

12 July 2019



The Hon. Andrew Gee, MP
Member for Calare
PO Box 54
BATHURST NSW 2795

Email: andrew.gee.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Andrew

Drought Communities Funding- Request for extension due to continuing delay in approval from Federal Department.

I refer to my recent correspondence of 8 July 2019 to your office concerning the delay in approval forthcoming from the relevant Federal Department for our Drought Funding application concerning projects detailed below in Lithgow Council's Resolution 19-122 (attached).

Ms Rosie Pritchard of your office has been extremely helpful in following up on our application with the Minister's office and her advice of 12 July 2019 to Lithgow Council via email refers.

We write to seek your assistance in gaining support for an extension of time past the 31 December 2019 deadline for works completion which is now only 22 weeks away, given the continuing delay in the approval process delaying our commencement on any of the projects submitted.

Upon receipt of approval, Council will need to expedite works where it can, subject to the legislative imposts regarding quotations for work, Expressions of Interest and where applicable tendering processes, which have the potential to make the deadline of 31 December 2019 for works completion impossible to meet, particularly as we are still waiting for approval as at the date of this letter.

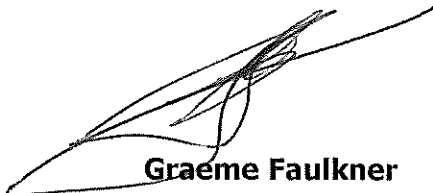
Lithgow Council is most grateful for the effort undertaken by yourself in achieving the Drought Communities Grant for the Lithgow community, and we understand that the majority of recipients of the grant funds other than Bathurst and Lithgow Councils have had in excess of 18 months to complete their approved projects and adhere to the December 31 deadline set. We also understand that Bathurst Council is proceeding with its projects having received the required approval last financial year.

Lithgow Council's application was lodged on 5 June 2019, and it is now nearing the end of July 2019, which means our application will have been under assessment for almost two months by 31 July 2019.

We would be most appreciative if you would make representations on behalf of Lithgow Council to the relevant Minister for an extension of time past the stipulated deadline of 31 December 2019 for works completion, given no approval has as yet been given for the application submitted, leaving us with only 22 weeks to years end.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Graeme Faulkner
GENERAL MANAGER

Attach.

19-122 RESOLVED

THAT the Administration prepare and submit application(s) to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science for funding under the Drought Communities Programme for the following projects:

MOVED: Councillor J Smith

SECONDED: Councillor S Ring

CARRIED:

| | | Estimate |
|----|--|-------------|
| 1 | Community hall and facility upgrades including accessibility ramps, car parks, toilets and handrails, pathways etc. | \$375,000 |
| 2 | Playground improvements | \$35,000 |
| 3 | Youth programmes in general aimed at skill building and resilience | \$25,000 |
| 4 | Mental Health & Well Being Community Plan | \$50,000 |
| 5 | Education days to upskill primary producers, particularly in ways to best handle drought conditions. Education aimed at regenerative agriculture and land use, which may lead to positive changes in farming practices | \$40,000 |
| 6 | Local trials to compare and test the benefits/problems/viability/economic benefits of compost use on pastures. | \$25,000 |
| 7 | Rydal Toilets | \$120,000 |
| 8 | Tourism sign posting | \$50,000 |
| 9 | Portland Golf Club water harvesting from the clubhouse roof for storage and reticulation. | \$30,000 |
| 10 | Improve water access for firefighting in Capertee at fire brigade sheds | \$25,000 |
| 11 | Sporting facilities water conserving irrigation systems | \$130,000 |
| 12 | Eradication of noxious weeds | \$45,000 |
| 13 | Weed control – African Love Grass | \$50,000 |
| | Total | \$1,000,000 |