

STAFF REPORT

TO: Grants and Community Facilities Rate Subcommittee

FROM: David Ward

DATE: 1 August 2005

SUBJECT: Funding Criteria

At their June 2005 meeting, the Community Services Committee resolved to request that this Subcommittee includes a requirement for a feasibility study (including the implications of any project), to be included in the Community Facilities Rate Funding Criteria.

Subsequent to that request, we have received from the Minister of Local Government, the attached letter identifying a fund available for Significant Community-based Projects.

It is normal practice for the criteria for community facilities rate projects to be reviewed in December of each calendar year. In light of the Community Services Committee request and the attached letter, it may be prudent to review the criteria now and to report our findings back to Council, in order that they may be incorporated in our LTCCP project prioritising process.

I have attached a copy of the current criteria, as included in Council's 2005/2006 Annual Plan.

The other issue that the Subcommittee has been requested to address is the issue of "district or regional projects". Staff can advise that from the inception of the Community Facilities Rate concept in the 2003/2004 financial year, the following wording has consistently been used:

"The Community Facilities Rate is levied to meet part of the costs of capital funding for new, large, community, recreational, sporting or cultural, district or regional projects which have met defined criteria and which will provide benefit to the citizens of Tasman District".

In the 2004/2005 financial year, Council introduced a separate rate of \$8.40 for the purpose of meeting part of the costs of capital funding for the Regional Museum. This rate is levied under the banner of "Regional Facilities Rate".

We acknowledge that not all community facilities rate-funded projects are constructed within Tasman District. We can refer to the development of Saxton Field and the funding of those associated facilities from our community facilities rate.

In undertaking a review of the Community Facilities Rate criteria, we need to reaffirm the inclusion of the wording “district or regional projects” – possibly through making reference to the Regional Facilities Funding Forum.

David Ward
Corporate Services Manager