

# Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation Board Manual

## Charities Policy

Adopted 20 September 2018

## **VISION**

The ISJO's vision for the Illawarra Shoalhaven is:

**A confident, vibrant, safe and productive region that optimises the potential of its people and environment now and into the future.**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The ISJO will:

**Lead, advocate, collaborate and deliver outcomes that serve the interests of the region's diverse communities.**

## **OPERATING PRINCIPLES**

The ISJO will be:

- **Cohesive:** speaking with one voice on regional issues and valuing equal representation
- **Respectful:** of local autonomy on local issues
- **Collaborative:** by working across member councils, communities, governments, and with a wide range of partners in the spirit of friendship and trust
- **Aligned:** with consistency between member councils and NSW Government on regional strategies and policies
- **Efficient:** by avoiding duplication and using resources within and available to member Councils wherever possible
- **Evidenced based:** when introducing or transitioning programs and shared services
- **Transparent:** in its operations between member councils and other partners

## **BACKGROUND**

ISJO has considered the need for a formal policy in relation to requests to the organisation from charitable organisations for support, whether direct financial support, in-kind assistance, or endorsement to other organisations, by ISJO itself or its member Councils.

## **CONTEXT**

The relevant functions, strategic priorities and high level actions of the organisation are set out in the ISJO Statement of Strategic Priorities 2017 -20 (updated 20 September 2018). One of the three core functions of ISJO is regional leadership, acting as the preeminent regional voice for councils and communities. ISJO acts under a Charter adopted 20 September 2018 which allows for the adoption of specific policies; and the conduct of meetings is governed by a Code of Meeting Practice.

## **DISCUSSION**

From time to time, the organisation receives referrals from member Councils or direct requests from charitable or not-for-profit organisations that wish to:

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- Demonstrate the scope, scale or trends identified by their work in the region.
- Promote better working relationships with member Councils or one of ISJO's own programs where their interests coincide.
- Assist or inform member Councils or ISJO about issues which may be relevant to local government's own operations.

These requests fall within the functions and strategic priorities of the organisation noted above, and can be considered on merit by the Executive Officer and Chairperson in development of the Meeting Agendas. On occasion, the request can be referred to the appropriate ISJO Committee or Network, or referred to appropriate member Councils direct, where it is not of widespread relevance.

Other requests can encompass:

- Proposals to make presentations of little relevance or interest to local government delegates, such as for causes that do not impact on our own communities or have contentious or spurious intent.
- Proposals for cash or in-kind donations from local government, that have no direct relevance to local government activities or are subject to the discretion of member Councils' individual resourcing capacity.
- Endorsement by ISJO of a charitable function or activity where it is considered the combined support of member Councils in ISJO will add weight to promotion of a cause at the regional, state or national levels.

In these circumstances, where there is no reflection of the intent of ISJO functions, strategic priorities, or high level actions, the requests should be legitimately denied, even if it has been accommodated by a member Council in accordance with their own policies.

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