

AGENDA

Community and Culture Committee

Monday, 10 March 2025

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

COM004-25	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2025 (Report by Manager Office of the General Manager).....	5
------------------	--	---

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COM005-25	Optimising Community Use and Access to Council's Premium Facilities (Report by Manager City Life).....	10
COM006-25	Adoption of the Community Engagement Policy 2024 (Report by Community and Engagement Lead)	81
COM007-25	Hurstville Weekly Night Market Preliminary Feasibility (Report by Executive Manager City Futures).....	93
COM008-25	Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held 13 February 2025 (Report by Executive Assistant to Director Community and Culture).....	99
COM009-25	Autism Community Network Gala Dinner - Outgoing Sponsorship (Report by Sponsorship Specialist).....	106

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Item: COM004-25 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2025

Author: Manager Office of the General Manager

Directorate: Office of the General Manager

Matter Type: Previous Minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2025, be confirmed.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1 Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2025



COM004-25

MINUTES

Community and Culture Committee

Monday, 10 February 2025

6:00 PM

Dragon Room

Georges River Civic Centre

Hurstville

UNCONFIRMED



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

PRESENT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councillor Landsberry, (Chairperson), Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Mort and Councillor Wang.

COUNCIL STAFF

General Manager – David Tuxford, Director Community and Culture - Kristie Dodd, Executive Manager City Futures – Kent Stroud, Manager City Life - Margaret Le, Manager Strategic Placemaking – Hayley Barnes, Coordinator Community Capacity Building - Alexis Drevikovsky, Coordinator Communications and Engagement – Catherine James, Community Capacity Building Officer – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Portfolio – Heidi Bradburn, Acting Manager Office of the General Manager – Marisa Severino, Executive Assistant to General Manager – Sue Matthews, Head of Technology, Garuthman De Silva, Team Leader Technology Business Support – Mark Tadros and Executive Assistant to the Director Community and Culture – Billie Johnson (Minutes).

OPENING

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry, opened the meeting at 6.02pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry acknowledged the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. She paid her 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

That an apology be accepted for Deputy Mayor, Councillor Liu, Councillor Gao and Councillor Arthur.

MOTION: Councillor Allison, Councillor Mort

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Mort, 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 Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry 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

COM001-25 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 9 December 2024

(Report by Manager Office of the General Manager)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Allison, Councillor Mort

That the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 9 December 2024, be confirmed.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COM002-25 Quarterly Community Property Report - 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024

(Report by Coordinator, Programming and Operations)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mort, Councillor Dimoski

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Community Property Report for the period of October 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang

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

COM003-25 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy for Adoption

(Report by Community Capacity Building Officer - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Portfolio)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mort, Councillor Allison

(a) That Council adopt the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy (Attachment 1), noting changes made following exhibition of the Draft Strategy.

(b) That the General Manager be delegated authority to make minor administrative changes to the Strategy, if required.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang

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

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 6.23pm

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item: COM005-25 Optimising Community Use and Access to Council's Premium Facilities

Author: Manager City Life

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

COM005-25

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council receive and note the plan for optimising community access to Council's Premium Facilities.
- (b) That Council note short-term actions underway including the review of Council's fees and charges and the centralisation of all sports fields and facilities into Council's new online booking system.
- (c) That the draft Georges River Council Grants and Donations Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days.
- (d) That the draft Georges River Council Sports Grounds Access Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days.
- (e) That a further report be submitted to Council on the feedback received during the exhibition period, together with any recommended changes for both policies prior to adoption.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. On 22 April 2024, Council resolved (NM011-24):

That the General Manager initiate a formal, comprehensive plan aimed at optimising community use and access to Premium Facilities. Updates on progress are to be reported to Council. Key elements of the plan should include:

- (a) *Review of current policies to ensure inclusion of all relevant sites and eligibility criteria for access;*
 - (b) *Fees and charges that differentiate, commercial and community use;*
 - (c) *Budget to transparently report any increase subsidies;*
 - (d) *Budget for expansion of the bookable program / keyless entry;*
 - (e) *Structural changes to make the relevant sites accessible including financial implications of doing so; and*
 - (f) *Communications plan developed for promotion of hireable spaces.*
2. The Optimising Community Access and Facility Use Plan (The Plan, Attachment 1) has been developed to increase community access at all Council facilities. It establishes new processes for transparent, fair, and equitable use by both community and commercial groups. To ensure asset sustainability, this plan optimises utilisation, promotes greater community engagement, and addresses reputational concerns about excluding the community from valuable public assets.

3. Reviews of the Community Lease and Licence Policy and the Grants and Donations Policy were conducted to improve community access. The Community Lease and Licence Policy was deemed adequate, with existing agreements to be reviewed upon expiry for better alignment with Council objectives. The Grants and Donations Policy (Attachment 2) was updated to include all Council facilities for subsidised hire under both the Venue Hire Grants Program and the Event Grants, thereby expanding community access.
4. To establish a transparent and consistent framework for allocating Council-managed sports fields, the draft Georges River Council Sports Ground Access Policy (Attachment 3) has been developed.
5. This report seeks Council endorsement to publicly exhibit both draft policies for 28 days, allowing community members to review the proposed changes and provide feedback. This exhibition period ensures both transparency and appropriate community access and utilisation of all facilities and grounds, as well as community engagement in the policy-making process.

BACKGROUND

6. On 22 April 2024, Council resolved to initiate a formal, comprehensive plan aimed at optimising community use and access to Premium Facilities (NM011-24).
7. The following Council strategies identify the priority and positive lifestyle outcomes of providing community access to open space, community hubs, quality parks and facilities:
 - Georges River Council's Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032;
 - Georges River Council's Open Space, Recreation and Community Facilities Strategy 2019-2036; and
 - Georges River Council Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Acquisition Area Strategy.
8. The Plan promotes access to recreational facilities that support the healthy lifestyles of those in the Georges River area to address the commitments within the Georges River Council's Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032 (CSP):
 - providing diverse, vibrant community hubs and facilities that are connected, well-maintained and accessible to all.
 - providing everyone with access to quality parks, open spaces, and active and passive recreation facilities.
9. The Plan works to diversify the facilities that Georges River residents can access and addresses a key challenge identified in the Open Space, Recreation and Community Facilities Strategy 2019-2036:
 - limited capacity of certain centres, where the size and design of facilities restrict their ability to accommodate flexible, multi-purpose spaces.
10. The Plan addresses key actions within the Georges River Council Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Acquisition Area Strategy (CINAAS):
 - *Action G2 – Expand existing facilities where possible* recognises that, where feasible, existing facilities should be upgraded or expanded to accommodate growing community needs.
 - *Action G4 – Design flexible spaces* advocate for the design of flexible spaces that can be easily adapted to support a wide range of activities, providing more efficient use of space and improving access for diverse groups.

- *Action S8 – Re-position Jubilee Stadium as a multi-use asset to incorporate additional community sports where possible.*
11. Council's Premium Facilities portfolio consists of 13 facilities, outlined in Table 1. These facilities are intended for use by professional and representative sports organisations with a strategic focus on revenue generation. Revenue generation at Premium Facilities is achieved through a combination of higher user fees and charges, and the attraction of sponsorships, both directly attributable to the quality of the facility. They play a key role in supporting commercial activities to enhance income potential for Council and offset costs associated with community facilities.
12. Council's Premium Facilities are managed through a combination of internal operations and external agreements (Lease, Non-Exclusive Licence, or Management Agreements). This scope of this review focuses on Council-managed facilities; those currently under existing agreements are excluded. Table 1 outlines each facility's location, ward, management type, and inclusion status in this review.

Table 1: Council's Premium Facilities

Facility Name	Location	Ward	Management	Scope
Beverley Park Golf Course	Beverley Park	Kogarah Bay	Lease agreement (Expiry December 2030)	Out of scope
Harold Fraser Oval (Upper level of sporting amenities facility and field maintenance)	Kogarah Bay	Kogarah Bay	Non-Exclusive Licence Agreement – upper level of sporting amenities facility (Expiry October 2025) Non-Exclusive Licence Agreements - sporting amenities facility through Council's Community Property Portfolio (Expiry May 2025)	In scope
Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre	Hurstville	Hurstville	Lease Agreement (Expiry July 2027)	Out of scope
Hurstville Golf Course	Peakhurst	Peakhurst	Management Agreement (Expiry September 2025)	In scope
Hurstville Oval	Hurstville	Hurstville	Non-Exclusive Licence Agreement – Summer sporting season (Expiry April 2029)	In scope
Ken Rosewall Tennis Centre	Mortdale	Mortdale	Management Agreement (Expiry September 2025)	Out of scope
Kyle Bay Bowling Greens (Bowling Greens maintenance)	Kyle Bay	Blakehurst	Non-Exclusive Licence Agreement through Council's Community Property portfolio for Bowling greens, office space and storage (Expiry September 2026, including one-year option)	Out of scope
Jubilee Stadium	Kogarah	Kogarah Bay	Council managed	In scope
Norm O'Neil Cricket Centre	Penshurst	Mortdale	In negotiation	Out of scope
Olds Park (Field maintenance)	Penshurst	Mortdale	Council managed	In scope
Parkside Drive Tennis Centre	Kogarah Bay	Kogarah Bay	Lease Agreement (Expiry June 2026)	Out of scope

Penshurst Park Sporting Hub (Synthetic field)	Penshurst	Mortdale	Council managed (Synthetic field) Council managed – Canteen on Lease Agreement with St George City (Expiry May 2028 including two-year option)	In scope
Sans Souci Leisure Centre	Sans Souci	Kogarah Bay	Lease Agreement (Expiry January 2027)	Out of scope

Optimising Community Access and Facility Use Plan

13. An analysis of opportunities and constraints was conducted and is detailed in Attachment 5. This informed the development of The Plan, which aims to increase community benefit from all Council sporting facilities through a series of short (within 12 months), medium (12 months to 2 years), and long-term (over 3 years) actions.
14. Project objectives within the Plan focus on these themes:
 - Strategic Alignment and Sustainability;
 - Enhanced Community Access and Engagement;
 - Clear and Transparent Processes; and
 - Improved Customer Experience
15. Each action is designed to respond to the project objectives, identified community needs and challenges, while aligning with broader strategic goals such as community wellbeing, social inclusion, and financial sustainability. The status of each action is noted within the Plan to ensure transparency and track progress – whether they are planned, commenced, or completed - enabling ongoing assessment and refinement.

Progress on Short-Term Actions

16. To enhance the customer experience, this Plan introduces a standardised naming convention for Council sporting facilities. This convention, which addresses customer feedback and ensures consistency, designates venues as "Council facilities" with Jubilee Stadium retaining its stadium identity. A tiered system, detailed in Attachment 4 and based on condition, usage, and maintenance requirements - Stadium, Facilities Under a Contract, Tier 1 Turf, Tier 2 Synthetic Turf, and Tier 3 Turf - will further clarify facility distinctions. This unified approach will simplify customer interactions and streamline bookings across Council teams, presenting a more transparent and accessible portfolio of facilities to the community.
17. The Plan addresses the Council resolution with the development of a marketing plan. The utilisation of Council's venues for hire, including those located at Premium Facilities, has been established as a key performance indicator and will be evaluated on a quarterly basis in accordance with Council's corporate reporting framework.
18. The draft Master Plan and Plan of Management for the Jubilee Stadium Precinct is scheduled to be reported to Council in March 2025. The draft Plan of Management outlines the permissible use of Jubilee Stadium beyond sporting use, in alignment with the Georges River Local Environment Plan 2021. The draft Master Plan presents future strategic direction to allow more diverse recreational opportunities such as events and live entertainment, which will increase potential utilisation of the facility.
19. Council's new online booking system, Bookable, implemented between August 2024 to January 2025 intended to improve community access to premium sporting facilities. By including premium locations at Hurstville Oval and Penshurst Park Sporting Hub on the

same platform as the Council's natural turf sports fields, parks, and other bookable venues, customers now have a single, convenient point of access for all Council facility hire. This unified system simplifies the booking process, making it easier for the community to find and book all facilities. Benefits have included real-time availability checks, online account management, automated confirmations and reminders, secure online payments (including BPay), and centralised booking information. These all contribute to a more accessible, transparent, and efficient experience, ultimately enhancing how our community interacts with all of Council's sporting facilities.

20. A new keyless access system, integrated with the Bookable online booking platform, has been installed in a range of hireable spaces, including community centres, halls, the Carss Park Artist in Residence, the Merv Lynch Reserve Artists Studio, and the Blackshaw Gould Community Pavilion at Hurstville Oval. This system eliminates the need to collect physical keys, significantly improving convenience for customers. Instead, a unique PIN code through Bookable grants customers access to their booked facility at the designated time. The system also monitors usage, ensuring bookings stay within their allotted timeframes.
21. A long-term action of The Plan is to review the operating model prior to the expiry of all agreements (including lease, licence and management agreements). Any proposed changes to the operating model of each of these Council facilities will be provided in future reports for Council's consideration if required.

Review of Current Policies

22. Reviews of the Georges River Council Community Lease and Licence Policy and the Georges River Council Grants and Donations Policy were conducted to ensure all relevant sites and eligibility criteria for access were appropriately considered.

Community Lease and Licence Policy

23. The Community Lease and Licence Policy provides a framework to ensure Council has an equitable, consistent, and thorough approach to the leasing and licensing of Council-owned properties for community use, whilst maximising benefit to the community. For example, community centres, scout halls, and sporting amenities.
24. The Georges River Council Lease and Licence Policy outlines:
Council-owned commercial or retail properties (such as Premium Facilities, including but not limited to aquatic facilities, golf courses and clubs, Jubilee Stadium, and the Norm O'Neill Cricket Centre) are excluded from consideration under this Policy.
25. Changes to the Community Lease and Licence Policy were deemed insufficient to increase community use or have an impact in the plan. Instead, as detailed in Table 1, existing management agreements will be reviewed upon expiry to ensure alignment with Council objectives, community needs, financial viability, and optimised community use.

Grants and Donations Policy

26. The Grants and Donations Policy provides subsidised access to selected Council venues for community groups, but not all venues are currently included. To improve community access and usage, the policy has been updated to make all facilities eligible for subsidised hire under both the Venue Hire Grants Program and the Event Grants.
27. A review of budget allocations for Council's Venue Hire Grants Program determined that the program's funding allocation for the 2023/2024 and the current 2024/2025 period had not been exhausted. The underutilisation of resources suggests an opportunity to refine the program to better align with Council's objectives of promoting equitable access and optimising the use of its facilities.

28. The revised draft Grants and Donations Policy (Attachment 2) incorporates the following amendments:
- (a) Deletion of clause 5.2.5 *Council's Event Grants program excludes funding for any event or activity held at a Council Premium Facility* and
 - (b) Improved and additional wording for clarity to outline ineligibility for Event Grants:
 - Amended clause 5.2.4 a) - *Any sporting club or association that currently holds a seasonal hire agreement, lease, licence, or management agreement for the use of Council parks or grounds and is hosting regular events as part of their usual operations - such as open days, end-of-year celebrations, and award ceremonies.*
 - Added new clause 5.2.4.a).i - *However, for the sporting clubs or associations listed within 5.2.4(a), events that fall outside of normal operations, such as club milestone anniversaries or state cup competitions may be eligible for an Event Grant.*
 - (c) Amended clause 8.1.5 - *The program only covers the venue hire of Council's facilities that are able to be hired by the public, as outlined in Council's annual fees and charges.*
 - (d) Amended clauses 8.2.2 and 8.2.5 to align the Venue Hire Grants Program with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges by including venue hire that incorporates equipment or staff. Previously, these elements were excluded from the Venue Hire Grants.
 - Amended clause 8.2.2 - *Grants are for venue hire use only and will not cover additional costs incurred from the use of Council venues, such as equipment hire or staffing that are beyond the standard hire of each Council venue, as listed within Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.*
 - Relating to ineligible activities under this grant program, amended clause 8.2.5.h) *Venue bonds, equipment hire, staffing, catering, or technical costs that are beyond the standard hire of each Council venue, as listed within Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.*
 - (e) Additional minor edits within the revised draft Grants and Donations Policy included improved wording for customer ease and amendments to Council officer position titles.
29. Should the proposed amendments be approved after the public exhibition period, it is anticipated that community use of facilities such as Jubilee Stadium will be increased. The scheduling of commercial events will continue to be prioritised to maximise the financial sustainability of the stadium.
30. The proposed subsidy/fee structure is \$5,000 per event, with a maximum of up to 10 community events at Jubilee Stadium. Setting a limit on subsidies events mitigates the risk of any reduced revenue as a result of the Policy amendments. These changes will ensure affordable community use of the facility during available periods, while retaining the priority of commercial hirers.

Development of a Draft Sports Grounds Access Policy

31. Customer feedback, stakeholder consultation and internal staff working groups provided insight into current process challenges, a greater need for a transparent set of guidelines for the allocation of sports grounds and inconsistent rules regarding field closures. This

highlighted the need for a policy to reduce confusion and improve communication in the distribution of resources as well as ensure consistent stakeholder management.

32. The Draft Sports Grounds Access Policy (Draft Policy) was developed to establish clear principles guiding Council's decision-making and management of sports fields. The Draft Policy seeks to ensure both transparency and appropriate community access and utilisation of all grounds. The Draft Policy excludes Jubilee Stadium, which is classified as a stadium with a commercial focus. Increased community use of Jubilee Stadium is instead supported through the revised Grants and Donations Policy and the Plan's allowance for up to 10 days of community organisation access per year.
33. Council officers held two workshops and two surveys to gather feedback from the Sports Advisory Committee to inform the development of the policy principles that would underpin the Draft Policy. As well as gather more detailed insights on the policy needs and to address the identified policy gap. More information is highlighted in the Community Engagement section of this report.
34. The Draft Policy was developed in accordance with relevant Council strategies and initiatives that relate to community engagement, service delivery, and infrastructure planning. Together, these strategies and initiatives underpin the Draft Policy, providing a cohesive framework to meet the needs of our diverse community. These include:
 - (a) The Community Strategic Plan, which outlines our long-term vision for the community;
 - (b) The Social Justice Charter, ensuring fairness and inclusivity; and our commitment as a Child Safe Organisation;
 - (c) The Georges River Council Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Area Acquisition Strategy which identifies that there is an existing insufficient supply of sports fields to support current or projected future use;
 - (d) The Customer Experience Strategy, which ensures a customer-focused approach to service delivery and;
 - (e) The Plans of Management for specific sites.
35. The Draft Policy is consistent with a range of relevant operational documents that provide detailed guidance and procedures for its implementation. These documents ensure the policy's principles are effectively translated into practice and include Council's bookings form, terms and conditions of the permit, and field closure procedure. Together, they form an integrated approach that aligns day-to-day operations with the overarching objectives of the Draft Policy. These documents are to be used in conjunction with this Draft Policy to ensure consistency, clarity, and accountability in achieving its intended outcomes.
36. It is recommended that the Draft Georges River Council Sports Ground Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days. A further report will be submitted to Council summarising community feedback and recommending any necessary changes will be submitted to Council for consideration and adoption.

Review of Fees and Charges

37. A comprehensive review was undertaken of the current fees and charges of Council's sporting fields and facilities which included:
 - Benchmarked against other Council's fees and charges;
 - Reviewed data regarding asset cost and asset maintenance;
 - Reviewed previous feedback provided by hirers of sports grounds and facilities;

- Resolution of Council to for in-house management of all synthetic turf sport fields for a trial period of two years (CCL080-24/COM054A);
 - Re-structured fees to reflect community needs and ease of understanding for customers; and
 - Incorporated a CPI increase.
38. The fees and charges were streamlined by reducing the number of fees and ensuring consistent naming conventions. Gaps were also identified where rates were not specific to commercial or community users.
39. As a result of the review, new community-specific rates have been introduced for several facilities where no dedicated community rate existed previously including:
- Casual commercial and community hire rates for Tier 1 Turf fields;
 - Casual community hire rate for Penshurst Park Sporting Hub; and
 - Casual commercial and community hire rate for Vanessa Street Multi-Purpose Courts
40. The new fee structure was tested through various booking scenarios to assess its impact on current bookings within the Bookable system to ensure their feasibility.
41. The proposed fees and charges aim to improve community access to Council's Synthetic and Tier 1 Turf fields by removing financial barriers and ensuring that the pricing structure reflects community needs.
42. The findings from the review of the current fees and changes have shaped the development of the Draft 2025/2026 Fees and Charges. These will be placed on public exhibition in April 2025, with final adoption scheduled for June 2025.

COM005-25

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

43. Council officers have assessed the budgetary implications of expanding the Grants and Donations Policy to improve community access to Premium Facilities. Table 3 below demonstrates that the Venue Hire Grants budget was underutilised last financial year and that this year's Event Grants budget was increased based on 2023/2024 expenditure. This presents an opportunity to reduce financial barriers to community access through these existing grant programs.

Table 3. Venue Hire Grants and Event Grants 2023/2024 and 2024/2025

Venue Hire Grants:

Financial Year	Budget (Full Year)	Actual
2024/2025	\$430,000	\$146,028 (at 21/02/2025)
2023/2024	\$425,000	\$164,668

Event Grants:

Financial Year	Budget (Full Year)	Actual
2024/2025	\$142,700	\$80,215 (at 21/02/2025)
2023/2024	\$90,000	\$87,732

44. In line with the Council resolution, the expansion of Council's online booking system to include Penshurst Park Sporting Hub and Hurstville Oval, along with the installation of keyless access at Blackshaw Gould Community Pavilion, has been accommodated within the approved capital and operational budgets for 2024/2025.
45. Any future infrastructure and operational improvements for facility enhancements that are identified as part of the Plan will be funded through a combination of grants, operational budget bids and capital project proposal proposals.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

46. Strategic Risk 3: Assets and Infrastructure. Failure to increase community access to Premium Facilities could exacerbate the risk that Council's infrastructure does not meet the evolving needs or expectations of the community, particularly regarding capacity and quality. To mitigate this risk, Council looks to improve community access to Premium Facilities through revised policies, the implementation of online booking systems, and strategic infrastructure improvements, ensuring facilities are used efficiently and sustainably, while also preparing for future challenges.
47. Strategic Risk 6: Reputation.
 - (a) Failure to increase community access to Premium Facilities could pose significant risks to Council's reputation and its ability to foster positive community relations. If community groups perceive that they are excluded from accessing important Council-managed facilities, it could result in dissatisfaction, erosion of trust, and a negative impact on Council's standing in the eyes of the public. This could ultimately undermine Council's credibility as an inclusive and responsive organisation. To address this risk, the proposed amendments to the Grants and Donations Policy aim to provide broader access to all Council venues, including premium facilities. This expansion will ensure that more community groups are able to access these facilities at an affordable rate, reinforcing Council's commitment to inclusivity.
 - (b) Moreover, failing to optimise the available funding for community access could lead to under-utilised resources, which would reflect poorly on Council's stewardship of public funds. The Venue Hire Grants budget was under-spent last year, and the Event Grants budget was increased for 2023/2024 based on prior trends, suggesting available funds to reduce financial barriers for community access. By extending eligibility for all venues under the revised grants policy, Council can ensure that these resources are used efficiently, maximising opportunities for community participation while maintaining fiscal responsibility.
48. Strategic Risk 8: Social Cohesion.
 - (a) Failure to increase community access to Premium Facilities risks exacerbating socio-economic divides, limiting opportunities for engagement, and contributing to social disconnection. This could erode social cohesion, particularly among underserved or marginalised groups, affecting individual well-being and community stability. To mitigate this, we are prioritising equitable access to these facilities, ensuring that all community members, regardless of socio-economic background, have the opportunity to engage, connect, and benefit from these spaces.
 - (b) In addition, limiting community access could result in missed opportunities for increased community engagement and cohesion. By providing up to 10 community events at Jubilee Stadium per year, Council is not only offering vital space for local events but also fostering stronger community connections. While subsidised venue

hire may reduce revenue from commercial bookings, the long-term benefits of enhanced community engagement and increased facility use are expected to outweigh any short-term financial impacts.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

49. Targeted community engagement was undertaken with sporting organisations and clubs via the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee. On 14 November 2024, Council officers held a workshop with the Sports Advisory Committee to determine the policy principles that would underpin the Draft Sports Grounds Access Policy.
50. From 20 December 2024 to 31 January 2025, Council officers distributed a survey to the Sports Advisory Committee members to gather more detailed insights on the policy needs to address the identified policy gap.
51. On 13 February 2025, Council officers held a second workshop to present the workshopped principles and key policy content such as dates for summer and winter sporting seasons, and field closure procedures. Through February, a follow-up survey was distributed to gain an in-depth review of the criteria under the *Booking Request Conflicts* and *Terms and Conditions of Allocations or Hires* section of the Draft Policy.
52. Should Council approve the Draft Grants and Donations Policy, further community engagement will be undertaken throughout the exhibition period and the outcome will be reported back to Council in the final version of this policy for Council's adoption.
53. Should Council approve the Draft Sports Grounds Access Policy, further community engagement will be undertaken throughout the exhibition period and the outcome will be reported back to Council in the final version of this policy for Council's adoption.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/312057

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓1](#) Optimising Community Access and Facility Use Plan



Attachment [↓2](#) Draft Grants and Donations Policy



Attachment [↓3](#) Draft Sports Grounds Access Policy



Attachment [↓4](#) Tiering of Council Sporting Facilities



Attachment [↓5](#) Opportunities and Constraints for Premium Facilities





Optimising Community Access and Facility Use Plan



CONTENTS

Background and Context.....	3
Project Objectives.....	3
Strategic Alignment	4
Action Plan	4

Background and Context

On 22 April 2024, Council resolved (NM011-24);

That the General Manager initiate a formal, comprehensive plan aimed at optimising community use and access to Premium Facilities. Updates on progress are to be reported to Council. Key elements of the plan should include:

- a. *Review of current policies to ensure inclusion of all relevant sites and eligibility criteria for access;*
- b. *Fees and charges that differentiate, commercial and community use;*
- c. *Budget to transparently report any increase subsidies;*
- d. *Budget for expansion of the bookable program / keyless entry;*
- e. *Structural changes to make the relevant sites accessible including financial implications of doing so; and*
- f. *Communications plan developed for promotion of hireable spaces.*

The Optimising Community Access and Facility Use Plan (The Plan) has been developed to address the above Council resolution and achieve the objectives outlined below. The purpose of this Plan aims to maximise community benefit by ensuring equitable access, improved usability, and long-term sustainability of Council's sporting facilities. The Plan addresses infrastructure and accessibility issues, enhancing service delivery, supporting local sports, and fostering community engagement.

Currently, two Council business units manage stakeholder engagement, bookings, and maintenance/asset requests for different sporting assets. City Life oversees community fields and facilities, while Premium Facilities oversees commercial contracts and facilities with commercial opportunities.

Through community consultation during the development of the Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Area Acquisition Strategy (CINAAAS), feedback from the Sports Advisory Committee, and insights from customer pain points, the need for a structured plan to meet these objectives has been identified.

Project Objectives

- Increase community access and utilisation of premium facilities through effective promotion and awareness campaigns, highlighting the availability and functionality of facilities.
- Establish clear, transparent guidelines and procedures for accessing Council facilities to ensure consistency and fairness in booking and use.
- Enhance the customer experience by streamlining communication and making interactions, including bookings and payments, more accessible and user-friendly.
- Align all initiatives with Council's broader strategic goals to promote social cohesion, inclusivity, and efficiency.

- Standardise naming conventions across documentation, fees, and communications to improve clarity and reduce confusion.
- Provide flexible, inclusive, and accessible hire options that cater to a diverse range of users, including community, commercial, recreational, and sporting groups.
- Collect user feedback regularly to inform continuous improvement in facility access, functionality, and services.
- Measure and report on facility utilisation and community access metrics to ensure equitable access and increase community engagement.
- Develop a sustainable pricing model that balances community access with long-term financial sustainability.

Strategic Alignment

This Plan aligns with and is supported by a range of relevant Council strategies and initiatives that guide our approach to community engagement, service delivery, and infrastructure planning. These include the Community Strategic Plan, which outlines our long-term vision for the community; the Social Justice Charter, ensuring fairness and inclusivity; and our commitment as a Child Safe Organisation. Additionally, the Community Infrastructure Needs and Acquisition Area Strategy and the Open Space, Recreation, and Community Facilities Strategy provide critical frameworks for planning and development. Supporting this work are Plans of Management for specific sites and the Customer Experience Strategy, which ensures a user-focused approach to service delivery. Together, these strategies and initiatives underpin this Plan, providing a cohesive framework to meet the needs of our diverse community.

This Plan is supported by a range of relevant operational documents that provide detailed guidance and procedures for its implementation. These documents ensure the Plan is effectively translated into practice and include Council's bookings form, terms and conditions of permit, wet weather procedure. Together, they form an integrated approach that aligns day-to-day operations with the overarching objectives of the Plan. These documents are to be used in conjunction with this Plan to ensure consistency, clarity, and accountability in achieving its intended outcomes.

Action Plan

The table below outlines a series of actions categorised by short, medium, and long-term priorities. Each action is designed to respond to the above objectives, identified community needs and challenges, while aligning with broader strategic goals such as community well-being, social inclusion, and financial sustainability.

The accompanying table below outlines these actions, providing clarity on the rationale for each one, why they are required, and their status. The status of each action is noted to ensure transparency and track progress—whether they are planned, commenced, or completed—enabling ongoing assessment and refinement of the Plan

Action	Rationale	Status
Short-Term (Within 12 Months)		
Conduct an opportunities and constraints assessment of Council-managed Premium Facilities.	To identify strengths, limitations, and areas for improvement in Premium Facilities to guide future planning, investment, and management strategies maximising their potential and community benefit.	Commenced
Complete a review of Council's current policies.	To review existing policies ensuring they remain relevant, effective, and aligned with community needs. This process will help identify gaps, streamline operations, and improve governance around facility management and usage.	Commenced
Develop a new policy regarding the equitable use of sporting facilities	To establish clear, fair, and transparent guidelines for the allocation and use of sporting facilities. This will promote inclusivity, prevent conflicts, and ensure facilities are shared effectively among user groups.	Commenced
Review facility naming conventions, and update to implement a tiered classification system.	To improve public understanding of facility availability, purpose, and access, ensuring transparency and better alignment with community needs.	Complete
Complete a review of Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges	To review fees and charges ensuring that Council's pricing remains fair, consistent and reflective of operational costs. This process will support financial sustainability while maintaining accessibility for community groups.	Commenced

Action	Rationale	Status
Consolidate Council's Venues for Hire on Bookable	To improve efficiency, enhance user experience, and provide a streamlined process for community members to access and hire Council-managed spaces.	Commenced
Implement the online booking system.	To enhance and streamline the user experience, reduce administrative workload, and support equitable facility access.	Commenced
Trial up to 10 community bookings per year at Jubilee Stadium, prioritising commercial hirers while assessing the impact of subsidised access on community engagement and revenue.	To provide increased community access to a premium facility while balancing the priority of commercial hirers, with the goal of fostering local engagement and maximising long-term benefits.	Commenced
Action	Rationale	Status
Medium-Term (12 Months – 2 Years)		
Develop, implement, and review community access metrics to measure facility utilisation, ensure equitable access, and enhance community engagement.	To track and measure community access ensuring fair use, identifying gaps, and supporting data-driven improvements for better facility access and community benefit.	Planned
Review the effectiveness of differential pricing to increase community access.	To evaluate the effectiveness of the new fee structure, which separates commercial and community users, to determine if differential pricing is increasing community access. This data	Planned



Action	Rationale	Status
	will guide future fee adjustments to further optimise community access.	
Submit a Planning Proposal and then a Development Application (DA) for the Hurstville Golf Course Function Room.	To ensure compliance with planning regulations, enable community and stakeholder input, and support the long-term viability of the facility as a multipurpose venue.	Planned
Finalise and adopt the Jubilee Stadium Precinct Masterplan and Plan of Management (PoM)	To ensure the precinct meets community needs optimises facility use, and aligns with Council's long-term planning objectives.	Commenced
Develop a comprehensive marketing and communications plan to increase the utilisation of Council's venues and sports facilities for hire	To raise awareness of Council's available venues and sports facilities, attract a broader range of users, and increase bookings, ultimately enhancing the financial viability and community impact of Council's facilities.	Commenced
Explore sponsorship opportunities across all Council facilities within The Plan's scope	To secure funding for maintenance, improvements, and programs while building community and business partnerships for long-term financial sustainability.	Planned
Implement keyless access for: Booth Saunders Pavilion	To improve efficiency, accessibility, and security across Council-managed facilities.	Planned

Action	Rationale	Status
Monitor venue hire and event grant applications at Premium Facilities to ensure budget sustainability.	To ensure that the expanded scope of including Premium Facilities in the Grants and Donations Policy remains financially sustainable, enabling Council to manage the increased demand for venue hire and event grants at Premium Facilities without overspending the allocated budget.	Planned
<p>Review current agreements to optimise community use and access for the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harold Fraser Oval (upper level) • Ken Rosewall Tennis Centre • Kyle Bay Bowling Greens • Parkside Drive Tennis Centre 	To align agreements with community needs, enhance facility utilisation, promote fairness, and support a more inclusive and accessible environment for all users.	Planned
Action	Rationale	Status
Long-Term (3+ Years)		
Conduct asset assessments to evaluate facility conditions and identify necessary infrastructure and operational improvements aligned with recommendations in CINAAS.	To ensure facilities meet current standards and identify necessary improvements, aligning with CINAAS recommendations to enhance accessibility, functionality, safety, and user experience.	Planned

Action	Rationale	Status
Define scope of identified infrastructure and operational improvement opportunities to inform future project proposals and funding submissions.	To ensure that future project proposals are well-informed and aligned with the community's needs. This action enables targeted funding submissions, maximises resource allocation, and ensures that improvements are effectively prioritised and implemented to enhance facility quality and accessibility.	Planned
Secure funding for infrastructure and operational improvements and facility enhancements by exploring grants and capital project proposal proposals.	To ensure funding for improvements leading to long-term usability and compliance with safety and accessibility standards.	Planned
Implement infrastructure improvements to make Council-managed sites accessible	To ensure upgraded infrastructure meets accessibility standards so all residents, including those with disabilities, can safely and comfortably use Council venues, fostering greater community participation.	Planned
Implement operational changes to make Council-managed sites accessible and to support community hire needs.	To support broader participation and enhance the usability of these sites for various groups, ultimately improving overall community engagement and satisfaction.	Planned
Determine the future management of Premium Facilities currently under agreements.	To align facility use with Council objectives, community demand, and financial viability while maintaining fair access for all users.	Planned



Action	Rationale	Status
<p>Review current lease agreements to optimise community use and access for the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beverly Park Golf Course • Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre • Hurstville Oval • Penshurst Park Sporting Hub canteen 	<p>To align agreements with Council objectives and community needs, enhance facility utilisation, promote fairness, and support a more inclusive and accessible environment for all users.</p>	<p>Planned</p>



Measure of success	How it will be measured
Increased booking utilisation of Premium Facilities for community use	Track the number of bookings made by community groups via the online booking system.
Feedback from community groups	Collect feedback via surveys, interviews, or direct communication from community groups who book the facilities.
Revenue and Budget Performance	Track the revenue generated from community bookings.
Monitoring Grants program submissions and approvals for community use bookings at Premium Facilities	Track the number of community-based applications for venue hire and event grants.
Positive Community Engagement	Track how many community events or groups are aware of and utilising the facilities post-marketing campaigns.



Draft Grants and Donations Policy

2025

Policy administration

Dates	Policy approved xx/xx/2025 (date to be added by Policy Specialist) This policy is effective upon its approval. Policy is due for review xx/2028 (3 years from the date the policy is approved which is the maximum review period)
Approved by	Council Meeting xxxx Council Resolution xxxx
Policy Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Policy
Exhibition Period	TBC
Policy Owner	Manager Community and Early Learning Services, Community and Culture
Related Documents	Sponsorship Policy Individual Grant Program Guidelines Outgoing Sponsorship Guidelines Councillor Ward Discretionary Fund Policy Financial Assistance Guidelines Community Lease Policy Code of Conduct Customer Feedback and Complaints Management Policy Collection Management and Conservation Policy Library Collection Development Policy Statement of Business Ethics Grants and Program Funding in the public sector (2018) – Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Council Codes, Policies and Registers available here . This policy supersedes the Grants, Donations and Sponsorship Policy (2020).
References & Legislation	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i> <i>Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth)</i>
Document Identifier	Policy #: Allocated by Senior Policy Specialist once policy is approved (includes the version number) Doc #: D25/54385
Breaches of Policy	Breaches of any policy will be dealt with and responded to in accordance with adopted codes and/or relevant legislation.
Record Keeping	All documents and information obtained in relation to the implementation of this policy will be kept in accordance with the



	<i>NSW State Records Act 1998</i> , Georges River Council's Corporate Records Policy and adopted internal procedures.
--	---

Contents

Policy administration.....	2
Purpose	6
Scope	7
Definition of Terms	8
Policy Statement.....	11
1. General Principles.....	11
2. Grants	13
3. Donations.....	14
4. Community Grants Program.....	14
4.1. Program Objectives	14
4.2. Eligibility.....	15
4.3. Assessment Process	16
5. Event Grants Program	16
5.1. Program Objectives	16
5.2. Eligibility.....	17
5.3. Implementation	18
5.4. Assessment Process	18
6. Heritage Building Grants Program	18
6.1. Program Objectives	18
6.2. Eligibility.....	19
6.3. Implementation	19
6.4. Assessment Process	20
7. Micro Grants Program.....	20
7.1. Program Objectives	20
7.2. Eligibility.....	21
7.3. Implementation	21
7.4. Assessment Process	21
8. Venue Hire Grants Program.....	21
8.1. Program Objectives	21
8.2. Eligibility.....	22
8.3. Implementation	22



8.4. Assessment Process	23
9. Quick Response Donations.....	23
9.1. Program Objectives	23
9.2. Eligibility.....	24
9.3. Assessment Process	24
Responsibilities.....	25
Version Control and Change History	27

Purpose

The Grants and Donations Policy guides the application and assessment process, allocation and evaluation of funding to address community needs under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Georges River Council's Grants and Donations programs support initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the area. Through these programs, Council partners with the community and businesses to further the actions, strategic directions and vision of Council's [Community Strategic Plan](#).

Council recognises and respects the vital contribution of community and business in developing and delivering projects that contribute to a vibrant and sustainable community. Through these programs, Council provides financial and in-kind support for a diverse range of projects.

This policy provides an overarching framework to manage grant and donation requests. It sets the parameters of support and highlights expected outcomes for each funding program. Details on program eligibility, assessment criteria and key dates can be found in Individual Grant Program Guidelines.

The associated programs are based on the following Policy Principles:

- **Priority** – Funding is allocated to priority areas to meet identified community needs. Priorities are identified through community consultation and Council's Community Strategic Plan.
- **Impact** – Funding is provided to programs and events that demonstrate the greatest ability to positively impact identified needs and value for money. Council actively encourages partnerships with a variety of community organisations to deliver on its objectives.
- **Community wellbeing** – Funding is provided to programs and events that will improve the general wellbeing of the local community as a whole.
- **Equity and inclusion** – Funding will be accessible to a diverse range of groups and people and will not support initiatives that discriminate or disadvantage groups within the community. Council acknowledges the range of capacity in community organisations to apply for funding and applications are encouraged from people of all abilities, ethnicities, cultures, ages and sexual orientations. All applications will be assessed on their individual merits.
- **Responsiveness** – Funding programs are responsive and may adapt to changing community needs.
- **Accountability** – Use and acquittal of funds should demonstrate measurable outcomes and accountability in the purpose, use, aims and objectives of the original application or request.

- **Governance** – Staff and Councillors administering this Policy are bound to act ethically, fairly and with transparency, abide by Council's Code of Conduct, policies and Corporate Mission and Values, and follow the application procedure. Application forms and acquittal requirements will be proportionate to the size of the funds awarded and the expected outcomes of the relevant program. Grant recipients are accountable for ensuring that acquittals accurately reflect approved expenditure. Council will ensure there are systems and opportunities for feedback on grants and donations processes.
- **Eligibility and procedure** – Applicants must meet the defined eligibility criteria and follow the application procedure.

Council seeks to optimise the use of public funds through effective and efficient grant processes, and clear grant program objectives linked to the organisation's strategic goals.

This policy applies to all outgoing grants, donations and value-in-kind provisions to enhance social, cultural, economic and environmental outcomes.

Council may, by resolution of Council, approve grants and donations outside this policy as it sees fit, in accordance with relevant legislation. The policy does not prevent Council giving occasional small gifts to organisations, providing support for civic functions or one-off events in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Scope

This Policy applies to any individual, organisation, business or community group applying for a grant or donation. Sponsorship is dealt with separately in accordance with the Council's Sponsorship Policy.

This Policy applies for all Council officials as defined in Council's Code of Conduct.

This Policy provides a framework for distribution of funds under section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, s356.

Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the "Act") states:

- 1) *A council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.*
- 2) *A proposed recipient who acts for private gain is not ineligible to be granted financial assistance, but must not receive any benefit under this section until at least 28 days' public notice of the council's proposal to pass the necessary resolution has been given.*
- 3) *However, public notice is not required if:*
 - a) *the financial assistance is part of a specific program, and*

- b) the program's details have been included in the council's draft management plan for the year in which the financial assistance is proposed to be given, and*
- c) the program's proposed budget for that year does not exceed 5 percent of the council's proposed income from the ordinary rates levied for that year, and*
- d) the program applies uniformly to all persons within the council's area or to a significant group of persons within the area.*

4) *Public notice is also not required if the financial assistance is part of a program of graffiti removal work.*

Section 377 of the Act states:

1) *A council may, by resolution, delegate to the general manager or any other person or body (not including another employee of the council) any of the functions of the council, other than the following:*

q) A decision under section 356 to contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons.

1A) *Despite subsection (1), a council may delegate its functions relating to the granting of financial assistance if:*

- a) the financial assistance is part of a specified program, and*
- b) the program is included in the council's draft operational plan for the year in which the financial assistance is proposed to be given, and*
- c) the program's proposed budget for that year does not exceed 5 per cent of the council's proposed income from the ordinary rates levied for that year, and*
- d) the program applies uniformly to all persons within the council's area or to a significant proportion of all the persons within the council's area.*

Definition of Terms

Term	Meaning
Acquittal	An acquittal is a written report submitted after the funded program or event is complete. It details how the grantee administered the grant funds and met the project outcomes in the funding agreement. An acquittal report includes promotional material including media reports, evidence of project activities and outcomes, data that may include employment numbers, attendances and audience/stakeholder satisfaction metrics and a detailed financial report that includes project income and expenditure. Project update reports may also include a summary of the above information at intervals throughout the life of the grant.



Auspice	An entity that applies on behalf of an organisation, group or individual without an ABN / Public Liability insurance / incorporation. The group or individual may be responsible for delivering the project but the auspice is responsible for entering into the funding agreement, obtaining Public Liability insurance, and receiving and acquitting the funding. Auspiced applications must include a letter or memorandum of understanding confirming the auspice arrangement.
Community	A term which encompasses both the entire body of constituents in the Council local government area, as well as individual groups (social, cultural, sporting or other) within the local government area.
Conflict of interest	<p>As per Council's Code of Conduct.</p> <p>A pecuniary interest is an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person.</p> <p>A person will also have a pecuniary interest in a matter if that person's spouse or de facto partner or a relative of the person or a partner or employer of the person, or a company or other body which the person, or a nominee, partner or employer of the person is a member, has a pecuniary interest in the matter.</p> <p>Non-pecuniary interests are private or personal interests the Council official has that do not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in the Act. These commonly arise out of family, or personal relationships, or involvement in sporting, social or other cultural groups and associations and may include an interest of a financial nature.</p>
Council official	As defined in Part 2 of Council's Code of Conduct, a Council official includes councillors, members of staff of Council, contractors, administrators, community members of wholly advisory committees, members of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee, members of reference panels, Council committee members and delegates of Council.
Donation	The provision of financial, in-kind or material contribution to an individual or organisation, with no expectation of any activity or benefit in return. It



	assumes a philanthropic motivation, and is voluntarily and freely given. Political Donations will not be accepted by Council.
Incoming Donation	A Donation from an individual or organisation to Council.
Outgoing Donation	A Donation by Council to an individual or organisation.
Event	Any organised gathering or function where people congregate for a unique purpose.
Gift	An item of value, for example a gift voucher, entertainment, hospitality, travel, commodity, property etc., which one person or organisation presents to another.
Grant	Funds (financial or in-kind) given to a recipient for a specified project or purpose as outlined in the funding guidelines, which result in community benefit.
In-kind support / funding	An arrangement whereby Council foregoes revenue (either in full, or a percentage) on goods or services that would normally incur a fee or charge.
Not-for-profit	A not-for-profit is an organisation that does not operate for the profit, personal gain or other benefit of particular people. Not-for-profits may include registered charities and incorporated associations.
Recipient	A party who has successfully applied for a grant or donation. In the case of grants, also known as the grantee.
Unincorporated community group	A community group of people who have agreed to come together to pursue a common purpose. An unincorporated community group is not a formal organisation.

Policy Statement

1. General Principles

- 1.1. Council will provide or accept Grants or Donations only when the benefit to the community can be clearly defined.
- 1.2. Council will only provide or accept Grants or Donations to organisations whose values, identity and direction align with Council's strategic direction and image, and comply with Council's Statement of Business Ethics, policies and legislative requirements.
- 1.3. Council will not provide or accept Grants or Donations to an organisation if the arrangement could compromise, or be seen to compromise, Council's ability to exercise its regulatory and planning functions.
- 1.4. A Grants or Donations agreement must not impose or imply conditions that could limit, or appear to limit, Council's ability to carry out its functions fully, impartially or ethically.
- 1.5. Council will not award Grants or Donations to entities or individuals for projects that:
 - a) involve a political or politically motivated organisation or activity, program or event.
 - b) involve activities, programs or events for religious purposes, unless the applicant can demonstrate broader community benefit.
 - c) involve activities, programs, or events that could be perceived as divisive within the community.
 - d) will discriminate, or encourage discriminatory behaviour, including discrimination on the basis of age, disability, race, religion, sex and/or sexual orientation.
 - e) will contribute to the infringement of human rights, including operating contrary to Modern Slavery Legislation.
 - f) will demonstrate behaviour that does not align to Council's strategic direction.
 - g) may pollute land, air or water, or otherwise damage the natural environment.
 - h) may produce, promote or distribute products or services likely to be harmful to the community.
 - i) may exploit people through the payment of below-award wages or poor working conditions.
 - j) involve children or young people but do not comply with Council's expectations and obligations as a Child Safe Organisation.
 - k) may represent a reputational risk for Georges River Council to partner with or support or be seen to partner with or support.
- 1.6. Eligible applicants must abide by the principles within this policy and any published guidelines for individual funding programs.
- 1.7. All applications will be considered on their individual merits. All information pertaining to the assessment, prioritisation and decisions about applications will remain confidential.

- 1.8. Council may seek independent advice in regards to any Grants or Donations arrangement to ensure the potential recipient's values, identity and policies support Council's strategic direction and image.
- 1.9. Applicants who have received prior funding from Georges River Council under any Council Grants program must have submitted any outstanding reports or acquittals prior to submitting a new application. Failure to do so will render new applications ineligible.
- 1.10. Any organisation or entity receiving Council funding that totals more than \$15,000 per annum in any financial year must provide a set of Audited Financial Statements to Council. Some organisations may be exempt in alignment with the auditing requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. This applies to all organisations, individuals and entities that receive grant funding, including but not limited to Community Grants, Event Grants, Venue Hire Grants, Heritage Building Grants, Micro Grants, Councillor Ward Discretionary Funds, rental subsidies, sponsorship and/or donations in both cash and in-kind funding. Failure to do so will render new applications ineligible.
- 1.11. To measure the ongoing effectiveness of Council's financial assistance programs, the Community Capacity Building team will evaluate the program following each round, using continuous improvement principles of feedback, review and implementing changes. This will include:
 - a) Seeking feedback from applicants (successful and unsuccessful) on all aspects of the program and how it meets community needs;
 - b) Collating grant recipients' acquittal reports to measure the benefits the program has brought to the community;
 - c) Consulting with stakeholders including grant recipients and other community organisations on an annual basis to identify community needs;
 - d) Incorporating new findings and improvements into new grant guidelines;
 - e) Annual reporting to Council on the previous year's grants program/s.
- 1.12. Applicants will only use Council's intellectual property, imagery and material in accordance with the Guidelines and only as permitted in any contract entered into with Council.
- 1.13. Any feedback or complaints regarding the delivery of the programs in this Policy may be made as per Council's Customer Feedback and Complaints Management Policy.
- 1.14. Funding programs and maximum funding limits

Funding program	Maximum amount	Program frequency
Community Grants	\$25,000 – Major Projects \$10,000 – Small Projects	Two rounds of funding per financial year
Heritage Building Grants	Up to 50% of the cost of a project (up to a maximum value of \$10,000 per application)	Maximum one funding round per financial year

Event Grants	\$20,000 (total maximum for combined in-kind and financial funding)	Applications assessed throughout the financial year, pending availability of funds
Micro Grants	Up to \$1,000 per application	At least one funding round per financial year
Quick Response Donations	Up to \$2,000 per request (Up to \$200 for individuals, \$1,000 for teams or \$2,000 for strategic priorities or philanthropic ventures)	Requests assessed throughout the financial year, pending availability of funds
Venue Hire Grants	Up to \$40,000	Applications assessed throughout the financial year, pending availability of funds

2. Grants

- 2.1. Applicants applying for any Georges River Council grants program must submit an application form for that grant program.
- 2.2. Applicants must demonstrate that they provide, or have the capacity to provide, services, activities, events and/or programs that benefit the Georges River community.
- 2.3. Council's Grants programs will be implemented in the following way, guided by Council's Community Strategic Plan objectives:
 - a) Receiving and incorporating feedback from the community, and Council's reference groups and advisory committees;
 - b) Abiding by Council's robust Governance guidelines;
 - c) Following the principles and objectives of this Policy and the individual grant program Guidelines.
- 2.4. The allocation of grants will consider other Council subsidies given to that grant recipient in the current financial year.
- 2.5. All grant allocations made by Council are made on the assumption of honest and full disclosure of information contained in the application. Evidence of any breach will render the grant null and void in which case any funds paid under the scheme must be returned to Council.
- 2.6. Grant funds will not be provided towards any unlawful, unethical or profit-making purposes, or towards any political or religious purposes.
- 2.7. Applicants must immediately advise Council of any proposed changes to the purpose or proposed use of grant funds from those detailed in the application, and of any significant changes in the aims and objectives or management structure of

the applicant group or organisation. The decision to withdraw funding following notification of proposed changes shall be made at Council's discretion.

- 2.8. Unexpended funds must be returned to Council, unless negligible, as per Council Guidelines or as permitted in any agreement entered into with Council.

3. Donations

- 3.1. Council is not obliged to accept a Donation from any organisation. Council reserves the right to decline a Donation agreement where the potential Donor, their activities or their proposals are in conflict with Council's core values or could have a negative impact on the community.
- 3.2. Donors must provide evidence of the philanthropic motivation for their Donations.
- 3.3. Donations will not be sought from, accepted from or provided to political parties.
- 3.4. Potential Donation arrangements will be risk-assessed for the possibility of a real or perceived Conflict of Interest. Council has the discretion to decline offers of Donation where the Donor's involvement (including parent companies or subsidiaries) could compromise, or be seen to compromise, Council's role and public image.
- 3.5. Incoming Donations may be allocated to a particular event or activity to enable the event or activity to be undertaken or carried out, or to be enhanced or expanded, in Council's absolute discretion, having regard to the Donor's wishes in respect of the intended purpose of the Donation.
- 3.6. Incoming donations under this Policy are not a development contribution under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (the EPA Act). Donations under this Policy do not reduce any obligation to make development contributions required pursuant to a condition of development consent imposed under the Act or a planning agreement within the meaning of the Act. Donations made under this Policy are not be taken into consideration in determining any contribution under the Act, or in determining whether to grant development consent to any development application, or to progress any proposal to amend any planning instruments. Any identified conflict of interest that is outside Council's risk appetite will result in the application being declined.
- 3.7. Donations of public infrastructure will be assessed against Council's Strategic Plan and accepted if deemed to be of community benefit.
- 3.8. All organisations accepted for incoming Donations will be disclosed on Council's website.
- 3.9. Incoming Donations are only to be accepted if the time and resources used to obtain the Donation is proportionate to the value of the Donation.

4. Community Grants Program

4.1. Program Objectives

- 4.1.1. The objectives of Council's Community Grants program are to:

- a) Provide a structured and strategic program through which funding can be allocated to meet identified community needs;
- b) Harness the expertise, skills, research, contacts and networks of community organisations to deliver and facilitate specialised high quality services and programs in the community;
- c) Support and facilitate the development of a more liveable community and enrich community social capital through targeted and timely support to community organisations;
- d) Build and support the capacity of community organisations, groups and individuals to deliver ongoing benefits to the local community;
- e) Recognise the significant and valuable role that community organisations play across a wide range of key program areas, and the services they deliver in our community.

4.2. Eligibility

- 4.2.1. Applicants must be a registered not-for-profit organisation, and be able to provide evidence of their not-for-profit status. Organisations must also demonstrate that they provide or have the capacity to provide services, activities and/or programs that benefit the Georges River community.
- 4.2.2. Groups not registered as a not-for-profit organisation must be auspiced by a registered not-for-profit organisation to be able to apply for a Community Grant. Auspiced applications must include a letter or memorandum of understanding confirming the auspice arrangement.
- 4.2.3. Organisations are able to submit one (1) application only in each category of the Georges River Council Community Grants program. If an organisation is auspicing one or more groups, this will not impact the eligibility of the auspicing organisation to apply for a Community Grant.
- 4.2.4. Applicants must provide proof of current Public Liability insurance.
- 4.2.5. Partnership applications may be submitted, and are encouraged, and will not negatively impact an individual application submitted by any of the partnership organisations. Please note, where partnership applications are submitted, support letters from each eligible organisation outlining their role in the project are required for the partnership application to be considered.
- 4.2.6. When grant applications relate to modifications to Council's facilities, or the purchase of equipment to be stored in Council's facilities, the organisation must attach written Council approval for their application to be considered. Applications that do not meet this requirement will not be deemed eligible.
- 4.2.7. Applications will be deemed ineligible and not accepted for:
 - a) Projects that have already commenced (retrospective programs);

- b) An organisation's operating and/or maintenance costs, including salaries unrelated to the delivery of this project;
- c) Commercial programs for personal profit;
- d) Uniforms, travel or subsistence costs;
- e) Funding for organisations whose main purpose is fundraising;
- f) Any unlawful or unethical purposes, or towards any political or religious purposes;
- g) Submissions from schools or Government agencies.

4.3. Assessment Process

- 4.3.1. A panel comprising Council officers will use the defined Assessment Criteria to assess and recommend applications for funding.
- 4.3.2. The recommendation of Council officers will be submitted in a report to the Community and Culture Committee.
- 4.3.3. The final recommendation will be endorsed at a Council meeting.
- 4.3.4. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.
- 4.3.5. Successful applications will be registered on Council's website.

5. Event Grants Program

5.1. Program Objectives

- 5.1.1. Council recognises the valuable contribution that organisations provide in the initiation and running of events in the Georges River area, showcasing our rich cultural diversity and delivering social, cultural, economic, and environmental benefits. Council may seek to support and further develop partnerships with these community organisations. Council's support could include:
 - a) Financial support
 - b) In-kind support (e.g. waiving of park hire fees, electricity and water fee, amenities cleansing fee)
- 5.1.2. This program provides registered not-for-profit organisations with an opportunity to apply for grant funding to support the running of a community event, held on Georges River Council-owned land or land managed by Georges River Council.
- 5.1.3. Priority will be given to events that contribute to the Georges River Council Community Strategic Plan and deliver community benefit in the areas of:
 - a) Social and cultural awareness and celebration
 - b) Local area promotion
 - c) Economic development
- 5.1.4. Council's Event Grants program objectives are to:

- a) Provide a consistent, equitable, transparent, and accountable process for the allocation of Council funds.
- b) Build and support the capacity of community organisations to deliver events that provide ongoing social, cultural and economic benefits to the local community.
- c) Provide a structured program through which Council Event Grant funding can be allocated in support of the Georges River Council Community Strategic Plan and development of community events.

5.2. Eligibility

5.2.1. Applicants must be a registered not-for-profit organisation and be able to provide evidence of their not-for-profit status.

5.2.2. Applicants to Council's Event Grants program may apply for a maximum combined total of \$20,000 of in-kind and financial funding per community organisation per financial year.

5.2.3. Applicants must provide proof of current Public Liability insurance.

5.2.4. Applications will be deemed ineligible and not accepted for:

- a) Any sporting club or association that currently holds a seasonal hire agreement, lease, licence, or management agreement for the use of Council parks or grounds, and is hosting regular events as part of their usual operations—such as open days, end-of-year celebrations, and award ceremonies.

5.2.4.i.a.1. However, for the sporting clubs or associations listed within 5.2.4a), events that fall outside of normal operations, such as club milestone anniversaries or state cup competitions may be eligible for an Event Grant.

- b) For-profit sporting events, which are ticketed and involve a cost or require significant monetary prizes.
- c) Any type of private celebration including but not limited to street parties, birthday parties or Christmas parties
- d) Programs or events run for personal or company profit
- e) Weddings or wedding photography
- f) Private company open days or private company charity fundraisers
- g) Invitation-only events not open or accessible to the public
- h) Temporary stall structures, providing community information or selling food or beverages
- i) Food markets that are for-profit
- j) Submissions from schools, school Parents and Friends committees or Government agencies
- k) Requests for prize money

5.2.5. Council will consider the capacity and capability of all registered not-for-profit organisations applying for an Event Grant. This may include a request to demonstrate:

- a) Compliance with Council's Event Guidelines and other Council authority requirements, including Council event permits
- b) Sufficient lead time to plan the event
- c) Budget relevant to the event
- d) Impact on the environment, including implementing sustainable event practices
- e) Adherence to Work Health & Safety policies or practices as required under legislation
- f) Compliance with Council's Risk Management Policy and Procedures

5.3. Implementation

5.3.1. Council will offer a minimum of one single round of Event Grant applications per financial year. Applications will be assessed throughout the financial year as applications are received, pending availability of remaining funds.

5.3.2. Funding will be allocated based on the size and reach of the event and assessed against criteria outlined in the Event Grants Guidelines.

5.3.3. Applications will be assessed in accordance with Council staffing and available resources.

5.4. Assessment Process

5.4.1. A panel comprising Council officers will use the defined Assessment Criteria to assess and make recommendations for funding to the Director Community and Culture for determination.

5.4.2. The Director Community and Culture will approve Event Grant applications to the value of \$2,000.

5.4.3. Event Grant applications over \$2,000 will be submitted in a report to the Community and Culture Committee. The final recommendation will be endorsed at a Council meeting.

5.4.4. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

5.4.5. Successful applications will be registered on Council's website.

6. Heritage Building Grants Program

6.1. Program Objectives

6.1.1. The Heritage Building Grants Program provides financial support to help conserve heritage listed buildings or initiate a heritage project.

6.1.2. These works are generally limited to small conservation projects or extraordinary maintenance works. Where works are supported, Council will fund

up to 50% of the cost of a project (up to a maximum value of \$10,000). The following are examples of the range of projects that may be supported under the Program:

- a) Removal of paintwork to reveal original sandstone;
- b) Repointing of brickwork;
- c) Restorative work to windows;
- d) Reconstruction of original elements;
- e) External painting of traditional colour schemes;
- f) Repair of tessellated floor tiles (where visually dominant);
- g) Reinstatement of traditional fencing.

6.2. Eligibility

6.2.1. In assessing applications priority will be given to those projects that:

- a) Result in sympathetic repairs to original fabric of the building, e.g. Repair of walls, verandahs, windows or roof plumbing etc.;
- b) Reinstatement of original architectural features, e.g. reconstruction of timber frame windows;
- c) Lead to streetscape improvements, e.g. reconstruction of front fences, appropriate for the architectural style of the building;
- d) Enhance public amenity and are highly visible to the public, e.g. the replacement of a front verandah;
- e) Are for projects which have high public accessibility, e.g. a local museum or church;
- f) Meet other major strategic objectives and complement broader conservation objectives, e.g. projects which implement key findings of heritage studies or projects;
- g) Will be undertaken by a non-profit organisation, e.g. community group or church.

6.3. Implementation

6.3.1. Owners need to ensure that they receive all appropriate approvals from Council in relation to changes and work to heritage items. A development application (DA) may be required.

6.3.2. For certain types of minor work, Council may give its approval without a DA being required. Examples include replacing roof guttering, a new fence or repainting a house in a new colour scheme. For this type of work, Council will need to be advised in writing of the proposal, and if it is acceptable, Council will write back giving approval for the work. The Development Consent Requirement Exemption Form is available on Council's website.

6.3.3. Minor maintenance work and most interior works that do not affect the structure of the building will generally not require consent. However, it is strongly

recommended that applicants contact Council's Strategic Planning Team before commencing to clarify whether approval is required.

6.3.4. Applicants are directed to Council's [Heritage Building Grants Program Guidelines](#).

6.4. Assessment Process

6.4.1. Applications are initially assessed by Council officers in conjunction with Council's Heritage Advisor, who will undertake a site inspection and consider the completeness and clarity of information provided.

6.4.2. Applications will be prioritised to ensure that those with the most merit can be approved within a set budget. Applications that do not satisfy the criteria will not be approved.

6.4.3. The recommendations of the Heritage Advisor and Heritage Working Group are then submitted to the Environment and Planning Committee.

6.4.4. The final recommendation will be endorsed at a Council meeting.

6.4.5. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

6.4.6. Once the approved work is completed to Council's satisfaction, payment will be made to successful applicants.

7. **Micro Grants Program**

7.1. Program Objectives

7.1.1. The objective of the Micro Grants Program is to provide Council with a framework for equitable and transparent assessment and determination of applications under this program.

7.1.2. This program provides local residents and groups, organisations and businesses registered in or located in the Georges River Council local government area with an opportunity to apply for funding of up to \$1,000 to support community wellbeing, innovation and social change through grassroots initiatives.

7.1.3. Funding from the Micro Grants Program may be used to provide local solutions to improve community wellbeing including social enterprises or co-ops; small business development; training opportunities; healthy living; or social cohesion.

7.1.4. The program aims to encourage accessibility and community participation from all sectors of the community, increasing access and equity in the provision of community services.

7.2. Eligibility

7.2.1. Applicants must be a resident of the Georges River Council local government area, or a business, group or organisation registered or located in the Georges River Council local government area.

7.2.2. Ineligible activities

The following activities or uses are not eligible for funding:

- a) Events or activities that primarily benefit a single individual;
- b) Private functions;
- c) Retrospective funding of any project.

7.3. Implementation

7.3.1. Council will offer at least one round of Micro Grants per year.

7.3.2. Applicants are able to submit one (1) application only in each round of the Georges River Council Micro Grants program.

7.4. Assessment Process

7.4.1. A panel comprising Council officers will use the defined Assessment Criteria to assess and recommend applications for funding.

7.4.2. The recommendation of Council officers will be submitted to the Director Community and Culture for determination.

7.4.3. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

7.4.4. Successful applications will be registered on Council's website.

7.4.5. Council will be informed of all successful applications.

8. **Venue Hire Grants Program**

8.1. Program Objectives

8.1.1. The objective of the Venue Hire Grants program is to provide Council with a framework for equitable and transparent assessment and determination of applications under this program.

8.1.2. Through the Venue Hire Grants program, Georges River Council provides equitable access to Council facilities to enable community participation, neighbourhood activation and a sense of belonging in the local government area.

8.1.3. This program provides not-for-profit organisations and unincorporated community groups with an opportunity to apply for a grant to subsidise venue hire fees for Council managed facilities.

8.1.4. Grants are available to not-for-profit organisations and unincorporated community groups to hire community spaces to run programs or activities that deliver targeted community and cultural services, through a streamlined application process.

8.1.5. The program only covers the venue hire of Council's facilities that can be hired by the public, as outlined in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

8.2. Eligibility

8.2.1. Applicants must be not-for-profit organisations or unincorporated community groups.

8.2.2. Grants are for venue hire use only and will not cover additional costs incurred from use of Council venues, such as equipment hire or staffing that are beyond the standard hire of each Council venue, as listed within Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges..

8.2.3. Applicants must have made a tentative booking for Council's facilities before submitting an application.

8.2.4. Applicants may be requested to submit a risk assessment for the event/activity they wish to hold in Council's venue/s.

8.2.5. Ineligible Activities

The following activities or uses are not eligible for funding:

- a) Exclusive use of a Council facility;
- b) Events or activities by commercial organisations, businesses or for-profit organisations;
- c) Events or activities for political purposes, including party meetings, party fundraising or lobbying, or religious purposes;
- d) Events or activities that primarily benefit a single individual;
- e) Private or social functions;
- f) Seasonal park bookings for sporting associations or clubs;
- g) Retrospective funding of any event or activity;
- h) Venue bonds, equipment hire, staffing e, catering, or technical costs that are beyond the standard hire of each Council venue, as listed within Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

8.3. Implementation

8.3.1. Grants of up to \$40,000 value per organisation per financial year are available, where approved.

8.3.2. Grants will be provided as in-kind support via a reduction in hiring charges for each venue per calendar year.

8.3.3. Council will offer a single round of grant applications per year. Applications will be assessed throughout the financial year as applications are received, pending availability of remaining funds.

8.4. Assessment Process

8.4.1. A panel comprising Council officers will use the defined Assessment Criteria to assess and recommend applications for funding.

8.4.2. The recommendation of Council officers will be submitted to the Director Community and Culture for determination.

- a) Fully funded projects: 100% venue hire funding support;
- b) Significantly funded projects: 75% venue hire funding support;
- c) Partially funded projects: 50% venue hire funding support;
- d) Projects not funded: 0% venue hire funding support.

8.4.3. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

8.4.4. Successful applications will be registered on Council's website.

8.4.5. Council will be informed of all successful applications.

9. Quick Response Donations

9.1. Program Objectives

9.1.1. The Quick Response Donations program supports small-scale projects and activities by community organisations and residents.

9.1.2. The program is open to not-for-profit organisations, unincorporated community groups and individuals.

9.1.3. Funding will be provided for:

- a) One-off support for individuals and teams that can demonstrate financial hardship that are selected to participate in cultural, academic or representative sporting events;
- b) Urgent support for unexpected or unplanned community, cultural or sustainability projects (e.g. disaster response initiatives);
- c) Funding for other strategic priorities identified through Council's policies and Community Strategic Plan, not identified or addressed in other funding programs.

9.1.4. Pending availability, funding will be made available in each area up to the following amounts:

- a) Representation in cultural, academic or sporting events, up to \$200 per year per individual or up to \$1,000 per year per team;
- b) Strategic priorities support up to \$2,000 per year;
- c) Philanthropic ventures funding support up to \$2,000 per year.

9.2. Eligibility

9.2.1. Council supports proposals for Donations that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a) Provides opportunities to meet community needs;
- b) Improves inclusion, liveability, connectedness and engagement with Georges River's diverse communities;
- c) Promotes the cultural diversity of the local government area;
- d) Enhances positive social, cultural, sustainability outcomes for local communities related to Council's strategic priorities;
- e) Provides opportunities for education and information exchange, regional, national and/or international events and activities that enhance the image and reputation of the area;
- f) Increases the engagement of and opportunities for individuals and teams in cultural, academic or sporting arenas;
- g) Delivers economic benefits to the Georges River local government area;
- h) Benefits a local registered charity and/or the Georges River community;
- i) Donations will not be extended to third parties conducting or participating in a fundraising activity for charitable causes;
- j) Applying organisations arranging fundraiser dinner functions or events may be provided an appropriate Donation to the nominated charity in lieu of the purchase of group tables or individual seats at the event.

9.2.2. Retrospective funding is not eligible for any project or activity.

9.3. Assessment Process

9.3.1. Donation requests will be assessed by an internal panel in accordance with this Policy to determine whether it is in Council's best interests to provide that Donation.

9.3.2. The recommendation of Council officers will be submitted to the Director Community and Culture for determination.

9.3.3. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

9.3.4. Successful requests will be registered on Council's website.

9.3.5. Council will be informed of all successful donations.

Responsibilities

Position	Responsibility
Council	Decision making on the allocation of Community Grants program and Event Grants program over \$2,000
Councillors	Participation in the governance of funding programs through the Community and Culture Committee and Council Meetings.
Director Community and Culture	Decision making on the allocation of Micro Grants, Venue Hire Grants, Event Grants up to \$2,000 and Quick Response Donations. Liaison with Community and Culture Committee.
Manager Community and Early Learning Services	Update the Grants and Donations Policy when necessary. Oversee the implementation of Grants and Donations programs unless otherwise stated, investigate and report breaches and enforce compliance.
Manager City Life	Oversee the implementation of Event Grants, investigate and report breaches and enforce compliance.
Manager Strategic Planning	Oversee the implementation of Heritage Building Grants Program, investigate and report breaches and enforce compliance.
Coordinator Community Capacity Building	Update Grants Program Guidelines annually or as required with input from Community Strategic Planning objectives and in line with budget allocation.
Grants and Project Officer	Administer the Community Grants, Venue Hire Grants, Micro Grants, and other grants and donations programs as required.
Head of Events and Sponsorship	Update Event Grants Guidelines as required with input from Community Strategic Planning objectives and in line with budget allocation. Administer the Event Grants program.



Office of the General Manager	Share Community Strategic Planning objectives to incorporate into program guidelines.
Information Management Technology Team	Information management of program applications and recordkeeping.



Version Control and Change History

Version	Amendment Details	Policy Owner	Period Active
1.0	New Grants and Donations Policy – Policy partially supersedes the Grants, Donations and Sponsorship Policy (2020) (Council Resolution COM031-23)	Manager Community and Early Learning Services	23/10/2023 – 10/2026
2.0	Draft revision of the Grants and Donations Policy – Policy supersedes the Grants and Donations Policy (2023)	Manager Community and Early Learning Services	TBC



Draft Sports Grounds Access Policy

2025

Policy administration

Dates	Policy approved xx/xx/xxxx (date to be added by Policy Specialist) This policy is effective upon its approval. Policy is due for review xx/xxxx (If a particular review date is required, please specify, otherwise the Senior Policy Specialist will set a review date at 3 years from the date the policy is approved which is the maximum review period)
Approved by	Council Meeting xx/xx/xxxx Council Resolution xxx
Policy Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Policy
Exhibition Period	<i>Include date of exhibition to the public or consultative committee, if relevant</i>
Policy Owner	Director Community and Culture
Related Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georges River Council's Bell Park Plan of Management • Georges River Council's Beverly Hills Park Plan of Management • Georges River Council's Carss Bush Park and Todd Park Plan of Management • Georges River Council's Claydon Reserve Plan of Management • Georges River Council's Community Lease and License policy • Georges River Council's Enforcement Policy • Georges River Council's Event Application Form • Georges River Council's Field Closure Procedure • Georges River Council's Grants and Sponsorship Policy • Georges River Council's Hurstville Oval and Timothy Reserve Plan of Management • Georges River Council's Kogarah Park Plan of Management • Georges River Council's Oatley Park Plan of Management • Georges River Council's Peakhurst Park Plan of Management • Georges River Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges • Georges River Council's Sportsground Generic Plan of Management • Georges River Council's The Bookable User Guide – Expression of Interest – Seasonal



Appendices	Nil
References & Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Children's Guardian Act 2019</i> • <i>Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012</i> • <i>Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013</i>
Document Identifier	Policy #: <i>Allocated by Senior Policy Specialist once policy is approved (includes the version number)</i> Doc #: D25/46352
Breaches of Policy	Any policy breach will be dealt with and responded to in accordance with adopted codes and/or relevant legislation.
Record Keeping	All documents and information obtained in relation to the implementation of this policy will be kept in accordance with the NSW State Records Act 1998, Georges River Council's Corporate Records Policy and adopted internal procedures.

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a framework for Council to manage the utilisation of its sports fields. Given the significant demand for these resources, this Policy aims to balance the needs of the community with the requirements for maintaining sustainable, safe, and fit-for-purpose playing surfaces. Council recognises the pressures on natural turf fields and the importance of ensuring these assets are used efficiently without exceeding their designed capacity.

This Policy will guide the allocation of sports fields in a way that maximises community access and participation, while safeguarding the long-term quality of the asset. It provides a consistent, transparent approach to decision-making that aligns with Georges River Council's broader strategic goals, including supporting the health, well-being, and social inclusion of all residents. In doing so, the Policy ensures that access is fair, resources are used responsibly, and the community's diverse needs are met equitably.

Objectives

- Optimise the utilisation of Council's sports fields to benefit the community.
- Ensure fair and equitable access to sports fields for a wide range of community groups.
- Minimise overuse of sports fields through effective allocation while ensuring maintenance aligns with actual use and perspective needs.
- Manage field bookings effectively, minimise scheduling conflicts, and provide a process for handling disputes.
- Promote health, and wellbeing and enhance community life by encouraging participation in sports and recreational activities by Georges River residents.

Policy Principles

1. Social Justice
2. Customer Experience
3. Asset Management
4. Governance
5. Use and Demand

Scope

This Policy applies to all sports fields owned or managed by Georges River Council.

This Policy applies to any sporting club, association, community group, school, tertiary organisation, commercial provider or any other group or organisation seeking to utilise Council sports fields.

Out of Scope

This policy does not apply to the following:

- Jubilee Stadium, which is managed as a Premier Sporting Facility. Use of this facility will be by application only. The application to hire Jubilee Stadium may be found on Council's website.
- Sporting facilities, amenities, and storage facilities that are managed by way of a Lease or Licence agreement under the Georges River Council Community Lease and Licence Policy.

Definition of Terms

Term	Meaning
Allocation	<p>A booking agreement between Council and a hirer to utilise a Council sports fields or facilities. A permit is issued with each allocation.</p> <p>An allocation allows hirers non-exclusive use of a sportfield or facility at a specific agreed time. Allocations can be annual, seasonal, or casual.</p>
Amenities	Buildings that are adjacent to sports fields including bathrooms, change rooms, and canteens.
Applicant	Any sporting club, association, community group, school, tertiary organisation, commercial provider or any other group or organisation that submits a request to be allocated a Council sportfield or facility.
Casual Hire	Irregular one-off booking for sports fields or facilities made by a user group.
Community Organisations	Community, sporting and other organisations are incorporated as not-for-profit organisations which prohibit private gain.
Complaint	<p>A form of feedback that expresses dissatisfaction towards Council, its policies, procedures, fees and charges, Council officers, Councillors, agents, or quality of service affecting an individual or group of customers.</p> <p>A complaint is not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Service Request • a request for Council to exercise a regulatory function • an appeal or objection regarding a statutory process, standard procedure, or policy (unless this is recorded as a complaint about the process of Council's decision-making) • a request for documentation, information or explanation of policies or procedures



- a response provided in relation to specific requests for feedback about the standard or quality of Council service provision
- an appeal against fines or penalties issued by Council Officers or agents
- a claim for compensation, or about legal matters (i.e., appeals)
- a report about a third party (e.g., a neighbour dispute).

Note: Service Requests must not be registered as a complaint unless Council has failed to respond appropriately the first time the service request was made, or if the customer specifically complains about the process, Council officer or quality of service provided.

Expressions of Interest (EOI)	Where applicable, leases or licences (and other types of commercial agreements) of sporting and recreational facilities will be subject to an open and competitive public process such as tender or Expression of Interest (EOI) at the expiration of each lease or licence period. This is as per legislative requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.
Feedback	<p>Opinions, comments or expressions of interest or concern, made directly or indirectly to Council about, our services, our staff, policies, or procedures where a response by Council is required.</p> <p>Feedback will be accepted in person, in writing or via social media channels.</p> <p>Once feedback is received by Council, it will be assessed and categorised by the Customer Experience Advocate. Feedback can be categorised as either positive feedback, a complaint (meeting our complaints criteria) or general feedback. Feedback may be in the form of a compliment, suggestion, comment, or complaint.</p>
Hazard Score	Total Hazard Score is calculated by adding the hazard rating values for each observation in the Field Closure Procedure.
Hirer	A sporting club, association, community group, school, tertiary organisation, commercial provider or any other group or organisation that hires or applies to hire a sportsfield or facility.
Lease	Includes leases for exclusive use
License	Includes licence for non-exclusive use



Pre-Season allocation	A restricted allocation, subject to availability to a hirer to utilise a Council sportfield and facility at agreed times prior to the commencement of the competitive scheduled sporting season for the purpose of sports training.
Seasonal allocation	Allocation/booking for a sportfield or facility made for a summer or winter period and can relate to training or competition use by a hirer.
Storage Facility	Buildings or spaces designated for storage, located near or adjacent to sporting fields, often used for equipment or maintenance.
Sporting Facility	Includes premises such as golf courses, tennis courts, bowling greens and public swimming pools.

Policy Statement

1. Seasonal Agreements

- 1.1. For consistent use of the sports fields by organisations such as sporting clubs, seasonal allocations are available. These bookings are managed through an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to ensure a fair, transparent allocation system for all applicants. Dates for the EOI process will be advised by Council.
- 1.2. When an allocation is assigned through the EOI process, the hirer enters into a non-exclusive agreement with Council to utilise a Council sports fields at a specific agreed time. A permit is issued with each allocation.
- 1.3. For one-off or infrequent uses, casual bookings can be arranged. Casual or temporary hire of Council sports fields may be granted to individuals and groups for an agreed period of time, outside the times allocated to sporting organisations or clubs. Casual bookings are also issues a permit.
- 1.4. Allocations will provide non-exclusive access to available sports fields. Applications will be assessed based on how well they meet the relevant criteria, with fields assigned accordingly. The final allocation decision will be made by the Council Officer overseeing the application review process.
- 1.5. To be eligible to be considered for an Allocation or Hire, applicants must:
 - 1.5.1. The permit holder is to either have independent public risk liability insurance or be included in their Governing Sports Association's public risk liability insurance to the sum of \$20,000,000 for the duration of the permit.
 - 1.5.2. The permit holder is to supply Council with a copy of their certificate of currency for their public risk liability insurance together with this application or proof of cover from their Governing Sports Association.
 - 1.5.3. The permit holder must agree to comply with Council policies and procedures, including demonstrating respectful behaviour and adherence to governing documents.
 - 1.5.4. Applicants must not have any outstanding debts or financial liabilities to the Council at the time of their application. This includes any unpaid fees, fines, or penalties associated with previous bookings, services, or agreements. Applicants are required to settle all overdue amounts before being considered for allocation or hire.

- 1.6. Where availability and practical capacity permits, seasonal allocations may be issued to more than one hirer at a facility.
 - 1.6.1. If shared use is proposed, Council will not allocate natural turf fields beyond hours of designed use.
 - 1.6.2. In cases where the required allocation by multiple hirers is above hours of designed use, Council will, where possible, work with the hirers to reduce field allocations in a fair and equitable manner.
 - 1.6.3. Council will aim to ensure in scheduling any shared facility Allocations, that concurrent use will not disrupt the intended usage of the hirers.
- 1.7. To promote fair and shared access to Council sportsgrounds for hire, Council generally follows the approach outlined below for the allocation of its sports fields on a non-exclusive, seasonal basis:
 - 1.7.1. Winter Season: Typically, from the first weekend in April to last weekend in August.
 - 1.7.2. Summer Season: Typically, from the first weekend of September to last weekend of March (inclusive of Christmas holiday period).
 - 1.7.3. Winter Pre-Season: Typically, from 1 March to the start of the Winter Season. Training cannot commence until such a time that the sporting code with the summer seasonal permit has completed their training on any particular day/night.
 - 1.7.4. Summer Pre-Season: Typically from 1 August to the start of the Summer Season.
 - 1.7.5. Seasonal changeover and rest periods of fields occur within the respective preseasons and will take precedent over preseason access requests determined by site specific requirements.
- 1.8. Council acknowledges that all sporting codes are subject to an overlap of seasonal Allocation dates.
- 1.9. Grand finals that occur outside of their respective sport's seasonal allocation period will be given priority over all other bookings, including regular training sessions, events, and general use. Field allocation and associated fees will be determined at Council's discretion.
- 1.10. All clubs in both seasons are asked to advise Council if a ground can be provided earlier for the seasonal sports field changeover. For example, goal posts out and cricket wicket preparation.

- 1.11. Season Fixtures must be provided to Council once confirmed, to allow for Council to reallocate any unused sports fields. Hirers must ensure every effort is made to notify Council of any unused dates in advance.
- 1.12. Access to the grounds for special competitions or gala events will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Gala days and presentation days are permitted within the dates of the hirer's seasonal booking. For gala days and presentation days outside of the hirer's seasonal booking dates, approval will be subject to field availability.
- 1.13. Gala days and presentation days that include activities beyond sport are considered an external event. Activities such as food stalls or food trucks, amusement devices (e.g. carnival rides or large interactive setups), road or car park closures, building a stage larger than 6m x 6m, or fireworks, are required to have approval through an external event application.
- 1.14. Hirer's will be required to complete an Event Application form a minimum of 12 weeks prior to their event (prior to midway through the season). This allows Council sufficient time to conduct risk assessments, collect insurance, apply for permits, notify surrounding residents and any other necessary actions required to successfully stage an event.
- 1.15. Amenities including storage, canteen, change rooms and medical rooms are managed under Council's Lease and License Policy and are not automatically included in the seasonal agreements.
- 1.16. Where an asset within sports fields has been upgraded the current hirer does not assume automatic allocation. The allocation will be considered in accordance with the principles of this Policy, and other applicable Policies or Council requirements for facility hire.
- 1.17. Where a facility upgrade to a synthetic or alternative surface allows for extended usage hours, additional hire hours will not be automatically allocated to the existing hirer. Additional available hours will be allocated through an Expressions of Interest (EOI) process.

2. Booking Request Conflict and Assessment

- 2.1. In the event that multiple hirers request access to the same field, an assessment will be undertaken to determine whether shared use of the facility is feasible. If shared use is not possible, the following criteria will be applied to ensure a fair, transparent, and equitable Allocation process:

- 2.1.1. The community impact and benefit of the sporting organisation as represented by the applicant. For example, an organisation that promotes health and well-being through sport, fosters a sense of belonging, and strengthens social connections within the community.
 - 2.1.2. The historical use and established relationships of the applicant as identified by Council. For example, an organisation with consistent, long-term bookings of a field may be preferred over a new applicant, ensuring established relationships are respected.
 - 2.1.3. The responsible use of assets by sporting organisations as identified by Council. For example, applicants who have a history of adhering to booking conditions or caring for the grounds.
 - 2.1.4. The demand and participation levels of the sporting club as represented by the applicant. To ensure fields are being used effectively to optimise the use of the asset. For example, a club with a high participation rate may be preferred to ensure fields are optimally utilised.
 - 2.1.5. The available alternative sports fields as identified by Council. For example, the provision of an alternative field with similar field quality or amenities.
 - 2.1.6. The compliance of the applicant to Council's policies and codes, as identified by Council. For example, preference may be given to clubs with a demonstrated record of respectful behaviour.
 - 2.1.7. The support for underrepresented, diverse, vulnerable or minority groups as represented by the applicant. For example, organisations that focus on supporting women in sports, youth in disadvantaged areas, or clubs that specifically cater to people with disabilities may be given preference.
 - 2.1.8. The alignment of the sporting organisation with either Council's or more broadly the community's goals, as represented by the applicant. For example, an organisation that aligns with Council's sustainability goals or works with local schools to provide physical education programs could be given preference to support community development.
- 2.2. Council officers will advise all parties of the booking request resolution at the completion of the assessment.

- 2.3. If the decision involves shared use of a facility, the notification will outline how the arrangement will be managed, including schedules and responsibilities for each hirer.
- 2.4. Any feedback or complaints regarding the outcome of the booking request resolution may be made as per Council's Customer Feedback and Complaints Management Policy.

3. Sports Ground Closure

- 3.1. Council recognises the impact of bookings on turf sports fields and the need to maintain playing surfaces. Sports fields may be rested for one (1) full weekday per week. Hirers will be informed of designated rest days by Council at the time of the seasonal booking or facility Allocation, or at a point where rest days are determined to be required for the longevity of a field.
- 3.2. Council may at its discretion make a field unavailable at any time for reactive maintenance and/or Council activities. Council will endeavour to provide as much advance notice as practical prior to any closure.
- 3.3. In the event of wet weather, to ensure the safety of all sporting participants and to preserve the condition of turf fields, Council will occasionally close playing fields. Council's Field Closure Procedure outlines the steps to be taken when assessing and determining the closure of fields due to wet weather to prevent damage to the turf, avoid injuries to players, and minimise the need for costly repairs.
- 3.4. Based on the inspection findings and associated 'Hazard Score,' the Field Managers will determine whether fields should be closed. The 'Hazard Score' considers water present on the surface of the field, field firmness, risk of damage to the turf associated with the activity and weather conditions.
- 3.5. The hirer is responsible for regularly checking Council's website for updates to the Sports Status webpage to determine if Council's natural turf sports fields are open or closed.
- 3.6. The hirer must subscribe to wet weather notifications via Council's website: <https://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/Sportsfields-status>
- 3.7. In the event of a closure due to wet weather or other factors outside the hirer's control, Council will review the situation and may offer a partial or full refund based on the nature of the closure and the hirer's scheduled time.

- 3.8. Any unauthorised use of Council's sports fields during times of closure may result in fines to the hirer as per the breaches of ground and facility use in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.
- 3.9. Any allocations on outdoor hard court surface such as synthetic, netball or basketball, veledrome hirers must conduct a risk assessment to determine playability in wet weather.

4. Fees and Charges

- 4.1. Council staff will notify applicants regarding assigned Allocations, and issue invoices for hire fees in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.
- 4.2. Fees and charges will vary according to the type of use, distinguishing by type of hirers.
- 4.3. Applicants seeking subsidies for hire fees may apply in accordance with the Grants and Donations Policy.

5. Terms and Conditions of Allocation or Hire

5.1. General Conditions

- 5.1.1. The permit holder must adhere to their scheduled times, promoting fair access, minimising conflicts, and optimising the use of sports fields for all hirers.
- 5.1.2. The permit holder must ensure all activities conducted on Council sports fields comply with relevant safety standards and risk management practices.
- 5.1.3. The permit holder must adhere to all Council regulations. Non-compliance, including unlawful or antisocial behaviour, may result in fines, penalties, or termination of hire agreements.

5.2. Public Risk Liability Insurance

- 5.2.1. The permit holder is to either have independent public risk liability insurance or be included in their Governing Sports Association's public risk liability insurance to the sum of minimum \$20,000,000 for the duration of the permit.
- 5.2.2. The permit holder is to supply Council with a copy of their certificate of currency for their public risk liability insurance together with this application or proof of cover from their Governing Sports Association.

5.3. Payment of Fees & Charges

- 5.3.1. Where the use of Council's sports fields is subject to the payment of fees and charges as prescribed in its Management Plan then all fees and charges must be paid in full by the applicant prior to the occupation and use of the public park, recreation facility or amenity.
- 5.3.2. Where fees and charges are not paid in advance, Council at its discretion may impose appropriate additional fees and charges or terminate the use of the venue by the applicant until such time as all fees and charges are paid in full.
- 5.3.3. Cleaning fees will apply to the permit holder where Council is required to clean an area that it determines had adequate bins to service the event. The fees will be in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.
- 5.3.4. Cancellations made more than 48 hours in advance must be managed directly through Council's online booking system. For cancellations within 48 hours of the booking, changes cannot be made through Council's online booking system and must be requested via email to grcparks@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au. Rescheduling of the cancelled booking may be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to availability within your seasonal allocation period and at Council's discretion.
- 5.4. **Authorisation**
- 5.4.1. The permit does not give the permit holder the authority to transfer or sub-hire to third parties to use the park, for any supplementary or otherwise sports, recreational or other events or services without Council's written consent.
- 5.4.2. The permit holder is to comply with relevant terms and conditions of general park use outlined in the relevant Plan of Management.
- 5.4.3. The permit holder must notify Council officers in both writing of any proposed changes for the use of the sporting field, including competition days or nights not nominated on the permit, additional training days or nights, extended hours of use outside the nominated times or any special events, commercial activities, or functions.
- 5.5. **After Hours Council Assistance**

5.5.1. After hours Council assistance can be obtained by telephoning Council's Venue Support Officer on 0411 743 258.

5.6. Keys to Council Property

5.6.1. Only Club Executive Officers may apply in writing for key(s) to Council property.

5.6.2. Key(s) will be issued and charged in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

5.6.3. Where key(s) have been issued they must be returned to Council within 7 working days at the termination of the permit or the applicant will incur any replacement cost for keys and locks.

5.6.4. Additional, lost or replacement key(s) and lock(s) will incur costs as per Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

5.7. Management of Sport Lights

5.7.1. At the conclusion of each evening's training session the floodlights must be turned off where they are not on an automatic timer.

5.7.2. Floodlights must be turned on no more than ten (10) minutes before the commencement of the night's first training session.

5.7.3. Floodlights automatically switch off at 9:35pm unless otherwise advised, the exception being:

a) Poulton Park No.1 & mini field - switch off at 8.00pm; and

b) Poulton Park No.2 field - switch off at 8:00pm.

5.7.4. It is prohibited for any association, club, its members or representatives or others to interfere with the floodlight timing mechanisms, electrical components, or wiring unless to manually turn on or off the floodlights. Penalties may apply for any restoration costs as assessed by Council.

5.7.5. Some of Council's floodlights have been fitted with individual key switches, which require a BiLock Key to operate them. Council will issue one (1) BiLock Key per floodlight required for usage by an association. Should an association request any additional keys for individual clubs a fee will apply.

5.7.6. A key replacement fee will apply for any key that is lost or damaged. Any associated costs will be charged in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

- 5.7.7. No keys are to be lent to any other parties outside an association or club for any purpose.

5.8. Line Marking

- 5.8.1. The permit holder is required to line mark the desired playing area using appropriately approved, non-toxic and commercially available line marking paint or dye that has been specifically designed for use on grassed sports fields. The permit holder must contact Council officers to obtain approval prior to commencing any line marking.

- 5.8.2. The use of oils, poisons, toxic liquids or chemicals or other contaminants are not permitted and where they are illegally used penalties will apply in accordance with the provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operation Act, 1997 and in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

5.9. Signage

- 5.9.1. The permit holder is required to have written approval from Council prior to fixing any temporary or permanent signs to the exterior of the building or any other fixture on Community Land. Council reserves the right to determine the size and content of any permanent or temporary signage

- 5.9.2. Street banners and associated fittings are to be in good condition at all times and any that are torn, ripped, defaced, worn out or otherwise in disrepair are to be replaced or repaired.

5.10. Smoking Bans and Anti-Social Behaviour

- 5.10.1. The permit holder has a duty to promote and give consideration to nearby residents and will be responsible to ensure appropriate behaviour and reduce noise impacts by their participants who attend the approved activity or event.

- 5.10.2. It is prohibited to smoke within ten (10) metres of areas where people congregate such as:

- a) playground areas
- b) car parks located in public parks and reserves
- c) canteens
- d) changerooms
- e) toilets
- f) any other Council buildings or structures on community land or Trust Crown Reserve land

- g) on all sports playing fields, parks and sporting facilities (i.e. public swimming pools, outdoor sports centres)
- h) at Council sponsored events
- i) on land categorised Natural Area - Bushland
- j) areas so designated by signage as "Smoke Free Areas"

5.11. Inspections for Hazards

- 5.11.1. The permit holder shall be responsible for the visual inspection of the playing field and surrounding areas to identify any defects, depressions, obstacles, objects, protrusions, exposed irrigation systems or any other hazard that would be a risk to users of the playing and training fields and spectators. The permit holder is required to remove or manage any hazard or risk before the commencement of activities or alternatively prevent the use of the area, structure or object.
- 5.11.2. Throughout the duration of the permit, the permit holder will be responsible for implementing appropriate risk management procedures to identify and eliminate risk in accordance with Standards Australia HB 246-2010 Guidelines for Managing Risk in Sport & Recreation: Standards Australia Handbook.
- 5.11.3. All identified risks must be reported to Council Officers on 9330 9305 or via email: grcparks@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au

5.12. Repair and Works to Essential Service

- 5.12.1. Council will be solely responsible for carrying out all repairs, upgrades, adjustments, maintenance or other works including electrical, floodlights, plumbing and other essential services on its buildings, structures and other public property.

5.13. Closure of Sports fields

- 5.13.1. At its discretion, Council reserves the right to close any or all of its sports fields as a result of:
 - a) Inclement weather that exposes the playing surface to unacceptable wear and tear as determined by Council;
 - b) Any other condition determined by Council to be unsafe and/or hazardous to potential users or the general public that, in its opinion, exposes it to unacceptable public risk liability; or
 - c) Maintenance or improvement works to the sports field.

- 5.13.2. Council will not be liable for any costs for inconvenience, loss of income or any other cost where it has closed a sporting field because of hazardous conditions, where it is to carry out necessary works or any other activity deemed necessary by Council.
- 5.13.3. Closure of the netball hardcourts during wet weather is left to the discretion of the applicable Netball Association at the time.
- 5.13.4. In the event of park closure due to wet weather, the status of Council's sports fields will be updated on Council's Sports fields Status web page: Georges River Council Sports and Recreation information.

5.14. Child Protection Compliance

- 5.14.1. The permit holder acknowledges and warrants that where the permitted use of the sports fields involves children under 18 years of age it has and will at all times comply with the requirements of the Children's Guardian Act 2019 pertaining to the 10 mandatory Child Safe Standards, the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012, and the Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013.
- 5.14.2. The permit holder must comply with the mandatory guidelines available from the Office of the Children's Guardian which are also available on their website www.ocg.nsw.gov.au. These guidelines contain forms including declarations and consents which must be made by the prospective employees.

5.15. Damage

- 5.15.1. Council will inspect the fields for damage at appropriate times. If Field Managers deem that the fields are damaged, a penalty fee will apply plus the cost of any rectification works.
- 5.15.2. Any club or association that has not adhered to Field Manager decisions will receive a penalty fee. If this use is deemed to have damaged the playing surface a further damage penalty fee will apply plus the cost of any rectification works required to return the playing field to its original condition.
- 5.15.3. Penalty fees and damage penalty fees are detailed in Council's Fees and Charges document. Any penalty fees will be issued in writing to the offending field hirer/s. Hirers who are deemed to have damaged the fields will have their right to utilise the fields reviewed by Council. Council



reserves the right to close fields for an appropriate duration to enable the field to recover.

Responsibilities

Position	Responsibility
Director of Community and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide point of contact for Councillor enquiries.
Manager City Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the policy when necessary. Oversee the implementation of the policy. Provide a point of contact about the meaning and application of the Policy. Review and update the policy when required.
Coordinator Programming and Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a point of contact about the meaning and application of the policy. Review and update the policy when required. Ensure compliance with the policy.
Field Coordinators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field closure notification. Tier One Turf Fields and Tier 3 Turfs each have a Coordinator responsible for this action.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Field Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for assessing field conditions and making the final decision on field closures.
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to this policy. To file related documentation into Council's Electronic Document and Records Management System.

Version Control and Change History

Version	Amendment Details	Policy Owner	Period Active
1.0	New Georges River Council Risk Policy	Manager City Life	Xx/xx/xxxx

Attachment 3 – Tiering of Council Sporting Facilities

Tier	Sportsground
Stadium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jubilee Stadium
Facilities Under a Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beverley Park Golf Course • Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre • Hurstville Golf Course • Ken Rosewall Tennis Centre • Kyle Bay Bowling Greens • Norm O’Neil Cricket Centre • Parkside Drive Tennis Centre • Penshurst Park Sporting Hub (Canteen Only) • Sans Souci Leisure Centre
Tier 1 Turf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harold Fraser Oval • Hurstville Oval • Olds Park (Playing Field 1)
Tier 2 Synthetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poulton Park • Penshurst Park Sporting Hub • Peakhurst Park • Vanessa Street Multi-Sport/Futsal Courts
Tier 3 Turf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bell Park • Beverly Hills Park • Carss Park Flats • Claydon Reserve • Gannons Park • Gifford Park • H.V. Evatt Park • Kogarah Park • Oatley Park • Olds Park • Parkside Drive Reserve • Peakhurst Park • Poulton Park • Quarry Reserve • Renown Park • Riverwood Park and Wetlands • The Green Reserve • Todd Park

Attachment 5 – Opportunities and Constraints for Premium Facilities

Facility	Opportunity	Constraints
Jubilee Stadium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community organisations can apply for a venue hire subsidy available through the Venue Hire and Event Grants program. • The stadium is available for hire for up to 10 events per year at a community rate. • Consider the inclusion of hireable venues in Jubilee Stadium in Bookable. • Consider the inclusion of Jubilee Stadium in Bookable. • Additional event costs for security, staffing, and catering will be calculated based on the specific requirements of the event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial hire has priority over community bookings. • Additional staffing, event costs, security and catering services are required. • Infrastructure is needed to restrict access to the field when the community uses function rooms. • Infrastructure is needed to restrict access to the field when the community uses function rooms.
Penshurst Park Sporting Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate Peakhurst Park Sporting Hub into the Bookable online booking system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional community use is limited due to seasonal bookings. • The canteen is operated by an external provider, and its availability requires the agreement holder's approval.
Hurstville Oval (Tier 1 Field)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications plan for Council's sporting facilities to promote utilisation. • Co-location of Blackshaw Gould Community Pavilion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability is subject to the terms of the Non-Exclusive Licence agreement and seasonal bookings.
Hurstville Oval – Booth Saunders Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booth Saunders Pavilion is included as a hireable venue. • Increased community access for Booth Saunders Pavilion through the new Licence agreement. • Incorporate keyless access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of Booth Saunders Pavilion is limited by the terms of the Non-Exclusive Licence agreement. • Furniture required for Booth Saunders Pavilion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Booth Saunders Pavilion is co-located at Hurstville Oval. Communications and marketing plan for Council's venues for hire. 	
Hurstville Oval - Blackshaw Gould Community Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blackshaw Gould Community Pavilion is co-located at Hurstville Oval. Communications and marketing plan for Council's venues for hire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The availability of the Blackshaw Gould Community Pavilion sports amenities area is limited by the terms of the Non-Exclusive Licence agreement.
Harold Fraser Oval (Tier 1 Field)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of fees and charges to incorporate price points based on accurate utilisation of facility in a pricing structure that assists in community affording access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability is subject to the terms of the Non-Exclusive Licence agreement and seasonal bookings.
Hurstville Golf Clubhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the uses to permit the clubhouse to be used for the wider community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current use is limited to clubhouse by golf members and guests. A "function centre" use is not permitted in the RE1 Public Recreation Zone. A planning proposal is required to insert "function centre" as an additional use. A DA is required to be lodged for uses that are permitted under the RE1 zoning. This includes: <i>community facilities; recreation facilities (indoor); restaurants or cafes.</i>

Item: COM006-25 Adoption of the Community Engagement Policy 2024

Author: Community and Engagement Lead

Directorate: Office of the General Manager

Matter Type: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the updated Community Engagement Policy 2024 attached to this report.

COM006-25

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. A review of Council's Community Engagement Policy has been undertaken and minor amendments to the Policy are recommended to ensure consistency with legislation and other Council strategies and policies.
2. The draft Community Engagement Policy 2024 has been updated with minor feedback from the consultation period and is recommended for adoption.

BACKGROUND

3. The current Community Engagement Policy was adopted by Council in August 2021. The City Futures Communications and Engagement team is responsible for the ownership and maintenance of this policy.
4. The draft Community Engagement Policy 2024 builds upon the existing policy framework while incorporating minor updates to align with current best practices and related Council policies.
5. In accordance with COM041-24, the draft Community Engagement Policy 2024 was placed on public exhibition for a period of 56 days for community consultation.

OUTCOMES FROM COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

6. Community consultation concluded 12 February 2025. Five submissions were received during the exhibition period.
7. An analysis of the feedback was completed by Council staff. While the policy was viewed positively, key themes raised by participants included stronger reference of Council's Community Engagement Strategy 2023-2033, inclusion of metrics regarding timeframes and notifications, and clearer communication standards and stakeholder contact.
8. Noting this feedback, the Community Engagement Policy establishes the foundational principles and commitment to community engagement, while the Community Engagement Strategy provides the practical roadmap for implementing these principles.
9. Comments raised by the community can be addressed by updating the Community Engagement Policy to include stronger visibility and reference to the Community Engagement Strategy 2023-2033, where the aforementioned metrics and processes are documented.
10. An update to section three (3.5) now references in clearer detail the Community Engagement Strategy 2023-2033 as the leading document for Council's approach to engagement, including engagement methodology, planning, and timelines.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. No financial/budget impact for this report. The proposed public exhibition and adoption of the Georges River Council Community Engagement Policy was conducted using existing resources.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

12. Review of the Georges River Council Community Engagement Policy was required to take place in December 2024 to comply with Council's Policy three-year review and renewal period.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

13. Community engagement was conducted including: The Draft Community Engagement Policy was made publicly available for comments and feedback for a minimum period of 56 days, running from 18 December 2024 to 12 February 2025. This period was to take into consideration the Christmas and holiday closure.
14. Community engagement included:
 - (a) Draft Community Engagement Policy was made available for viewing and feedback from the community.
 - (b) Submissions on the Policy were accepted online, via email, mail or in person at Georges River Libraries and Centres
 - (c) Mixed promotional activities (social, email, print) were distributed across the public exhibition period to create awareness and seek community participation:
 - (i) Online on Council's Your Say platform;
 - (ii) Printed copies at Georges River Libraries and Centres;
 - (iii) Inserts in Council's Community eNews 9 January, 23 January, and 5 February editions;
 - (iv) Inserts in Council's Your Say newsletter 20 January and 7 February;
 - (v) Insert in the St George Leader 29 January edition;
 - (vi) Inclusion on social media posts across Council's Facebook and Instagrams pages, 30 January and 10 February;
 - (vii) Included in community engagement collateral circulated at Council's Lunar New Year Festival 1 February; and
 - (viii) Included in community engagement collateral circulated at Seniors Program Leaders meeting 7 February.



Leader ad insert, dated 29 January



Provide your feedback on the Community Engagement Policy

Our Community Engagement Policy sets best practice for engaging with the community. We have made some minor updates to the Policy, and you are invited to view these changes and share your feedback.

[Learn more](#)

Community eNews insert, various dates



Social media post (Instagram and Facebook), various dates



Poster at Hurstville Library, Hurstville

FILE REFERENCE

D25/28885

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Draft for approval Community Engagement Policy 2024



COM006-25



Draft Community Engagement Policy

2024

Policy Administration

Dates	Policy approved <i>xx/xx/xxxx</i> (date to be added by Policy Specialist) This policy is effective upon its approval. Policy is due for review <i>xx/xxxx</i> (If a particular review date is required, please specify, otherwise the Senior Policy Specialist will set a review date at 3 years from the date the policy is approved which is the maximum review period)
Approved by	Executive on <i>xx/xx/xxxx</i> (Delete below if Council approval is not required) Council Meeting <i>xx/xx/xxxx</i> Council Resolution <i>xxx</i>
Policy Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Policy
Exhibition Period	<i>18 December 2024 to 12 February 2025</i>
Policy Owner	Executive Manager – City Futures
Related Documents	Community Engagement Strategy 2023-2033 Customer Experience Strategy 2022-2027 Social Justice Charter 2022-2026 Social Media Policy 2023 Media Policy 2023 Privacy Management Plan 2023 Interactions with Children and Young People Policy 2022 Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026
References & Legislation	Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (NSW) Local Government Amendment (Governance and Planning) Act 2016 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (NSW) Crown Land Management Act 2016 (NSW) Roads Act 1993 (NSW) Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW) Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW) Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 (NSW)
Document Identifier	Policy #: <i>Allocated by Senior Policy Specialist once policy is approved (includes the version number)</i> Doc #: <i>D24/277539</i>
Breaches of Policy	Breaches of any policy will be dealt with and responded to in accordance with adopted codes and/or relevant legislation.

COM006-25 Attachment 1



Record Keeping	All documents and information obtained in relation to the implementation of this policy will be kept in accordance with the NSW <i>State Records Act 1998</i> , Georges River Council's Corporate Records Policy and adopted internal procedures.
-----------------------	---

DRAFT



Contents

Policy Administration	2
Purpose	5
Scope	5
Definition of Terms	5
Policy Statement.....	6
1. Commitment	6
2. Principles.....	6
3. Engagement Framework	6
4. Community Involvement	7
Responsibilities.....	8
Version Control and Change History	8

DRAFT

Purpose

The purpose of the Community Engagement Policy (Policy) is to provide the framework for a consistent and best practice approach to engaging with the community across all Georges River Council (Council) functions. It also ensures Council is open and transparent and that decisions are made in the best interests of the public.

Scope

Community engagement is integral to developing Council plans, policies and the provision of services and assets. Engagement is not a substitute for decision-making; however, it is an important part of the democratic system under which councils operate.

This Policy outlines the commitment, principles and engagement framework under which opportunities will be made available for the Community to directly contribute to Council's decision-making process.

This Policy applies to all Council Officials (defined below). It also applies to volunteers and third-party consultants that engage with the Community on Council's behalf. This policy is delivered through Council's [Community Engagement Strategy](#).

Definition of Terms

Term	Meaning
Community	People that live, work, or invest in the Georges River local government area. More specifically Community includes residents, ratepayers, business owners, sporting groups, not-for-profit organisations, schools, religious institutions and State and Federal agencies.
Council Official	As defined in Part 2 of Council's Code of Conduct, a Council Official includes councillors, members of staff of a council, contractors, administrators, community members of wholly advisory committees, members of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC), members of reference panels, council committee members delegates of council and council advisors.
Engagement	A two-way dialogue between Council and the community where input, ideas and feedback are sought to assist with the decision-making process on various projects and activities.
International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)	IAP2 is an international association which seeks to promote and improve the practice of public participation or community engagement, incorporating individuals, governments, institutions and other entities that affect the public interest throughout the world.

Spectrum	International Association for Public Participation – IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum . Levels of participation that define the public's role in any community engagement.
-----------------	--

Policy Statement

1. Commitment

1.1. When undertaking community engagement, Georges River Council is committed to:

- Making decisions in the best interests of the community;
- Being open and transparent;
- Respecting the views of the community;
- An equitable practice that gives all members of the community the opportunity to actively participate in democratic processes;
- Being accessible to all members of the community; and
- Meeting legislative requirements.

2. Principles

2.1. Effective community engagement is built on openness, transparency, trust and respect. Council's commitment to community engagement is underpinned by the following principles:

- Engagement contributes in a meaningful way to the development and enhancement of Council's plans and policies and the delivery of services and infrastructure;
- Staff demonstrate integrity when working with the community;
- Council looks for opportunities to engage with the community in order to gauge a better understanding of their thoughts and ideas;
- Systems and tools will be used to help make engagement activities accessible to a wide a range of the community;
- Council is committed to reducing barriers to participation in Community Engagement in line with the principles of the [Social Justice Charter](#), [Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026](#), and [Interactions with Children and Young People Policy](#).

3. Engagement Framework

3.1. Council uses the International Association of Public Participation's (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum as the framework for engaging with the local community. The purpose of this Spectrum, which is considered a best practice benchmark worldwide, is to improve the practice of public participation or community engagement.

3.2. This Spectrum encompasses five (5) key concepts for engaging with the public:

- Inform
- Consult
- Involve
- Collaborate
- Empower

3.3. The below chart outlines the promises and goals Council has for each of these concepts.

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Reference: IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

3.4. By using this industry best practice approach, Council will ensure all members of the community can have their say.

3.5. Further guidance and information regarding Council's approach to engagement, including the engagement framework, planning, and timelines, can be found in the Georges River Council's [Community Engagement Strategy 2023-2033](#).

3.6. While Georges River Council encourages the whole community to provide feedback and have their say during the engagement process, Council recognises and respects that not everyone wishes to participate. Participating in community engagement activities is completely voluntary.

4. Community Involvement

4.1. Council recognises the importance of providing opportunities for the community to make their voice heard. Council values community input in the engagement

process, which enables Council to make decisions based on the views of residents, ratepayers, business owners and community groups.

- 4.2. Council will promote avenues for accessible and quality community engagement to inform its decisions and functions. Appropriate and diverse methods will be used to engage in line with industry best practice and with a focus on continuous improvement.
- 4.3. Council is committed to ensuring that community engagement is meaningful and reflective of genuine community input. Council may ask for personal information to verify submissions and accommodate responses. Personal information will be handled in accordance with Council's [Privacy Management Plan](#). Where appropriate, unverified and unreceipted submissions will be accepted.
- 4.4. Council reserves the right to utilise discretion when accepting community feedback where it is reasonable to assume a submission has been made in bad faith or breaches the [Terms of Use](#).

Responsibilities

Position	Responsibility
Executive Manager-City Futures	Responsible for the implementation, application and review of the Community Engagement Strategy and Community Engagement Policy.

Version Control and Change History

Version	Amendment Details	Policy Owner	Period Active
1.0	New Georges River Council Community Engagement Policy Council Resolution CCL097-17 (which included public exhibition period 4/4/17-19/5/17)	Senior Corporate Planner	5/06/2017 – 09/08/2021
2.0	Version 2 adopted by Council, which includes minor amendments to provide further clarification and to ensure currency, as outlined in the Council Report.	Coordinator Communications and Engagement	10/08/2021 - ongoing

3.0	Draft Version 3 for Council adoption Includes minor amendments to provide additional related documents, updated to 2.1 Engagement Principles, inclusion of 3.5 to include link to Community Engagement Strategy, and inclusion of 4.3 and 4.4 Community Involvement, as outlined in the Council Report Executive Manager- City Futures
------------	---

DRAFT

Item: COM007-25 Hurstville Weekly Night Market Preliminary Feasibility
Author: Executive Manager City Futures
Directorate: Office of the General Manager
Matter Type: Committee Reports

COM007-25

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council receives the outcome of the preliminary feasibility study on establishing weekly night markets in Hurstville.
- (b) That Council does not support weekly night markets in Hurstville Plaza.
- (c) That Council's Economic Development team will continue to assess the feasibility of night markets in Hurstville, and report back to Council in November 2025 with the findings.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. At the April 2024 Council meeting, Council resolved (NM036-24) to prepare a report evaluating the feasibility of establishing weekly night markets in Hurstville. Details of the actions undertaken as part of the feasibility study, including community feedback and bench marking are outlined within this report.

BACKGROUND

2. At the April 2024 Council meeting, Council resolved (NM036-24):
 - (a) That the General Manager prepare a report evaluating the feasibility of establishing a weekly night market in Hurstville. The feasibility study to include responses to the following elements:
 - i. Commercial arrangements (Council led or private sector led).
 - ii. Planning controls
 - iii. Day of the week / timing
 - iv. Controls to maximise local business opportunities
 - v. Public programming / live music / performance
 - vi. Promotion
 - vii. Security
 - viii. Cost
 - ix. Implementation / timing of delivery
 - x. Learnings from equivalent night markets
 - xi. Learnings from night markets across the Sydney Metropolitan Region
 - (b) That Council translates the newly adopted Event Charter and Event Toolkit into the top three non-English languages in the Georges River LGA. This will facilitate opportunities for our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse [CALD] communities to deliver events in the LGA.
3. The Hurstville weekly night markets feasibility study is consistent with Georges River Council's Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032; Pillar 3: Our Economy, Goal 3.1 *Local jobs and local businesses are supported to grow.*

4. Council officers are supportive of enhancing the nighttime economy across the Georges River LGA. Night markets can act as an attractor for visitors coming into their area with an opportunity to compliment surrounding businesses through cross promotion, directional signage and seasonal promotional offers that incentivise customers to return for repeat a visitation.
5. Council officers work with the NSW Government Office of the 24-hour Economy Commissioner, Economic Leadership Group, local businesses, business chambers and event providers to increase nighttime activity.
6. Council is currently updating its Economic Development Strategy which will include a focus on actions to enhance street appeal, local activation and expand the nighttime economy.
7. To determine the feasibility of weekly night markets, Council's Economic Development team gathered evidence from local businesses which informed the recommendations in this report. A business survey was conducted in January 2025 and included responses from 43 local businesses.
8. The comments below answer the points within the resolution.

Commercial arrangements (Council led or private sector led)

Council led

9. Council's Community Events Program features a series of online and in-person events for the community to enjoy. Some of these events are delivered within the Hurstville Plaza and surrounds. Council led events have included night markets as part of Lunar New Year and Good Taste Festival.

Private sector led

10. Specialty markets have been delivered in Hurstville Plaza to provide an expanded precinct offering including entertainment, diverse food offerings and seasonal celebrations. The Georges River Association trialed a Multicultural Night Market in October 2024 and again in February 2025.

Planning controls

11. The current Georges River Council Local Environmental Plan (GRLEP 2021) allows for 52 events per calendar year on one site per applicant for both Council-led and private-led activities. This includes a plan of management that considers sound amplification, traffic management, waste, and safety.
12. The use of Council spaces requires an event application, and the event host (external) is charged the fee. To deliver events, each of the processes; tender application, development application and event permit - requires a plan of management and risk assessment. Each food stall holder requires a temporary food license permit.
13. The approximate timelines for the approval process are:
 - i. New Development Application 6 months
 - ii. Review of Development Application 3 months
 - iii. Temporary Food Permit 1 month
 - iv. Event application for use of public space 10-12 weeks
 - v. Temporary Structures Application 10-12 weeks
14. The Permit, Plug, Play grant from Transport for NSW will facilitate the delivery of Global Development Applications (DA) for three Council sites improving access to host street based events. Hurstville is one of these sites and the DA has been lodged. The Global DA will help reduce costs for event organisers as they will not have to submit a DA to run an event.

Day of the week / timing

15. Council's Economic Development Team conducted in-person surveys of 43 local businesses during January 2025 to gather data to inform the optimal time for operating markets.
16. 44% of the survey responses from local business indicated that the preference is to have a monthly night market. 24% of respondents supported weekly night markets.
17. The Data After Dark platform is NSW Government initiative that allows access to consumer spending patterns. Data from this platform indicated that the highest number of nighttime transactions in Georges River Council peak between Thursday and Saturday; with Saturday night seeing the highest activity.
18. Nighttime activations including markets could compliment peak trading times between Thursday and Saturday; or be held in the down times from Sunday to Wednesday to provide additional offerings during low frequency visitations.
19. There is an opportunity to extend the market operation hours to 10pm where 41% of core nighttime businesses in Hurstville are closed. This would allow staff that work at venues that close at 9pm or customers wanting to extend their stay and participate in further nighttime offerings before the close of public transport services are reduced or cease to operate by 11pm. This could be applied during the summer months.

Controls to maximise local business opportunities

20. The [NSW State Government Vibrancy Reforms](#) have increased provisions and opportunities for music and performance venues to make the delivery of events and outdoor activation easier. The Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner provides businesses grant opportunities including the Uptown Program to develop local businesses capacity as a Live Venue or District Team to create vibrant precincts.
21. Georges River Council has delivered progressive development control plans (DCPs) which do not list restricted trading hours. Instead, the trading hours are considered through a merit-based application and are considered through a plan of management. This provides greater flexibility for businesses to operate late into the night.
22. Temporary food license permits are an affordable and accessible entry point for businesses to participate in markets, festivals and events through a one-off lifetime application fee. The permits support local businesses to expand or present their business offering as a stall holder at local events.
23. Business with access to footpaths or the Plaza may be eligible for outdoor dining through an application process. Outdoor dining, allows the footprint of the business to engage with the night market atmosphere, increase visibility and attraction when there is increased foot traffic.

Public programming / live music / performance

24. Council offers regular public programming through the Major Events Calendar and provides an ongoing application form for external businesses and organisations to submit an Event Application to deliver events. As part of the Event Application and Development Application, the submission must include any detail or intention for public programming, live music or performance, with appropriate consideration for acoustic management.
25. In Hurstville Plaza during 2024 there were 3 Council led events and 4 Private led events. Between 2019 – 2023 the average number of total events delivered in Hurstville Plaza were 12 per year, approximately one a month. The events combined a public program which included activities such as live broadcasts and screenings FIFA world cup, live music, stage and roving performances, specialty goods and food stalls.

26. Business sentiment from the survey indicated the support for the activation of Hurstville Plaza with music and performance, and food offerings that were not in direct competition to their business.

Promotion

27. The Night Markets can act as an attractor for visitors coming into their area with an opportunity to build momentum for complimentary trade to surrounding businesses through cross promotion, directional signage and seasonal promotional offers that incentivise customers to return for repeat a visitation.
28. By developing and delivering a precinct brand identity and marketing narrative, this can build on Hurstville's reputation as a nighttime destination.
29. A range of marketing and promotional channels are available including digital, print, editorial and media outreach and physical collateral like signage and banners.

Security

30. Council has existing policies and procedures for event security. This is part of any event application. A night market event will require additional security guards to be paid for by the event organiser. Event organisers are encouraged to notify the local police about their event. Passive surveillance is achieved through foot traffic and uplift of activity around the event site.

Cost

31. The overall cost of hosting an event will fluctuate, influenced by factors such as the event's scale, duration, and chosen location. Furthermore, the application process itself impacts expenses, with costs differing depending on whether an event is pursued through a standard event permit request or a more comprehensive development application. Specific fees associated with these processes are outlined in the Council's schedule of fees and charges. Additional daily costs may arise for services such as cleansing, electricity, and water. For events involving food vendors, temporary food service permits and annual inspection fees are also applicable.
32. It is important to note that stallholders will have their own costs, while the event producer will also incur costs associated with the event permit or application process, such as marketing, promotion, and security. Therefore, a precise cost estimate for the event organiser is difficult to provide until the event is fully scoped and submitted for approval, as these factors contribute to the overall cost.

Implementation / timing of delivery

33. Based on the peak trading time for nighttime activities being between Thursday and Saturday, nighttime activations including markets could compliment these peak trading times or be held in the down times from Sunday to Wednesday to provide an additional offering during low frequency visitations.
34. 44% of the survey responses from local business indicated that the preference is to have a monthly night market.

Learnings from equivalent night markets

35. After consulting with other Councils who have night markets, the key learning was providing night markets that compliment the business composition of the surrounding area of where the night market operates.
36. Precincts in Sydney such as Haymarket and Burwood have a business composition with a mix of nighttime entertainment that includes an approximate ratio of 70% food, 20% Drink and 10% Entertainment. Successful global precincts like Camden Town (London) and

Melrose & Fairfax Avenue (Los Angeles) have similar compositions of 60-70% food; 20-30% drinks; 10-15% Entertainment.

37. Comparatively, the Hurstville business composition has ratios of 92% food, 7% drink, 1% entertainment. The low ratio of entertainment may affect dwell time or visitation. With minimal entertainment on offer, customers may purchase a takeaway food or drink and leave, rather than traveling between offerings to try new things or accumulate experiences.
38. The design and curation of night markets in Hurstville should consider how to diversify the offering to align with successful precinct ratios.

Learnings from night markets across the Sydney Metropolitan Region

39. Key learnings from local examples are as follows:

Burwood

40. Operating model - Burwood Chinatown markets occur weekly from Thursday-Sunday (5-10pm). The building manager has the lead role in procuring, assessing, and onboarding stallholders and oversees the day-to-day operations. The markets consist of indoor brick and mortar (permanent) stalls as well as an outdoor (temporary) market area.
41. Key Innovations - There is a modular option for stall applicants to apply as outdoor (temporary) and indoor (permanent) stallholders. This allows permanent core offerings through anchor tenants along with temporary stalls allowing for adapting to seasonal trends.

Haymarket

42. Operating model - The Haymarket Night Markets are operated by a 3rd party private event organiser. The City of Sydney renews the procurement of the event organiser every 5 years through a request for proposal (RFP). The night markets are held weekly on Friday from 4-11pm. These are outdoor temporary night markets positioned along Dixon Street in front of existing brick and mortar tenants.
43. Key Innovations - Temporary markets on Dixon Street serve as a transitional space to permanent stalls, boosting foot traffic. The City of Sydney's procurement process ensures the attraction of diverse third-party event organizers. Dedicated staff engagement considers community and business feedback to ensure a professionally curated night markets. These markets were also accompanied by a shopfront improvement program that complemented the overall vibrancy of the area, solidifying its identity as a thriving nighttime precinct.

Carriageworks

44. Operating model - Carriageworks Markets in Everleigh / Redfern are privately led by Carriageworks, where the facility is owned and leased by the NSW State Government. The facility is currently on a 10-year lease and Carriageworks manages the procurement and delivery of events and offerings.
45. Key Innovations - The combination of outdoor and indoor options allow for more diverse event programming, ranging from cultural events, theatre/musical performances as well as conferences. The procurement of offerings by Carriageworks has a heavy emphasis on local producers and businesses.
46. These case studies demonstrate the benefit of engaging a third-party supplier to produce and deliver market events because of their understanding of trends of the market and audience appetite as well as increasing the capability of local businesses to participate.

47. That Council translates the newly adopted Event Charter and Event Toolkit into the top three non-English languages in the Georges River LGA. This will facilitate opportunities for our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse [CALD] communities to deliver events in the LGA.
48. Councils Community Capacity Building team has funding in the 2024/25 financial year for translation services for key Council documents. Procurement of this service is underway.
49. Community Capacity Building sessions are being held throughout the year for community members to understand how to complete Georges River Council's Events Toolkit. These sessions will also be translated in Mandarin and Cantonese and will be uploaded on Council's website.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

50. The feasibility study was conducted by Council Officers.
51. The Calendar of events is finalised for 2024/25 financial year. There is no budget allocation for Council to deliver night markets other than those included within events such as Lunar New Year Festival.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

52. N/A.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

53. The following engagement has been conducted.
 - A face-to-face survey of 43 local businesses in the broader Hurstville precinct.
 - Consultation with Tony Baddour, President, Business Chamber South.
 - Internal staff across Council including Economic Development, Events and Development and Building.

FILE REFERENCE

D25/33310

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: **COM008-25 Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held 13 February 2025**

Author: Executive Assistant to Director Community and Culture

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

COM008-25

RECOMMENDATION:

That the recommendations contained within the Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 November 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 14 November 2024 are submitted to the Community and Culture Committee for consideration and to Council for adoption.

BACKGROUND

2. Council resolved (CCL038-24), at its meeting on 24 June 2024, following a 12-month trial, to permanently establish the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee (The Committee). The purpose of The Committee is to provide a forum for the dissemination of information to local, regional, and state sporting bodies, as well as support cross-code collaboration between local sporting bodies to achieve greater utilisation of facilities and fields.
3. The Committee comprises of fifteen elected representatives from local sporting bodies within the Georges River local government area and three nominated Councillor representatives, all appointed for a duration of one year.
4. The Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting was held on 13 February 2025 where guest speaker Kerry Turner from NSW Office of Sport, provided an overview on the Play Her Way strategy. Play Her Way is a four-year plan that aims to get more NSW women and girls playing, and staying involved, in sport.
5. Council officers also provided updates on Council's Capital Works program, sporting facilities, Carss Park Aquatic Facility, and Sportsfield Renovation Program 2024/25.
6. Minutes of this meeting are now submitted to the Community and Culture Committee for consideration and for adoption by Council.
7. A collaboration session was conducted prior to the official proceedings to seek feedback from The Committee on the Draft Sports Ground and Facilities Access Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. No budget impact for this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

9. Strategic Risk 6 - Reputation. The risk of Council's identity, brand and standing being negatively impacted, reducing Council's ability to engage in sound decision-making and being able to take strategic action whilst maintaining essential services and support for the community.


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

10. Community engagement was undertaken as part of the review of the 12-month trial of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee. This resulted in changes to the operational efficiency of the meeting.

FILE REFERENCE

D25/65457

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1  Minutes - Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee 13 February 2025

MINUTES

Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee

Thursday, 13 February 2025

6:00 PM

Dragon Room
Georges River Civic Centre
Hurstville

UNCONFIRMED



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

ATTENDANCE

COUNCILLOR MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos (Chairperson), Councillor Kathryn Landsberry, Councillor Natalie Mort

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP

Ray Barbi – St George Basketball Association, Jeffrey Barrett – St George Cycling Club, Ross Bernays – Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Julian Finch – Connells Point Netball, Irene Hatzipetros – Football St George, Darryl Lane – St George Little Athletics Club, Gary Lockwood – St George District Rugby League Football Club, Mark Smith – Swimming Metro South East, Tanya Smith – Golf NSW, Dale Widders – St George Australian Football Club

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

Councillor Kathryn Landsberry (alternate Chairperson)

GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL STAFF

General Manager – David Tuxford, Director Community and Culture – Kristie Dodd, Director Assets and Infrastructure – Andrew Latta, Manager Premium Facilities – Luke Coleman, Acting Manager City Operations – Tom Heath, Acting Manager City Technical Services – James Magee, Manager City Life – Margaret Le, Coordinator Programming and Operations – Andrew Williams, Acting Senior Programming and Bookings Officer – Melinda Grey-Schwarz, Community Property Officer – Kaila Bergin, Acting Manager Office of the General Manager – Marisa Severino, Technology Business Support Officer – Lee Fermor, Personal Assistant to Manager City Life – Aarti Cooper and Acting Executive Assistant to the Director Community and Culture – Billie Johnson.

EXTERNAL PRESENTERS

NSW Office of Sport – Kerry Turner

OPENING

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry opened the meeting at 6.12pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry 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

MOTION: Mr Barbi - St George Basketball Association, Ms Hatzipetros – Football St George

That apologies on behalf of Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos (Chairperson), Councillor Natalie Mort, Kevin Greene, Jeff Killick, Sean Brohier, Scot Henderson and Scot Holmes be accepted and a leave of absence be granted.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Mr Barbi - St George Basketball Association, Mr Barrett - St George Cycling Club, Mr Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Mr Finch - Connells Point Netball, Ms Hatzipetros – Football St George, Mr Lane - St George Little Athletics Club, Mr Smith – Swimming

Metro South East, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Member Lockwood -St George District Rugby League Football

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

ABSENCES

Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos (Chairperson), Councillor Natalie Mort, Sean Brohier – Football de Brazil, Kevin Greene – Cricket NSW, Scott Henderson – St George Touch Association, Scot Holmes - St George OZTAG, Jeff Killick – Southern Sydney Rugby League,

NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry 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

SAC001-25 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2024

(Report by Executive Assistant to Director, Community and Culture)

RECOMMENDATION: Mr Finch - Connells Point Netball, Mr Widders - St George Australian Football Club

That the Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2024, be confirmed.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Mr Barbi - St George Basketball Association, Mr Barrett - St George Cycling Club, Mr Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Mr Finch - Connells Point Netball, Ms Hatzipetros – Football St George, Mr Lane - St George Little Athletics Club, Mr Smith – Swimming Metro South East, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Member Lockwood -St George District Rugby League Football

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SAC002-25 Play Her Way Strategy

(Report by Coordinator, Programming and Operations)

RECOMMENDATION: Mr Finch - Connells Point Netball, Mr Smith – Swimming Metro South East Services)

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the verbal presentation from the Manager Partnerships and Participation, Sector Performance Policy and Planning, NSW Office of Sport, providing an overview about the NSW Office of Sport Play Her

Way strategy.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Mr Barbi - St George Basketball Association, Mr Barrett - St George Cycling Club, Mr Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Mr Finch - Connells Point Netball, Ms Hatzipetros – Football St George, Mr Lane - St George Little Athletics Club, Mr Smith – Swimming Metro South East, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Member Lockwood -St George District Rugby League Football

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

SAC003-25 Premium Facilities Update
(Report by Manager Premium Facilities)

RECOMMENDATION: Mr Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Ms Smith – Golf NSW

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the Premium Facilities Update report from the Manager Premium Facilities.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Mr Barbi - St George Basketball Association, Mr Barrett - St George Cycling Club, Mr Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Mr Finch - Connells Point Netball, Ms Hatzipetros – Football St George, Mr Lane - St George Little Athletics Club, Mr Smith – Swimming Metro South East, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Member Lockwood -St George District Rugby League Football

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

SAC004-25 Sporting Infrastructure Capital Works Update
(Report by Manager City Technical Services)

RECOMMENDATION: Mr Finch - Connells Point Netball, Mr Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club

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 2024/25 Capital Works Program.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Mr Barbi - St George Basketball Association, Mr Barrett - St George Cycling Club, Mr Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Mr Finch - Connells Point Netball, Ms Hatzipetros – Football St George, Mr Lane - St George Little Athletics Club, Mr Smith – Swimming Metro South East, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Member Lockwood -St George District Rugby League Football

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

SAC005-25 Carss Park Aquatic Facility Update
(Report by Manager City Technical Services)

RECOMMENDATION: Ms Hatzipetros – Football St George, Mr Widders - St George Australian Football Club

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 Landsberry, Mr Barbi - St George Basketball Association, Mr Barrett - St George Cycling Club, Mr Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Mr Finch - Connells Point Netball, Ms Hatzipetros – Football St George, Mr Lane - St George Little Athletics Club, Mr Smith – Swimming Metro South East, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Member Lockwood -St George District Rugby League Football

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

SAC006-25 Sportsfield Renovation Program 2024-25
(Report by Director, Assets and Infrastructure)

RECOMMENDATION: Mr Finch - Connells Point Netball, Mr Smith – Swimming Metro South East

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the Sportsfield Renovation Program 2024-25 as detailed in the attachment to this report.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Mr Barbi - St George Basketball Association, Mr Barrett - St George Cycling Club, Mr Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Mr Finch - Connells Point Netball, Ms Hatzipetros – Football St George, Mr Lane - St George Little Athletics Club, Mr Smith – Swimming Metro South East, Ms Smith – Golf NSW, Mr Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Member Lockwood -St George District Rugby League Football

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

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 7.11pm.

Chairperson

Item: COM009-25 Autism Community Network Gala Dinner - Outgoing Sponsorship

Author: Sponsorship Specialist and Manager City Life

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves the Outgoing Sponsorship request of \$7,500 to become a Silver Sponsor of the Autism Community Network Gala Dinner, to be held on Friday 16 May 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. On Friday 28 February 2025, Georges River Council received a sponsorship request from the Autism Community Network for sponsorship of the 2025 Autism Gala Dinner, to be held on Friday 16 May 2025 at the Conca D'Oro Lounge, Riverwood.
2. The sponsorship proposal received from the Autism Community Network outlined 4 package levels available. Following assessment of benefits, consideration of budget and alignment to Council objectives the Silver Sponsor level is recommended at \$7,500.
3. The Autism Community Network (ACN) is an organisation dedicated to supporting autistic individuals, their families, and carers. The Autism Gala raises vital funds for the continuation of this work.
4. This Outgoing Sponsorship request has been assessed and Council approval is recommended in accordance with Clause 2.4 of the Georges River Council Sponsorship Policy (2023).

BACKGROUND

5. The Autism Community Network (ACN) provides autism peer-to-peer support, social groups, and capacity building programs across 14 local government areas in NSW, including the Georges River.
6. Founded in 2011, the ACN continues to create safe, supportive spaces for the autism community.
7. The Inaugural Autism Gala dinner was held in 2024 and attended by Premier Chris Minns MP and over 300 individuals including other Government representatives, Business and Community Leaders.
8. Aligned with Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2022–2026), supporting the 2025 Autism Gala will advance Council's goal of raising disability awareness in the community and empowering organisations that serve people with disabilities.
9. The reciprocal benefits offered to Council will include:
 - (a) Logo recognition on event marketing collateral;
 - (b) 6 complimentary tickets to the Gala Dinner;
 - (c) Opportunity to display a banner at the dinner;
 - (d) Social media acknowledgment and tags;
 - (e) Acknowledgment in media release; and
 - (f) Acknowledgment on ACN website.

10. In accordance with the Sponsorship Policy (2023), Council officers reviewed the proposal to assess alignment to Council strategies and benefit to the local community.
11. It is recommended that Council sponsor the 2025 Autism Gala Dinner to the value of \$7,500 given the benefit provided to Council and the local community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The \$7,500 Outgoing Sponsorship will be allocated from the 2024/2025 Outgoing Community Event Sponsorship budget.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

13. **Reputation risks are mitigated by:**
 - (a) **Through the assessment process, we demonstrate good governance, fairness, and support for local initiatives to ensure funded events deliver maximum community benefit.**
 - (b) **Council's financial assistance also builds community event management capacity, fosters positive publicity, and reinforces trust in our commitment to supporting valued community events, strengthening community relations, and encouraging future engagement.**
14. **Compliance risks are mitigated by:**
 - (a) Assessment and recommendations of Outgoing Sponsorship are in line with the Outgoing Sponsorship Guidelines and the Georges River Council Sponsorship Policy (2023).
 - (b) Requirement of Outgoing Sponsorship recipients to adhere to the Outgoing Sponsorship Guidelines and the Georges River Council Sponsorship Policy (2023).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

15. On 24 July 2023, Council approved the revised Draft Sponsorship Policy to be placed on exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days.
16. Community engagement was undertaken in the development of the Sponsorship Policy (2023).
17. The Sponsorship Policy (2023) was adopted by Council on 23 October 2023 (CCL091-23).

FILE REFERENCE

D25/66316

ATTACHMENTS

Nil