

5. Bermagui Surf Life Saving Club Inc.

The Bermagui Surf Life Saving Club Inc. has requested a refund on headwork charges it has paid for its new club house facilities.

General Manager

BACKGROUND

The Bermagui Surf Life Saving Club Inc. has written to Council formally requesting that \$8,384.00 for water headworks and \$6368.65 for sewer headworks, that they have already paid, be reviewed and that consideration be given to waiving them.

ISSUES

10 Policy

Under Council's Development Control Policy (4.1.1), Procedure (4.1.1(r) 'Developments by registered charities and other community groups' deals specifically with requests to the refunding or non-payment of Section 94 Contributions and Headwork Charges.

Section 94 Contributions and Headwork Charges

Any application for refund or non-payment of Section 94 and/or Headwork contributions must be reported to Council for consideration of the appropriate level of assistance.

Social / Cultural

20 The provision of lifesaving services in the Bermagui area provides an important community benefit, especially during the beach focussed summer months when visitor numbers swell the local population. Year round community activity and social interaction are also afforded by such a facility.

Financial

30 The payment of water and sewer headwork charges contributes to the provision and expansion of these critical infrastructure systems. It is considered not prudent to diminish these revenues by waiver or refund. If the Council resolves to support a request to provide direct financial assistance, funds should be allocated from other revenues to pay the amount on behalf of the applicant. Given the applicant has already paid the charges this would involve the refunding of fees already paid (\$14,752.65).

There is no current budget allocation of sufficient size to meet the total cost of providing a 100% offset of headwork costs to the Bermagui Surf Life Saving Club Inc.

CONCLUSION

Council recently considered a similar request from Pambula Swimming Pool Committee. The options explored included a donation from general funds, deferred payment over a number of years, or interest free loan. The latter options both required the accounting recognition of interest foregone as a donation.

RECOMMENDATION

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That

1. Council resolve on the level of assistance that is to be provided in response to the request by the Bermagui Surf Life Saving Club Inc to reimburse \$14,752.65 in water and sewer headwork charges the Club has paid.
2. The Bermagui Surf Life Saving Club Inc be advised of the Council's decision.