

**Keywords:** *Business, support, assistance, new business, help*

<b>Strategic Plan:</b>	<i>Goal 2 Diverse Economy</i>
<b>Classification:</b>	<i>Executive Services – Governance - Business Support Policy</i>
<b>First Issued/Approved:</b>	<i>Adopted C/M 24 January 2012</i>
<b>Review Frequency:</b>	<i><u>Good Governance Practice:</u> Annually</i>
<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	<i>January 2018</i>
<b>Next Review Due:</b>	<i>January 2019</i>
<b>Responsible Officer(s):</b>	<i>CEO</i>
<b>Council File Reference:</b>	<i>Policies 4.63.1; Delegations 12.9.1;</i>
<b>Applicable Legislation:</b>	<i>Local Government Act 1999</i>
<b>Relevant Policies:</b>	<i>Rate Rebate Policy</i>
<b>Related Procedures:</b>	<i>N/A - Public consultation <b>not</b> required prior to adoption.</i>
<b>Delegations:</b>	<i>CEO</i>

### Purpose

Council is called upon by businesses and potential businesses for support for their business venture/s. The Council has limited resources to support businesses in its area but is actively involved in strategies to expand and diversify the economic base of its area and the region.

In addition, there are a number of vacant allotments in the townships of Berri and Barmera of which Council wish to encourage development.

### Principles

#### Business Support

- 1) Council will support potential new business development, which has the following characteristics:
  - (a) The business development is new to the area or represents significant expansion of an existing business.
  - (b) The business development will employ greater than 2 people,
  - (c) It is not a transfer of ownership from an existing business, or a transfer of location within the area.
- 2) Council can support businesses in the following ways:
  - (a) Short term rate rebates up to 50% over 2 years,

- (b) Reduction of planning and/or building fees pursuant to Section 39(4)(c) of the Development Act 1993 whereby:

(4) *A relevant authority may –*

*(c) to the extent that the fee is payable to that relevant authority waive payment of whole or part of the application fee, or refund an application fee (in whole or in part);*

In such instances where part fees are considered appropriate, a 50% reduction of planning and/or building fees will apply. Prior to the authorisation of such reduction of fees the following matters will firstly be applied:

- all costs to Council relating to the assessment of the development application will be recovered;
- all other contributions made by Council to the applicant in relation to the development are added back to the proposed waived fee amount ensuring that an equitable application of this policy is applied across all development applications brought before Council under this policy.

- (c) Lobbying and making representations to other levels of government with or on behalf of the business owners.

### **Residential Development Support**

- 1) Council will support potential new residential development when a residential dwelling is proposed to be built on residential land vacant for a period of 2 years land within the townships of Berri and Barmera.
- 2) Council can support new residential development in the following ways:
  - (a) Place a freeze on Council rates to that of the minimum for 2 years;
  - (b) Reduction of planning and/or building fees

### **Decision Making**

Where the total amount applied for is less than \$1,000 then the Chief Executive Office, in consultation with the Mayor, will have delegated authority pursuant to Section 44 of the Local Government Act 1999. All other requests will be considered on a case by case basis by the full Council.

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