

Racing activities bring considerable social and economic benefits to a region, and RQ encourages all clubs to foster and cultivate relationships with their Local Government Authorities (LGAs).

Race clubs are a focal point of the community, they encourage tourism, social interaction and create a significant economic contribution to the local economy thus supporting businesses and jobs. This closely aligns with the values and objectives of the local Council.

Where possible clubs should leverage these outcomes and seek to establish and cultivate a cooperative and symbiotic relationship with their Council. The benefits of such a close association include:

Sponsorship

Local Councils are organisations with a large workforce and wide-reaching community connections.

Race club facilities are well positioned to cater to such large groups and as such many councils use race meetings for hosting social functions and provide sponsorship for meetings in order to connect with the local population and support large scale community events.

All clubs are encouraged to approach your LGA for sponsorship.

Council Grants

Councils regularly implement their own public grant schemes to support local individuals, groups and community initiatives.

These tend to be minor grants of less than \$5,000, however the application process is generally very simple to initiate.

Clubs should contact their LGA and monitor Council websites to keep up to date with the grants available in their region.

External Grant and Tourism Support

LGAs regularly provide support, funding or equipment to assist initiatives that drive local tourism.

Many Councils hold regular workshops to assist clubs and community organisations in writing external grant applications.

Council resources may also include staff or consultants who can assist with writing grants as well as providing costings or preliminary development approvals to support applications.

Regional Development Funding

In order to foster focused regional development, the State Government has funding and grant programs and opportunities that are exclusive to LGAs.

For example the Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation manages the [Building Our Regions Fund](#) through which eligible LGAs can apply for significant development funding (\$250,000 to \$7M) for regional infrastructure projects that create flow-on economic development opportunities and jobs. Note: In most cases it is expected that the LGA will own the land on which the funded infrastructure is to be constructed.

Several clubs have benefited from these grants after petitioning their Council to apply for funding to upgrade the racecourse facilities.

Development Support and Approvals

Funding aside, LGAs are responsible for the assessment and approval of building and development projects.

Accordingly, a conducive relationship with the Council, in which the LGA appreciates the social and economic benefits of racing will greatly assist in a resolution process, should any development issues arise.

Operational Support

Many clubs who have formed close associations with Councils currently benefit from these relationships by way of operation support and assistance.

Such benefits include:

- Clubs having their facilities mowed and maintained by the Council;
- Access to Council equipment and machinery free of charge or at discounted rates; and
- Access to effluent water to maintain racing surfaces.