

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X115821 **DATE:** 9 May 2025

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Jean-Michel Carriere, Executive Director Finance and Procurement

THROUGH: Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 6.4 – Public Exhibition – Integrated Planning and Reporting Program and Budget 2025/26

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Purpose

To provide further information to Councillors on Item 6.4 - Public Exhibition - Integrated Planning and Reporting Program and Budget 2025/26 and to propose a minor amendment to the listing of Grants programs and proposed budgets in the draft 2025/26 Operational Plan prior to exhibition, to align with the draft Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines also proposed for public exhibition.

Background

At the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on 5 May 2025, further information was sought on a number of matters, as detailed below.

Additionally, a minor amendment is recommended to the listing of Grants programs and proposed budgets in the draft 2025/26 Operational Plan prior to exhibition, to align the budgets with a redefined grant category.

Community fee waivers

Between 1 July 2022 and 5 May 2025, a total of 396 requests have been approved for a fee waiver for community venue hire for local community groups. This includes 25,239 hours of use to the value of \$724,027.

For 2024/25 to date, a total of 152 requests have been approved. This includes 11,287 hours of use to the value of \$304,454.

This information is currently provided to Council annually as a Supplementary Report to the Operational Plan and will next be reported to Council in the Fourth Quarter 2024/25 supplementary reports.

Local community group definition

The City of Sydney's [website](#) currently states:

Eligible for fee waiver

To be eligible for this fee waiver any group of people must:

- be located in or provide services predominantly to residents in the [City of Sydney area](#)
- have a membership base and purpose within the City of Sydney area.

Not eligible for fee waiver

This fee waiver is not available to:

- individuals/sole traders
- for-profit organisations
- government agencies, political parties, and community groups that don't reflect the inclusion and equity principles in the City of Sydney's [community strategic plan](#) and our other plans including the [reconciliation action plan](#) and [inclusion \(disability\) action plan](#).
- community groups whose events, activities and services are not predominantly provided for residents of the [City of Sydney area](#). You may be eligible to apply for a [venue hire support grant](#).

As can be seen from the high utilisation outlined above, the existing guidance is working effectively to enable community groups to access fee waivers. It is not recommended to make further adjustments to the information.

It should also be noted that there are limitations as to the types of group and activities that can be covered under the City's community engagement public liability insurance.

Venue management income

Venue Hire income for significant venues:

- Sydney Town Hall (includes Centennial Hall, Lower Town Hall and other ancillary room hires) \$3,035,216
- Barnet Long Room, Customs House \$169,400
- Paddington Town Hall \$327,137

Annual waste collection contract cost

The City's contracted domestic waste related expenditure is captured in two separate line items shown in the Detailed Income and Expenditure financial schedule in the draft Long Term Financial Plan (see Resourcing Strategy, LTFP page 41). These line items are Service Contracts for collections costs and Waste Disposal Charges for processing costs. All domestic waste related expenditure contracts are reflected in the City Services divisional budget.

Service contracts is \$26.0M for Council as a whole in 2025-26, of which approximately \$19.9M relates to the City's waste collections contracts. The balance of Service Contracts also includes a wide range of other contracts across the organisation including services relating to security, social services, venue management, parks services and others.

Waste Disposal Charges is \$27.0M for Council as a whole in 2025-26, of which approximately \$22.0M relates to the processing of domestic waste collected in the LGA across multiple contracts and suppliers. The balance relates to waste disposal charges incurred by the City's own operations or city cleansing activities

Minor amendment to listing of Grants programs and proposed budget in the draft 2025/26 Operational Plan for exhibition

Minor amendments to the listing of Grants programs and proposed budgets in the draft 2025/26 Operational Plan are proposed to reflect the allocations shown below. This amendment will not impact the total budget allocation, but is aligning the budgets with the redefined grant categories shown in the draft Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines also proposed for public exhibition:

Grant programs and proposed budgets in 2025/26

Cash

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund – \$500,000

Community services grant – ~~\$1,995,000~~ **\$1,248,000**

Creative grants – ~~\$1,600,000~~ **\$600,000**

Business sector support grant – \$832,500

Food Support Grants – \$1,500,000

Green building grant – \$387,500

Dixon Street Improvement grant – \$400,000

Haymarket Activation grant – \$200,000

Festivals and events sponsorships – ~~\$5,065,000~~ **\$935,000**

Innovation and ideas grant – \$1,100,000

Quick response grant – \$100,000

Affordable and diverse housing fund – \$3,000,000

~~Major homelessness grants – \$1,400,000~~

Major Grants – \$7,277,000

****The total grants budget has not changed, the above allocations indicate the grants that would now fall under the new Major Grants category***

Memo from Jean-Michel Carriere, Executive Director Finance and Procurement

Prepared by: Various City staff

Attachments

Attachment A. Community Facilities Approved Fee Waiver Requests – Quarter 4
2023/24

Approved

P. M. Barone

MONICA BARONE PSM
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment A

**Community Facilities Approved Fee Waiver
Requests – Quarter 4 2023/24**

Community facilities approved fee waiver requests – Quarter 4 2023/24

In a report adopted by Council on 27 June 2022, information was requested to track fee-waived and discounted community hire in 2022/23 to support the community to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The fee waiver was extended by Council through 2023/24 and now extended for a further four years, to the end of June 2029. This will be the last quarterly supplementary report on this waiver, with future reports to be provided annually in Q4.

Between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2024, a total of 244 requests have been approved for a Covid-19 fee waiver for community venue hire for local community groups. This includes 13,951.75 hours of use to the value of \$419,572.42.

In the fourth quarter of 2023/24, 63 requests have been approved. This includes 1668.50 hours of use to the value of \$59,659.60.

The following table provides details of approved fee waiver requests for the use of community facilities for Q4 2023/24.

Date of Request	Name of group/organisation	Venue/Space	Hours approved	Total value
14 Mar 24	Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre	Booler Community Centre	123	\$4,100.00
1 Apr 24	Knitting Nannas	Customs House meeting room	3	\$99
2 Apr 24	With One Voice Redfern Community Choir	Redfern Town Hall	114	\$5,515.18
2 Apr 24	Glebe Public School Parents and Citizens group	Benledi House	60.5	\$1,685.63
2 Apr 24	Counterpoint Community Services Inc	Alexandria Town Hall	6.5	\$199.88
2 Apr 24	Knitting Nannas	Erskineville Town Hall	2	\$61.50

Date of Request	Name of group/organisation	Venue/Space	Hours approved	Total value
3 Apr 24	Sydney Hills Garden Shire Chinese Folk Art Inc	Joseph Sargent Centre	111	\$2,775.00
5 Apr 24	Designers Getting Coffee	Darlinghurst Community Space	2	\$54.00
5 Apr 24	Sydney Community Housing Inc	Booler Community Centre	3.5	\$94.50
6 Apr 24	Sydney Chinese Book Club	Green Square Library Anything Room	3	\$108.90
7 Apr 24	Sydney Chinese Book Club	Darling Square Library Ideas Space	3	\$92.40
8 Apr 24	What Were You Wearing Australia	Tote Centre	6	\$324.00
10 Apr 24	City West Housing	Tote Centre	16	\$400.00
10 Apr 24	Bonza and Sparkhaus	Rex Centre	36	\$1,278.00
15 Apr 24	Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir	Glebe Town Hall	284	\$15,807.00
20 Apr 24	Sydney Chinese Book Club	Green Square Library Anything Room	3	\$108.90
21 Apr 24	Sydney Chinese Book Club	Green Square Library Anything Room	2.5	\$82.50
21 Apr 24	Anime Club	Darling Square Library Ideas Space	4	\$215.60
22 Apr 24	OLC Community Parade	Juanita Neilsen Community Centre	9	\$265.50
23 Apr 24	Counterpoint Community Services	Alexandria Town Hall	8	\$246.00
30 Apr 24	Glebe Youth Service	Glebe Town Hall	2.5	\$66.25

Date of Request	Name of group/organisation	Venue/Space	Hours approved	Total value
30 Apr 24	Designers Getting Coffee	Reginald Murphy Community Centre	3	\$81.00
1 May 24	Sydney Greeters	Darling Square Library Idea Space	2	\$98.00
1 May 24	Kings Cross Community Centre	Rex Centre	110	\$3,905.00
3 May 24	Millers Point Co-Op	Abraham Mott Hall	3	\$107.75
4 May 24	Redfern Women's History Project	Green Square Library - Anything Room	2.5	\$90.75
4 May 24	Australia United States Korean Rights Group (AUSKRG)	Darling Square Library Idea Space	4	\$106.00
5 May 24	Community Children Learn and Play	Darling Square Library Idea Space	1.5	\$74.25
5 May 24	Sydney Chinese Book Club	Green Square Library - Anything Room	2.5	\$82.50
6 May 24	Chinese Wealth Charity Foundation Limited	Redfern Town Hall	18	\$804.75
6 May 24	Australian Morris Ring	Redfern Town Hall	23	\$890.33
8 May 24	Mission Australia	Glebe Town Hall	1.5	\$55.50
8 May 24	Australian Chinese International Student Club	Alexandria Town Hall	7	\$641.03
14/5/20024	Rainbow babies	Joseph Sargent	2.5	67.5
16 May 24	Autistic Adults Peer Support Groups Sydney	Ultimo Community Centre	33	\$849.75

Date of Request	Name of group/organisation	Venue/Space	Hours approved	Total value
19 May 24	Sydney Chinese Book Club	Darling Square Library Idea Space	2.5	\$15.40
21 May 24	Chinatown Action Committee	Ultimo Community Centre	18	\$225.00
25 May 24	Australian Born Chinese Children Community Group	Darling Square Library Idea Space	1.5	\$42.00
26 May 24	Stairwell to Heaven Community Choir	Glebe Town Hall	5	\$277.50
26 May 24	Zetland Book Club	Green Square Library - Anything Room	2	\$66.00
30 May 24	Friends of Erskineville	Erskineville Town Hall	114	\$2,189.00
31 May 24	Hua Yu Dancing Group Inc	Ultimo Community Centre	4	\$145.00
31 May 24	Pymont Sings	Ultimo Community Centre	4	\$145.00
2 Jun 24	Sydney Chinese Book Club	Green Square Library - Anything Room	2.5	\$16.50
4 Jun 24	Sydney Gay & Lesbian Choir	Glebe Town Hall	7	\$388.50
6 Jun 24	Mission Australia	Redfern Oval Community Space	12	\$300.00
9 Jun 24	Australian Born Chinese Children Community Group	Darling Square Library Idea Space	1.5	\$42.00
11 Jun 24	Rainbow Families	Sydney Park Pavilion	28	\$2,447.00
12 Jun 24	Glebe Society	Harold Park Community Hall	4	\$116.50
13 Jun 24	Hua Yu Dancing Group Inc	Ultimo Community Centre	6	\$217.50

Date of Request	Name of group/organisation	Venue/Space	Hours approved	Total value
13 Jun 24	Designers get coffee	Reginald Murphy Community Centre	24	\$648.00
13 Jun 24	Chungshan Society of Australia Inc.	Ultimo Community Centre	38	\$1,425.00
13 Jun 24	Foon Lok Chinese Opera	Ultimo Community Centre	78	\$2,209.35
16 Jun 24	Anime Club	Customs House Meeting Room	2.5	\$90.75
21 Jun 24	Ian Colvin auspiced through Kings Cross Community Centre	The Rex Centre	75	\$2,675.25
24 Jun 24	Pride History group	East Sydney Community Arts Centre	3	\$81.00
24 Jun 24	Glebe Junior Football club	Harold Park Community Hall	4	\$208.00
25 Jun 24	Full Stop	Redfern Community Centre	4	\$140.00
25 Jun 24	Kachs Weaving auspiced through Tribal Warrior	Redfern Community Centre	32	\$472.00
25 Jun 24	Sydney Street Choir	Redfern Community Centre	150	\$2,000.00
25 Jun 24	Margaret Quinlisk	Ersrineville Town Hall	20	\$925.00
25 Jun 24	Glebe Junior Football club	Sydney Park Pavilion	8	\$652.50
30 Jun 24	Zetland Book Club	Green Square Library - Anything Room	2	\$66.00
Total value			1,668.5	\$59,659.60