

## APPLICATION PROCESS:

Prior to applying for assistance, the applicant should discuss the scheme with the Economic Development Officer.

A business plan must then be submitted addressing the application criteria, indicating the type and amount of assistance required, along with any supporting information.

The Business Plan should include such details as:

- Name and location of the business
- Company principals
- Nature of business
- Date of establishment/expansion
- Proposed employment outcomes
- Potential investment
- Assistance sought

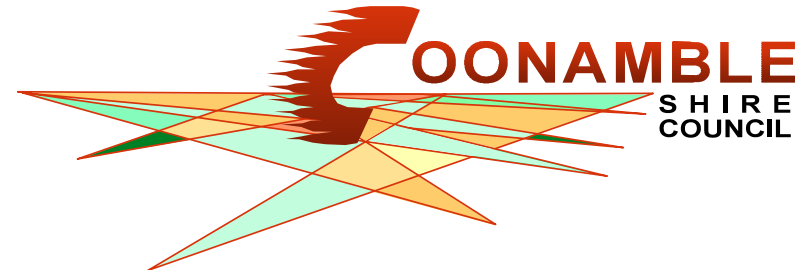
The Economic Development Office will carry out an assessment of the application and a written recommendation will be forwarded to the General Manager for consideration.

Applications for substantial industry assistance may be referred to a full Council meeting for consideration.

Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application.

### CONTACT:

**Economic Development Officer  
Coonamble Shire Council  
80 Castlereagh Street  
PO Box 249  
COONAMBLE NSW 2829  
Tel: (02) 6827 1917  
Fax: (02) 6822 1626  
Email: [edo@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:edo@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au)**



## BUSINESS ASSISTANCE FUND

JULY 2005

### PURPOSE OF SCHEME:

To achieve a sustainable, diverse and growing economy through:

1. support for local businesses that will enable them to enhance their profitability, competitiveness and employment opportunities
2. the attraction of new business to the region

**DEFINITION OF BUSINESS:** A proposed permanent commercial and/or industrial and/or value-adding business located in the Shire. (excluding traditional agricultural production enterprises).

## ASSISTANCE MEASURES:

The following benefits comprise an inventory of what could be available, but is not limited to:

1. **Land** – provision of cheap and discounted Council-owned land for business purposes; purchase terms of 20% deposit and interest-free repayments over 5 years; secured by first mortgage.
2. Partial or total **rates relief** for a period up to 3 years. – General rate component only. Year 1 100%, Year 2 50%, Year 3 25%. Rate concessions will only be considered for commercial and industrial rated properties.
3. Assistance in the co-ordination and/or **provision of on-site utilities** such as water, sewerage, power, telecommunications.
4. Assistance with **site establishment** – Council will construct site works to any value as agreed; for works up to \$50,000 an initial payment of 20% deposit is required; for works costing over \$50,000 an initial payment is required of either 20% or the amount in excess of \$50,000, whichever is greater; the balance may be paid off with interest-free repayments over 5 years; security to be as agreed.  
Council will make an in-kind contribution towards the site works costs of an existing business undertaking major capital expansion in accordance with the following table:

VALUE OF DEVELOPMENT \$	CONTRIBUTION VALUE \$
\$25,000 to \$100,000	\$2,500
100,000 TO 175,000	5,000
175,000 TO 250,000	10,000
>250,000	20,000

Payment will be made by deduction from the agreed cost of siteworks.

5. Assistance with **pre-approval processes**.
6. Waiver of development application or construction certificate **fees**.
7. Interest free **loans** to purchase land for business purposes.

8. **Rental assistance** whilst new business premises being built.
9. **Subsidised rates to commercial landlords** for discount rents to new business – subject to rental arrangement by legal leasing agreement and at agreed market value.
10. **Relocation assistance** eg. Moving equipment.
11. **Cash grants** of \$2000 – New businesses eligible after first year of operation. Minimum of two full-time employees. Employees must reside permanently in Coonamble Shire. Must be compliant with all Council regulations and be operating legally. Existing businesses must have operated in the Shire for a minimum of three years and employ an additional 2 full-time equivalent people. Replacement staff will not be eligible.
12. **Employee grant** of \$400 per full time employee. – per employee engaged within first 3 years; does not include family members; only permanent full-time or pro rata part-time.
13. Assistance with any other cost that can be reasonably attributed with a decision to locate in the Coonamble Shire.
  - Applications for assistance will be considered on a case by case basis.
  - Any assistance offered shall be in accordance with the National Competition Policy.
  - Coonamble Shire Council may require verification of any claims made in applications.
  - Recipients are required to submit a report to Council 9 months from the date of assistance detailing progress of the business.
  - Each case to be dealt with in accordance with Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) whereby Council must advertise its intentions to provide assistance to private sector parties.
  - Council's decisions are discretionary, both regarding the choice of successful applicants and the amount of assistance.

All decisions will be final and Council will not enter into negotiations regarding any application.

## **ASSISTANCE CRITERIA:**

Businesses must be able to demonstrate the extent to which they:

1. have **employment generation** potential for the Shire
2. have the potential to improve the **skills base** of Shire residents
3. have the potential to encourage **expansion** of existing business and infrastructure or **in-migration** of other business
4. add value to the local **community**
5. **compete** with existing business across the Shire in general, and in a specific location
6. represent **diversification** of the local business base
7. **require assistance** for implementation
8. **are viable** in the short, medium and long term
9. have a beneficial impact on the **environment**
10. provide **benefits to the Shire** (Economic Impact Statement)
11. generate, or conserve, **export market** potential
12. assist the development of **priority areas** within the shire.