



Report 07.691
Date 18 September 2007
File WRS/09/01/01

Committee Wellington Regional Strategy
Author David Benham, Chief Executive

Community Facilities and Events Interpretation

1. Purpose

To clarify the meaning of the terms “community facilities” and “events” as they apply to Regional EDA Ltd (REDA) funding support, for inclusion in REDA’s Statement of Intent.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

The attached report (*Attachment 1*) was considered at the Committee’s meeting on 3 September 2007. The Committee received the report and noted its content. It agreed to defer further consideration of the matter until its next meeting to enable the Chief Executives’ Group to undertake further work.

4. Comment

Since the 3 September meeting, further consideration has been given to defining the meaning of the terms “community facilities” and “events”. The following definitions are now suggested:

“Community facilities” are activities that provide services, entertainment or education to the public generally. Examples include Te Papa, the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, libraries, galleries (e.g. The New Dowse) and the proposed Marine Education Centre.

“Events” are activities that are operated for the purposes of entertainment, sport, tourist attraction or cultural/community celebration and are open to the public generally. Examples include festivals, concerts, sporting competitions, movie premières.

The mediated agreement requires REDA to **not** provide operational or capital expenditure for community facilities or events.

However, it may be appropriate for REDA to facilitate (including providing financial or other support for) activities that are integral to its role of achieving sustainable long-term economic growth in the region defined by the Statement of Intent, including activities that meet the following criteria:

- create or facilitate the success of the region's Centres of Excellence programme
- assist to attract and retain high value individuals in the region
- facilitate access to international markets for businesses in the region
- boost the innovative and competitive image of the region internationally
- assist to attract investment into the region
- provide an opportunity to grow the skills base in the region.

It is suggested that, before REDA agrees to facilitate and/or sponsor conferences, seminars or symposia, it must ensure that such activities meet at least two of the above criteria. In addition, REDA must ensure an appropriate cost/benefit/risk assessment process is completed prior to funding any such activity.

5. REDA Statement of Intent

Inclusion of the above definitions in REDA's Statement of Intent will assist the REDA Board to make investment decisions. In addition, the Funding Deed between Greater Wellington and REDA could include a provision to reinforce the limitation of the funding of the activities specified above. The Funding Deed is currently being developed and will be considered by the Committee in December. It is suggested this would be an appropriate approach to provide assurance to the Committee that the mediated agreement will be given effect to by REDA.

6. Communication

The interpretation of the mediated agreement provisions will be communicated to the REDA Board, in line with the Committee's decision.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

3. **Recommends** to the Board of REDA that it adopts in its Statement of Intent the operational definitions of “community facilities” and “events” contained in section 4 of this report.
4. **Instructs** EDA not to provide operational or capital expenditure for community facilities or events as defined in section 4 of this report.
5. **Agrees** that EDA may facilitate (including providing financial or other support for) activities that are integral to its role of achieving sustainable long-term economic growth in the region defined by the Statement of Intent, including activities that meet the following criteria:
 - Create or facilitate the success of the region’s Centres of Excellence programme
 - Assist to attract and retain high value individuals in the region
 - Facilitate access to international markets for businesses in the region
 - Boost the innovative and competitive image of the region internationally
 - Assist to attract investment into the region
 - Provide an opportunity to grow the skills base in the region.
6. **Requires** that before REDA agrees to facilitate and/or sponsor conferences, seminars or symposia, it ensures that such activities meet at least two of the criteria set out in recommendation 5. In addition, REDA must ensure an appropriate cost/benefit/risk assessment process is completed prior to funding any such activity.
7. **Instructs** officers to include provisions in the draft Funding Deed, to be considered by the Committee in December, that require the Board to give effect to recommendations 3,4, 5 and 6 of this report.

Report prepared by:

David Benham
Chief Executive

Attachment 1: