



POLICY NO:-

CP1-023 – COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND POLICY

GOVERNANCE INFORMATION

Procedure Link:	N/A	Administrative Policy Link:	
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ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

History	1	CP1-0xx	OCM	10/03/26	Res: 9741	Synopsis:	New Policy
Version:	2						

1. RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE

Chief Executive Officer

2. PURPOSE OR OBJECTIVE

This Policy is to guide and support the achievement of benefit-sharing contributions from the development and/or operation of large renewable energy, mining, resource, and major projects within the Shire of Collie Local Government Area.

The purpose is to:

- Secure a net community benefit from renewable energy, mining, resource, and major projects;
- Ensure that the wider Collie community, including future generations, shares in the benefits resulting from major development in or impacting the Shire;
- Align community benefit contributions with the Shire’s published strategic planning documents, including the Strategic Community Plan and the Long-term Financial Plan (LTFP); and
- Deliver a transparent, coordinated, and strategic approach to the administration of community benefit contributions that incorporates whole-of-community consultation and structured review cycles.

3. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all large-scale renewable energy projects, mining, resource and major industrial projects within the Shire.

It is intended to guide Shire staff, Council, developers, and operators throughout the project planning, approval, and operational phases. The Policy sets out clear expectations and requirements for establishing Community Benefit Fund arrangements with the Shire.

Compliance with this Policy will be incorporated into all of the Shire's merit-based assessment processes that consider the Social Licence, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) frameworks, and Council’s or community support for projects covered by this policy.

4. DEFINITIONS

Collie Community Benefits Fund (CCBF) is the fund to which the entity contributes financially, for the benefit of the Collie community and is used to support community projects, services, and infrastructure in accordance with this Policy. The CCBF may also be referred to as a Community Benefit Fund (CBF) in other documents.

Entity means the developer, operator, or owner of a large renewable energy project (wind, solar, and/or battery), mine, resource or major project in the Shire of Collie. This includes any company or entity seeking development approval or that is operating such projects.

Shire is the Local Government of the Shire of Collie.

Social Licence refers to the ongoing acceptance and approval of an organisation's activities or project by its stakeholders, the general public and local community in which they operate. Unlike legal or regulatory licences, social licence is intangible and must be continually earned through responsible practices and engagement.

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) means the formal approach a business uses to measure and report on its impacts on society and the environment.

5. POLICY

5.1 Statement

The Shire requires all large-scale renewable energy projects to contribute to the Collie Community Benefit Fund (CCBF) to ensure that the local community receives direct benefits from these developments. The Shire encourages all mining, resource, and major projects to voluntarily engage and contribute to the fund.

This Policy sets a consistent approach for negotiating, calculating, managing, and disbursing CCEF contributions

5.2 Management of Collie Community Benefit Fund

Contributions to the CCBF will be managed and administered by the Shire. Entities will make annual or six-monthly payments to the Shire, which will be held in a dedicated restricted cash reserve account established for the CCBF. The Shire will manage and disburse these funds in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*, relevant financial management regulations, audit requirements, and the legal instrument between the Shire and the Entity (that is, the voluntary planning agreement, deed of agreement, memorandum of understanding, or social investment agreement).

5.3 Local Needs, Governance and Disbursement

The Shire position is that it is best positioned to understand local needs, coordinate projects, exercise sound governance, and maximise investment returns for community betterment.

All CCBF monies received will be accounted for in the Shire's annual budget as restricted funds, with unspent funds carried forward in the reserve. Recognition protocols will be established to acknowledge entities' contributions in Shire publications and at project openings, ensuring credit is given for community investment and supporting proponents' ESG and social licence objectives.

The Shire of Collie Council will determine expenditure, initiatives, and projects as part of its annual budget process and in accordance with executed agreements.

5.4 Contribution Formula and Contribution Agreements

The contribution calculation method is to be developed in line with best practice for the relevant industry/sector and negotiated in good faith. Once agreed, the contribution arrangements and amount(s) are to be formalised via a legal instrument (such as a voluntary planning agreement, deed of agreement, memorandum of understanding or social investment agreement). During this process, significant consideration is given to the term (length), with the Shire's default position being that it should cover the project's life or reasonable operating horizon.

Contribution agreements (or legal instruments) should incorporate an alternating two-year (minor/major) review cycle to support ongoing alignment with the Shire's strategic documents and the Entity's corporate frameworks or objectives.

An overarching principle of contribution agreements is to fund and deliver long-term, sustainable, and high-value initiatives and or services that create lasting outcomes for the community. CCBF funded initiatives should also, where possible, complement the broader development plans of the Shire.

The Shire will support allocating up to 20 per cent of the total calculated contribution separately, outside of this policy (for example, via a trust, foundation, or third-party grant program), provided the Entity can demonstrate that this allocation is necessary to deliver and achieve broader social, First Nations, or environmental objectives outlined in their published corporate documents.

5.5 Acquittal and Reporting

Acquittal and general reporting will be completed in accordance with legislative requirements and the individual contribution agreements. The Shire will also include a summary in its statutory Annual Report, which is published and presented to the community at the Annual General Meeting of Electors each year.

6. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

WA Renewable Energy Planning Code and Guidelines (December 2025)

WALGA Renewable Energy Community Benefits and Engagement Guide (July 2025)

WALGA Renewable Energy in Western Australia Research Paper (October 2024)