

Minutes of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee - 10 November 2025

Members Lord Mayor - Councillor Clover Moore AO (Chair), Deputy Lord Mayor - Councillor Jess Miller , Councillor Olly Arkins, Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore, Councillor Lyndon Gannon (Deputy Chair), Councillor Robert Kok, Councillor Zann Maxwell, Councillor Matthew Thompson, Councillor Yvonne Weldon AM and Councillor Adam Worling.

At the commencement of business at 4:02pm those present were -

Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

Apologies

The Rt Hon Clover Moore AO – Lord Mayor of Sydney, extended her apologies for her inability to attend the meeting of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee.

Councillor Ellsmore left the meeting of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee at 4:03pm, prior to discussion on Item 3, and returned at 4:08pm, after the vote on Item 3. Councillor Ellsmore was not present at, or in sight of, the meeting during discussion or voting on Item 3.

The meeting of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee concluded at 4:08pm.

Item 1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gannon, seconded by the Chair (the Deputy Lord Mayor) –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee of Monday 16 June 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 2

Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Olly Arkins disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that they work closely with the Director of EMC, which was not recommended for funding, on a number of music industry advocacy projects in their role as CEO of the Australian Festival Association.

Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because they had no contact with EMC about this item before the meeting.

Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore disclosed a significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that the CEO of one of the grant applicants, Sweltering Cities, is her former flatmate.

Councillor Ellsmore stated that although she was not aware that Sweltering Cities had applied for the grant, and she did not discuss the grant with the CEO or anyone else, the relationship could be perceived as leading to a significant non-pecuniary interest and she will not be voting on this matter.

No other Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matters on the agenda for this meeting of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee.

The Innovation, Business and Economy Committee recommended the following:

Item 3

Grants and Sponsorship - Economic Grants

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash and value-in-kind recommendations for the Innovation and Ideas Grant program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applicants who were not recommended in obtaining a cash grant or value-in-kind for the Innovation and Ideas Grant program as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with any organisation approved for a grant or sponsorship under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy; and
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided.

(Note – at the meeting of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Gannon, seconded by Councillor Worling, and carried unanimously.)

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