applications excluding Council-provided grants.
 - Other support as approved by Council resolution.

10. Application Process

Applications are ongoing and can be submitted at any time. It is highly advisable to schedule a meeting with Council prior to applying.

11. Assessment Process

Each application will be assessed against the objectives outlined in this policy. Conforming applications will be assessed on a competitive and merit basis. All applications will be referred to the Director of Community and Economic Development for assessment and recommendation to Council. All application outcomes are determined by Council resolution.

Any business considered eligible for the receipt of financial or non-financial assistance under the program is required to enter into a funding agreement with Council which commits the business to agreed targets relating to the benefits to be derived. Prior to incentive payments being provided, the recipient is required to provide evidence that the targets have been met.

Canvassing or lobbying Councillors or employees of the Council in relation to any assistance application is prohibited during the application process. No further consideration will be given to these applications.

All decisions are final. There will be no review or appeal process. However, unsuccessful applicants are eligible to re-apply. On average, applicants will be notified of the assessment outcome six weeks from the lodging of the application.

References and Related Documents:

Investment Attraction Incentive Program Application Form

Adopted by Council Resolution

POLICY VERSION AND REVISION INFORMATION

Version No.	Date Adopted	Review Date
1	15 November 2022	November 2024

Policy Authorised by: Philip Keirle



Title: Chief Executive Officer