

## **AGENDA**

---

### **Community and Culture Committee**

**Monday, 13 May 2024**

**6:00 PM**

**Dragon Room**

**Georges River Civic Centre**

**Hurstville**



### **OATH OF OFFICE OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE**

All Georges River Councillors are reminded of their Oath of Office or Affirmation of Office made at the time of their swearing into the role of Councillor.

All Councillors are to undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Georges River Council area and are to act faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgement.

### **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

All Georges River Councillors are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflict of interest (perceived or otherwise) in a matter being considered by Council or at any meeting of Council.

## **COMMUNITY AND CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

#### **OPENING**

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Council acknowledges the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. I pay my respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

#### **APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

#### **REQUEST TO JOIN VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK**

#### **NOTICE OF WEBCASTING**

#### **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

<b>COM013-24</b>	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 8 April 2024</b> (Report by Integrated Planning and Reporting Officer).....	4
------------------	--	---

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

<b>COM014-24</b>	<b>Minutes of the Sports Advisory Committee meeting held 4 April 2024</b> (Report by Personal Assistant to Manager, City Life) .....	11
<b>COM015-24</b>	<b>Georges River Council Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2</b> (Report by Grants Officer) .....	19

#### **CONFIDENTIAL (CLOSED SESSION)**

<b>COM014A-24</b>	<b>Lease Agreement between Georges River Council and Olds Park Sports Club Limited</b> (Report by Coordinator, Programming and Operations)	
-------------------	---	--

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**Item:** COM013-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 8 April 2024

**Author:** Executive Services Officer

**Directorate:** Office of the General Manager

**Matter Type:** Previous Minutes

COM013-24

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 8 April 2024, be confirmed.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment [↓](#)1 Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 8 April 2024



# MINUTES

---

## Community and Culture Committee

**Monday, 08 April 2024**

**6.00 PM**

**Dragon Room**

**Georges River Civic Centre**

**Hurstville**





## **PRESENT**

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councillor Lou Konjarski (Acting Chairperson), Councillor Ashvini Ambihaipahar, Councillor Kathryn Landsberry, Councillor Natalie Mort, Councillor Nick Smerdely (joined the meeting at 6.12pm), Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos, and Councillor Benjamin Wang (left the meeting at 6.19pm and did not return to the meeting).

### **COUNCIL STAFF**

General Manager - David Tuxford, Director Community and Culture - Kristie Dodd, Manager City Life - Margaret Le, Manager Cultural Engagement and Library Services - Justin Yeomans, Manager Office of the General Manager - Vicki McKinley, Coordinator Programming and Operations - Andrew Williams, Sponsorship Specialist - Kathy Payne, General Counsel - James Fan, Team Leader Technology Business Support - Earl Santos, Executive Assistant to the Director Community and Culture - Franziska Mintus and Personal Assistant to Manager Cultural Engagement and Library Services - Billie Johnson (Minutes).

## **PROCEDURAL MOTION**

### **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

**MOTION:** Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Mort

That as the Community and Culture Committee Chairperson, Councillor Liu, is an apology for tonight's meeting, a vote be taken of the Councillors present, appointed to the Community and Culture Committee, to elect a Chairperson for this meeting.

That Councillor Konjarski assume the position of Chairperson for the Community and Culture Committee Meeting of 8 April 2024.

### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

## **OPENING**

The Acting Chairperson, Councillor Konjarski, opened the meeting at 6.02 pm.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Acting Chairperson, Councillor Konjarski acknowledged the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. He paid his respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

## **APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**MOTION:** Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Stratikopoulos

That an apology on behalf of Councillor Liu be accepted and a Leave of Absence granted.

### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry,  
Councillor Mort, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

## **REQUEST TO ATTEND VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK**

There were no requests to attend via Audio Visual Link.

## **NOTICE OF WEBCASTING**

The Acting Chairperson, Councillor Konjarski advised staff and the public that the meeting is being recorded for minute-taking purposes and is also webcast live on Council's website, in accordance with section 5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice. This recording will be made available on Council's Website.

## **CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE**

Council's Code of Meeting Practice prohibits the electronic recording of meetings without the express permission of Council.

## **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest made.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no registered speakers.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**COM008-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024**  
(Report by Executive Services Officer)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Ambihaipahar

That the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024, be confirmed.

### **Record of Voting**



For the Motion: Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**COM009-24 Quarterly Community Property Report - 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024**  
(Report by Coordinator, Programming and Operations)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Ambihaipahar

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Community Property Report for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024.

### Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

**COM010-24 Outgoing Sponsorship request Georges River Local Business Awards**  
(Report by Coordinator Events and Sponsorship)

Note: Councillor Smerdely joined the meeting at 6.12pm.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Wang, Councillor Landsberry

That Council approve the Outgoing Sponsorship request of \$10,000 to become a major sponsor of the 2024 Georges River Local Business Awards.

### Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

**COM011-24 Georges River Council Public Art Policy**  
(Report by Coordinator Cultural Services)

Note: Councillor Wang left the meeting at 6.19pm and did not return to the meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Mort

(a) That Council approve the revised draft Georges River Council Public Art Policy to be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days.

- (b) That a further report be submitted to Council on the feedback received during the exhibition period, together with any recommended changes to the draft Georges River Council Public Art Policy prior to adoption.

### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

### **COM012-24 Adoption of the Georges River Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Acquisition Area Strategy** (Report by Coordinator, Programming and Operations)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Mort

- (a) That Council adopts the Georges River Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Acquisition Area Strategy.
- (b) That Council note all actions recommended within this technical report are subject to further detailed investigation by Council officers, allocation of future budget and subsequent Council approval.
- (c) That Council note that 430 submissions were opposed to the Strategy's recommendations for Council to explore partial reclamation of golf courses as one of the avenues to contribute to the shortfall for active open space within the LGA.
- (d) That Council acknowledge that it has no short or long term plans to explore partial reclamation of golf courses to increase open space.

### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Meeting was closed at 6.30pm.

---

Acting Chairperson

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Item:** COM014-24 Minutes of the Sports Advisory Committee meeting held 4 April 2024

**Author:** Personal Assistant to Manager, City Life and Manager City Life

**Directorate:** Community and Culture

**Matter Type:** Committee Reports

COM014-24

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the recommendations contained within the Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 4 April 2024 be submitted to the Community and Culture Committee for consideration and to be adopted by Council.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The recommendations contained within the Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 1 February 2024 are submitted to the Community and Culture Committee for consideration and to Council for adoption.

### BACKGROUND

2. At the meeting of Council on the 31 October 2022, the establishment of Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee (The Committee) was approved by Council for consideration and dissemination of information to local, regional, and state sporting bodies, as well as cross-code collaboration between local sporting bodies to achieve greater utilisation of facilities and fields.
3. The Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting was held on 1 February 2024 allowing members to attend in-person and/or via Teams.
4. Minutes of this meeting are now submitted to the Community and Culture Committee for consideration and for adoption by Council.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. No budget impact for this report.

### FILE REFERENCE

D24/93153

### ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1 Minutes - Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee 04 April 2024



## MINUTES

---

### Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee

Thursday, 04 April 2024

6.00pm

Dragon Room

Level 1, Georges River Civic Centre

Corner Dora and MacMahon Streets,

Hurstville



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

## **PRESENT**

Councillor Nick Katris (Chairperson),  
The Mayor, Councillor Sam Elmir,  
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Elise Borg,  
Sean Brohier – Independent Football Association,  
Joshua Elias – NSW Rugby League Ltd,  
Kevin Greene – Cricket NSW,  
Mark Smith – Metro South East Swimming Association,  
Tanya Smith – Golf NSW,  
Michael Williams – St George Junior Baseball Club,  
Craig Young – St George District Rugby League Football Club

## **GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL STAFF**

David Tuxford - General Manager  
Kristie Dodd - Director Community and Culture,  
Andrew Latta - Director Assets and Infrastructure,  
Danielle Parker - Director Business and Corporate Services,  
Luke Coleman - Manager Premium Facilities,  
Tom Heath - Manager City Technical Services,  
Andrew Williams - Coordinator Programming and Operations,  
Margaret Le - Manager City Life,  
Hans Kludass - Manager City Operational Services,  
James Magee - Acting Manager Strategic Placemaking,  
Jeremy Hasham - Senior Programming and Bookings Officer,  
Kaila Bergin - Community Property Officer,  
Alex Gardiner - Manager City Operational Services,  
Head of Technology - Garuthman De Silva,  
Nickie Paraskevopoulos - Executive Services Officer,  
Earl Santos - Technology Business Support Officer,  
Franziska Mintus - Executive Assistant to the Director Community and Culture,  
Joeme Severino - Acting Personal Assistant to the Manager City Life.

## **EXTERNAL PRESENTERS**

Caitlin Bunker - Engagement Director, Pride Cup

## **ABSENT**

Angie Zissis – St George AFC,  
Gary Fa'afua – St George Junior Rugby Football League,  
Nathan Breen – St George District Athletic Club,  
Michelle Anderson – St George Junior Oztag,  
Stephen Matthews – St George City FC,  
Irene Hatzipetros – Football St George,  
Kate Joveski – St George Basketball Association,  
Jingfu Mike Guo – Heroes Light Volleyball Club.

## **COMMITTEE**

### **VOTING MEMBER**

Councillor Nick Katris (Chairperson),  
The Mayor, Councillor Sam Elmir,  
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Elise Borg,  
Michelle Anderson – St George Junior Oztag,  
Nathan Breen – St George District Athletic Club,  
Sean Brohier – Independent Football Association,  
Joshua Elias – NSW Rugby League Ltd,  
Gary Fa'afua – St George Junior Rugby Football League,  
Kevin Greene – Cricket NSW,  
Jingfu Mike Guo – Heroes Light Volleyball Club,  
Irene Hatzipetros – Football St George,  
Kate Joveski – St George Basketball Association,  
Stephen Matthews – St George City FC,  
Mark Smith – Metro South East Swimming Association,  
Tanya Smith – Golf NSW,  
Michael Williams – St George Junior Baseball Club,  
Craig Young – St George District Rugby League Football Club,  
Angie Zissis – St George AFC.

### **OPENING**

The Chairperson, Councillor Katris, opened the meeting at 6.05pm.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Chairperson, Councillor Katris acknowledged the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. Councillor Katris paid his respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

### **APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence.

### **REQUESTS TO ATTEND MEETING VIA VISUAL AUDIO LINK**

Joshua Elias, Craig Young and Sean Brohier attended the meeting via Audio Visual Link.

### **NOTICE OF WEBCASTING**

The Chairperson, Councillor Katris advised staff and the public that the meeting is being recorded for minute-taking purposes and is also webcast live on Council's website, in accordance with section 5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice. This recording will be made available on Council's Website.

### CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Council's Code of Meeting Practice prohibits the electronic recording of meetings without the express permission of Council.

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**SAC008-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 1 February 2024**  
(Report by Executive Assistant to Director Community & Culture)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Ms Smith – Golf NSW

That the Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 1 February 2024, be confirmed.

#### Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Katris, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Mr Brohier - Independent Football Association, Mr Elias - NSW Rugby League Ltd, Mr Greene - Cricket NSW, Mr Smith – Metro South East Swimming Association, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Williams – St George Junior Baseball Club, Mr Young – St George District Rugby League Football Club.

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

Note: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir joined the meeting at 6.08pm.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SAC009-24 Pride in Sports**  
(Report by Coordinator, Programming and Operations)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Mr Greene - Cricket NSW, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the verbal presentation from the Engagement Director, PrideCup providing an overview about the PrideCup organisation, how community sporting clubs can host their own PrideCup events in the Georges River local government area and attend PrideCup education sessions.

#### Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Katris, Mayor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Mr Brohier - Independent Football Association, Mr Elias - NSW Rugby League Ltd, Mr Greene - Cricket NSW, Mr Smith – Metro South East Swimming Association, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Williams – St George Junior Baseball Club, Mr Young – St George District Rugby League Football Club.

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

**SAC010-24 Current Infrastructure Grant Opportunities**

(Report by Senior Programming and Bookings Officer)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Mr Smith – Metro South East Swimming Association

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the verbal presentation from the Coordinator Programming and Operations on the current infrastructure grant opportunities and application approval process.

**Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Katris, Mayor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Mr Brohier - Independent Football Association, Mr Elias - NSW Rugby League Ltd, Mr Greene - Cricket NSW, Mr Smith – Metro South East Swimming Association, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Williams – St George Junior Baseball Club, Mr Young – St George District Rugby League Football Club.

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

**SAC011-24 Sporting Infrastructure Capital Works Update**

(Report by Manager City Technical Services)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Mr Smith – Metro South East Swimming Association

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the verbal presentation from the Manager City Technical Services providing an update on Sporting Infrastructure Projects within Council's 2023/24 Capital Works Program.

**Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Katris, Mayor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Mr Brohier - Independent Football Association, Mr Elias - NSW Rugby League Ltd, Mr Greene - Cricket NSW, Mr Smith – Metro South East Swimming Association, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Williams – St George Junior Baseball Club, Mr Young – St George District Rugby League Football Club.

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

**SAC012-24 Spatial Framework Development - Peakhurst Park and HV Evatt Park**

(Report by Manager City Technical Services)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Mr Greene - Cricket NSW, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the verbal presentation from the Manager City Technical Services providing information on the development of Spatial Frameworks for Peakhurst Park and HV Evatt Park.

**Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Katris, Mayor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Mr Brohier - Independent Football Association, Mr Elias - NSW Rugby League Ltd, Mr Greene - Cricket NSW, Mr Smith – Metro South East Swimming Association, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Williams – St George Junior Baseball Club, Mr Young – St George District Rugby League Football



Club.

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

**SAC013-24 Update on Carss Park Aquatic Facility**  
(Report by Manager City Technical Services)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Mr Smith – Metro South East Swimming Association, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the verbal update from Manager City Technical Services on the Carss Park Aquatic Facility.

**Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Katris, Mayor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Mr Brohier - Independent Football Association, Mr Elias - NSW Rugby League Ltd, Mr Greene - Cricket NSW, Mr Smith – Metro South East Swimming Association, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Williams – St George Junior Baseball Club, Mr Young – St George District Rugby League Football Club.

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

**SAC014-24 Premium Facilities Update**  
(Report by Manager Premium Facilities)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Mayor Elmir, Ms Smith – Golf NSW

That the committee receive and note the Premium Facilities update report.

**Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Katris, Mayor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Mr Brohier - Independent Football Association, Mr Elias - NSW Rugby League Ltd, Mr Greene - Cricket NSW, Mr Smith – Metro South East Swimming Association, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Williams – St George Junior Baseball Club, Mr Young – St George District Rugby League Football Club.

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

**SAC015-24 Sports Field Maintenance Update**  
(Report by Manager City Operational Services)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Mayor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg

That the presentation by the Manager City Operations of the sports turf maintenance update be received and noted.

**Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Katris, Mayor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Mr Brohier - Independent Football Association, Mr Elias - NSW Rugby League Ltd, Mr Greene - Cricket NSW, Mr Smith – Metro South East Swimming Association, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Williams – St George Junior

Baseball Club, Mr Young – St George District Rugby League Football Club.

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

### GENERAL BUSINESS

1. **Upcoming Community Capacity Building Workshops for Implementation of the Bookable Booking System** (Coordinator Programming and Operations)
2. **Upcoming Reports to Council** (Coordinator Programming and Operations)
  - Adoption of the Georges River Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Acquisition Area Strategy
  - Review of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee
  - Draft Fees and Charges for the 2024/25 Financial Year for Public Exhibition

### CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 7.08pm.

---

Chairperson

**Item:** COM015-24 Georges River Council Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2

**Author:** Grants Officer

**Directorate:** Community and Culture

**Matter Type:** Committee Reports

COM015-24

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) That the funding recommendations resulting from Georges River Council Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2, as detailed in Attachment 1 to this report, be adopted.
- (b) That Council note that funds of \$523.00 not allocated in Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2 be returned to general revenue as savings.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. Council holds an annual program of Community Grants funding to partner with community groups and help meet identified community needs, as outlined in the Georges River Council Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032.
2. The budget for Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2 is \$165,000.
3. This report seeks approval for the allocation of community grant funding to not-for-profit community groups and community organisations to meet program objectives and address priority community needs in the Georges River Council local government area.
4. In Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2, 32 eligible applications and 2 ineligible applications for funding were received, with request amounts totalling \$380,470.
5. Funding is recommended either full or partial support for 18 applications with a total proposed allocation of \$164,477.
6. The remaining unallocated funds of \$523.00 will be returned to general revenue as savings.
7. The funding recommendations are attached to this report, as detailed in Attachment 1.

**BACKGROUND**

8. The Georges River Community Grants Program allocates funds to meet program objectives and address priority community needs under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act (1993)* in an effective and equitable manner, based on the individual merits of each request.
9. The Georges River Council Grants and Donations Policy (2023) was adopted by Council on 23 October 2023 (COM031-23) and includes the program objectives, eligibility criteria and assessment process for the Community Grants Program.
10. The total allocated budget for Community Grants 2023-2024 is \$310,000.
11. The Community Grants 2023-2024 budget has been allocated as follows:

Grant Program	Allocated	Recommended	Approved
Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 1	\$150,000	\$130,215	\$130,215
Funds not allocated in Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 1 were allocated to Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2 as per recommendations from report COM036-23.			
Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2	\$165,000	\$164,477	Pending
Micro Grants 2023-2024	\$10,000	Assessment in process	

COM015-24

12. Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2 opened on 1 February 2024 and closed on 13 March 2024.
13. Council received 32 eligible applications, with funding requests totalling \$368,970.
14. Applications for funding were considered across two categories: Major Projects (up to \$25,000) and Small Projects (up to \$10,000).
15. Applications were assessed against a range of criteria including:
  - (a) the social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of each project,
  - (b) the organisation's capacity to manage funds, and
  - (c) the organisation's capacity to deliver and evaluate the project successfully.
16. Consideration was also given to projects aligning with identified community needs, and strategic alignment with the Community Strategic Plan and other Council plans and strategies.
17. An assessment panel of Council officers assessed the 32 eligible applications between 15 April and 24 April 2024.
18. The panel recommended either full or partial support for 18 applications with a total proposed funding allocation of \$164,477. This consisted of seven (7) projects in the Major Projects category to the value of \$89,144, and eleven (11) projects in the Small Projects category to the value of \$75,333.
19. No recommended applicants have outstanding audited financial statements, as per the requirement for organisations receiving grants, donations, sponsorships and/or subsidies above \$15,000 from Council.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

20. Recommended allocations are within the Georges River Council Community Grants Program budget allocation of \$310,000.
21. The total recommended funding allocation for Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2 is \$164,477, with \$523.00 not allocated in Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2 to be returned to general revenue as savings.
22. Additionally, the Micro Grants 2023-2024 Program was allocated a budget of \$10,000.
23. Successful grant applicants will be reminded of the requirement for audited financial statements for organisations with documented grants, donations, sponsorships and/or subsidies above \$15,000.

## RISK IMPLICATIONS

24. Following recommendations from the audit of the Financial Assistance Program under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act (1993)*, Council resolved to discontinue the Community Grants Assessment Panel (CCL053-20). Consequently, if Council proposes to amend the officers' recommendations for Community Grants funding, Council should indicate a reason in accordance with the criteria in the Grants and Donations Policy (2023).
25. Further, Council faces a reputational risk if a project not aligned with Council's plans and strategies is awarded a grant. This is mitigated through a rigorous assessment process where all applications are assessed against the criteria outlined in Council's Grants and Donations Policy (2023) and Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2 Guidelines.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

26. Individual Grant Meetings were held while the grant round was open to meet with the Grants Officer to discuss grant project ideas, the application process and eligibility criteria. Meetings were scheduled for 30 minutes either in-person or online. Thirty (30) Individual Grant Meetings were held.
27. Additionally, six Information Sessions, presented by Council's Grants Officer, were held while the grant round was open to build grant skills, knowledge, and capacity. Four sessions were held in-person at Hurstville Library, Clive James Library (Kogarah), and Mortdale Community Centre. Two sessions were held online via Zoom. Sessions were held at a variety of times, within and outside of business hours. 53 people registered to participate across all Information Sessions, with a 57% attendance rate.
28. Council offered free grant writing training. The training is a practical step-by-step guide with tools and checklists to apply for grants. Completing the training will strengthen generic grant application skills building community capacity to apply for grants with any potential funder. The online training is available on Council's website and can be completed at any time within 45 minutes. The training is provided in perpetuity by Win the Grant.
29. Council also offered two project planning workshops presented by an external facilitator, Natalie Bramble from Win the Grant to assist in developing well rounded grant projects with clear objectives and project plans. One workshop was held in-person at Hurstville Library and one workshop was held online via Zoom. 24 people registered to participate with a 54% attendance rate.
30. Council's Grant Programs have a 75 Net Promoter Score (NPS) based on 120 responses since July 2023. Respondents include attendees at grant events and information sessions as well as grant applicants. NPS is a metric that measures customer satisfaction and scores above 50 are considered excellent.
31. Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2, the Information Sessions and the Individual Grant Meetings were promoted via:
  - (a) Council's website - Community Grants, Micro Grants, Grants Help Hub and What's On pages;
  - (b) Council's social media platforms;
  - (c) Council's Community e-newsletter;
  - (d) three advertisements in the St George & Sutherland Shire Leader newspaper;

- (e) two advertisements in the St George and Sutherland Shire human services e-newsletter (SGS News);
  - (f) three entries in the Councillor Information Bulletin;
  - (g) three Grants Newsletter's distributed to 195 subscribers. The Grants Newsletter is a new initiative and is a Council designed and distributed Newsletter;
  - (h) an email to Council's current Advisory Committee members; and
  - (i) an email to the professional networks of the Community Capacity Building team.
32. Unsuccessful grant applicants are provided with the option to request feedback from Council's Grants Officer, to build grant writing capacity for future grant applications.
33. All successful grant recipients will be invited to further Council events to continue to build capacity of grant recipients, including an Orientation Workshop on receipt of funding and a Reflection and Storytelling event at the conclusion of the grant cycle.

**FILE REFERENCE**

D24/87729

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 Georges River Council Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2 - Summary of Applications (Confidential)

## **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (CLOSED MEETING)**

Council's Code of Meeting Practice allows members of the public present to indicate whether they wish to make representations to the meeting, before it is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting dealing with any or all of the matters listed should or should not be considered in closed session.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the following matters be considered in closed Meeting at which the press and public are excluded.

### **COM014A-24 Lease Agreement between Georges River Council and Olds Park Sports Club Limited**

(Report by Coordinator, Programming and Operations)

*THAT in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the matters dealt with in this report be considered in closed Council Meeting at which the press and public are excluded. In accordance with Section 10A(2) (d(ii)) it is considered the matter commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.*

*THAT in accordance with Section 10D it is considered that if the matter were discussed in an open Council Meeting, it would on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.*

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 11(2) of the Act, the reports and correspondence relating to these matters be withheld from the press and public.