

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