



Business & Community Development Policy

1. Intent of Policy

Oberon Council recognises that sustainable communities are crucial to the future strength and prosperity of the District. Oberon Council's role in Economic Development is to contribute to a viable cultural and economic base that supports, participates, and facilitates business partnerships, leading to a prosperous and vibrant community lifestyle.

2. Scope of Policy

Oberon Council supports the development of more collaborative approaches, participates in local and regional networks and is committed to partnering with other agencies to facilitate, encourage and maximise sustainable development within the Oberon Council District. In order to encourage diverse and innovative business initiatives in the district, Council may offer incentives and support through the Business Development Policy.

The policy aims to provide appropriate incentives and support to:

- An existing business located within the District, to expand its operations.
- An existing business located either in town or outside the district to relocate or establish within the Oberon Industrial Park.
- A new business to establish within the town.

In the expectation that the business will directly or, in some agreed circumstances, indirectly provide increased employment opportunities for residents of Oberon and surrounding districts.

3. Guidelines

Council in partnership with other community economic development agencies provides information to industry about developing/relocating to the Council area and/or region including facilitation with existing local businesses and identification of possible business locations. Various State and Federal Government assistance programs may also be available to some businesses to encourage expansion and relocation. Information on these programs is also available through Council and from the various locally based community economic development agencies.

3. (Continued)

In addition to this support Council may, on application, consider the following measures as potential incentives for business development.

- Assistance in preparing applications for State & Federal Government support.
- Hosting visits by key personnel/stakeholders.
- Meeting the cost of relocation expenses for key personnel
- Waiving or reducing the Council component of Development Application Fees.
- Provide land or buildings at a reduced rental or at cost or under a lease/purchase or delayed settlement agreement.
- Providing direct financial incentives, linked to the cost of establishment or relocation
- Council Rate holidays
- The provision of infrastructure (that would otherwise be met by the industry/commerce)
- The provision of Council plant for works in kind
- The provision of assistance to engage consultants or business planning advice

These measures can be considered by Council singularly or in conjunction on a case by case basis dependent on the merit of each case.

4. **Determination of Merit**

- The viability of the business, as presented in a business plan
- Type of development and potential for the development to encourage expansion of existing businesses and infrastructure or in-migration of other businesses.
- Number of employees, direct or indirectly that the business will develop/provide
- Benefit to the community including an identified need for businesses or services in the Oberon Economic Development Strategy, or related strategic planning activities.

5. **Applications for Assistance**

Applications for assistance must be made in accordance with the business development procedure.

6. Associated Policies & Documents

Land Development Policy

Oberon Economic Development Plan

7. Policy Details

File Reference No:

Adopted:

Minute No:

Amended:

Minute No:

Review Date:

Responsible Officer:

Approving Authority	Oberon Council
Contact	
Approval	
Revision Date	
Issue Date to Staff	