

Local Government Consortium Grants Program

2026-2028

9 October 2026

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NSW Premier's Department acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that contributed to the development of this grant guideline.

Local Government Consortium Grants Program

Published by Premier's Department.

First published: October 2026

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Grant Program Details	
Type of grant opportunity	Targeted
Grant value (total available funding for the grant and the available individual grant amounts (excluding GST))	A total of up to \$700,000 (ex GST) is available over two years
Project delivery timeframe (for successful applications)	The program of work needs to be delivered within 24 months of the executed funding agreement
Auspice lead agency	Waverley Council
Program Delivery	Waverley, Randwick and Woollahra Councils
Enquiries	Connected Communities, Premier's Department connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au

1 Overview of the grant program

The Local Government Consortium Grants Program is part of the NSW Government's ongoing commitment to support the Bondi community following the antisemitic terrorist attack at Bondi in December 2025.

The NSW Government recognises the deep and lasting impacts of the Bondi Terror Attack and is committed to an approach to recovery that is trauma-informed, culturally sensitive and community-led. It is acknowledged that recovery from terrorism extends beyond physical impacts to include enduring impacts on psychosocial wellbeing, social cohesion and community trust.

The Local Government Consortium Grants Program will facilitate initiatives that

- build connections within the local Bondi community and between the local Bondi community and the wider NSW community
- build trust between the local Bondi and Eastern suburbs region and key public institutions.

Local government plays a critical role in delivering economic, environmental and social outcomes that strengthen community wellbeing and foster social cohesion. As members of the Community Cohesion and Wellbeing Sub-Committee, **Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils** will work collaboratively as a **consortium** to respond to community needs, strengthen social connections, and promote long-term wellbeing.

Waverley Council will serve as the lead agency under an auspice agreement for the Local Council Consortium Program. In this role, Waverley Council will work closely with Randwick and Woollahra Councils to ensure a coordinated, accountable and effective approach to support connection between communities and institutions.

The Department is responsible for administering this grant opportunity in accordance with the NSW Grant Administration Guide. See: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/grantsadministration-guide>.

1.1 Objectives of the grant program

The objectives of this program are to fund the consortium of councils to deliver initiatives that will help strengthen social cohesion and connections within communities, between communities or between communities and institutions following the Bondi Terror Attack. Initiatives must demonstrate a clear benefit to the Bondi community or Eastern Suburbs region, although they may also deliver benefits beyond these communities, recognising the value of initiatives that contribute to the wellbeing of the broader Eastern Suburbs community. Initiatives must align with the Community Cohesion and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework (please refer to the following page) and support the community in feeling safe, connected, well and heard. Initiatives do not need to meet all objectives but must identify and address at least one of the following outcomes:

Safe

- People feel safe to return to public spaces, places of worship and return to everyday activities
- Community members are confident to be their authentic selves in public life free from discrimination or fear
- Antisemitism and other forms of hate and discrimination are actively addressed and minimised.

Connected

- Communities are provided with opportunities to connect via community-led events, programs and initiatives

- People build or regain a strong sense of belonging and sense of connection within and across communities
- Community is supported through enhanced partnership between different segments of the local community

Well

- Local healing, wellbeing and long-term psychosocial recovery at the community level is supported (psychosocial recovery promotes positive wellbeing, resilience, social connection and social cohesion activities within the community)
- Affected communities are strengthened and develop ongoing resilience through capacity building
- People who are disconnected from support are identified and supported to connect through activities

Heard

- People feel informed and able to navigate recovery decisions
- People have opportunities to voice views within community and institutions to improve agency
- Cohesion and wellbeing initiatives are community-led and trauma informed
- People and communities build trust in key institutions.

1.2 Grant value

A total of up to \$700,000 (ex. GST) is available for this program for a funding period of two years from the execution of the funding agreement.

The final approved budget will only fund eligible expenditure. In some cases, partial funding may be awarded or only some expenditure items will be supported for funding.

1.3 Roles and responsibilities

Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils will work collaboratively as a consortium to respond to community needs, strengthen social cohesion, and promote long-term wellbeing.

Waverley Council will serve as the lead agency under an auspice agreement for the Local Government Consortium Grants Program, providing overall governance, financial management and coordination of program delivery on behalf of the consortium.

As the auspice organisation, Waverley Council will support collaborative decision-making and ensure the effective delivery of initiatives that strengthen community cohesion and wellbeing.

The consortium of councils will be required to:

- collaborate with the Department in project planning and its associated developments
- collaborate with the Department when issuing publicly facing materials
- contribute to program evaluation, including working with Department staff to develop a program evaluation
- participate in forums and materials the Department may produce to share updates, insights, and learnings
- meet bi-monthly with the Department to share progress updates and identify and mitigate risks.

Waverley Council as the lead agency will be required to:

- enter into agreements with Randwick and Woollahra Councils

- deliver the designed program of work within 24 months of execution of funding agreement
 - acquit funds by a date agreed with the Department.
-

1.4 Eligible use of funds

The consortium of councils will collectively co-design a program of work that aligns with the program's objectives and Outcomes Framework. Funding will support the delivery of activities or initiatives that will help strengthen social cohesion and connections within communities, between communities or between communities and institutions.

The funding allows for spending up to a maximum of \$150,000 for one FTE role per annum for ordinary salary and oncosts of a Project Coordinator (see Appendix for table of oncosts). Funding may also support additional staffing costs, for example, support roles as required. Capital expenditure including laptop and mobile phone are considered eligible costs.

It should be noted that the intent of this funding is to support an additional resource or resources to manage and coordinate the program, not to support an existing role within Council. This role can be undertaken via a job-share arrangement in agreement with all three Councils. As this role may involve exposure to vicarious trauma, external clinical supervision will be an eligible expenditure under program funding.

1.5 What will not be funded

Funding is not available for:

- Initiatives that do not align with program objectives, and intended outcomes of the Community Cohesion and Wellbeing Funding Programs Outcomes Framework
 - Supplementing, increasing, or continuing ongoing service delivery that is the core business of the three Councils
 - Capital expenses, including but not limited to building works (including maintenance) and equipment purchase, unless explicitly related to the project
 - Reimbursement of expenses incurred prior to the commencement of the funding agreement
 - Covering existing debts or budget deficits of the three Councils
 - Purchase of alcohol, tobacco products, gaming services, entertainment streaming
 - Commercial or fundraising activities
 - Cash prizes or gifts, including gift vouchers (this does not include disbursements for public participation).
-

2 Selection criteria

This grant round is non-competitive and targeted to eligible councils.

To be successful, applicants must meet the eligibility criteria and pass the assessment stage.

2.1 Eligibility criteria

This grant round is only open to the following local councils:

- Randwick City Council
- Waverley Council
- Woollahra Municipal Council

An application is eligible if the following are met:

- The grant funding amount sought is up to \$700,000 (excl. GST).
 - Funding is sought for eligible project costs.
 - Applicants must demonstrate their project will align with at least one of the program objectives in Section 1.1 and meet the assessment criteria detailed below.
 - Applicants have adequate public liability insurance cover of \$20 million.
 - Where needed, applicants or relevant staff will have Working with Children Checks.
 - Funded activities must commence after the grant funding commencement date.
 - Funded activities must be completed by 30 June 2028.
 - The application is approved by the General Manager or equivalent senior council delegate.
-

2.2 Assessment criteria

The following assessment criteria will be considered in the process of assessing the application:

- Ability to demonstrate a clear community benefit and contribute to one or more of the outcomes in the Outcomes Framework above in Section 1.1. (Pass/fail)
 - Organisational capacity to plan, manage and deliver a meaningful scope of activities, demonstrated through a clear project plan, realistic timelines, appropriate resourcing, and effective risk management. (Pass/fail)
 - Draft project budget, including quotes where relevant. (Pass/fail).
-

3 Application process

3.1 How to apply

Applicant Councils will need to submit a short application via the online program SmartyGrants, accessible through a portal on the NSW Government Grants and Funding website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>).

All required attachments must be uploaded through the online application form in SmartyGrants.

All required fields marked with an * within the online application form must be completed.

The Premier's Department will not accept applications unless they are submitted online through the SmartyGrants portal. Incomplete and/or non-compliant applications will not be eligible for assessment.

3.2 Support available to applicants

Any questions about eligibility or the assessment criteria, please contact the Connected Communities team:

- <mailto:connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au>

If applicants have any questions while completing the application, please submit them in writing via email to connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au.

SmartyGrants

If applicants have any questions about SmartyGrants, the online grants management system, or experience any technical issues while using it, please contact the support team on:

Email: service@smartygrants.com.au

Phone: (03) 9320 6888 Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (AEST).

4 Assessment process

All applications will be assessed by a panel convened by the NSW Premier's Department. The panel will include Multicultural NSW, Reconstruction Authority and representatives from other NSW Government agencies with subject matter expertise in supporting community recovery and social cohesion.

Panel members will need to declare actual and/or potential conflict of interests before participating in the assessment of applications. These declarations will be made to the Director, Connected Communities, NSW Premier's Department. Any identified conflicts will result in a panel member being excluded from the assessment process for that application.

Applications will first be reviewed to ensure compliance with the eligibility criteria and that all required documentation has been submitted through the online application system.

Two assessment panel members will then independently assess the application against the assessment criteria and determine whether it meets the requirements for funding. Applications will receive a pass or fail outcome.

The Chair of the assessment panel will review the assessment outcome, and the assessment panel will then meet to discuss the application and make a funding recommendation.

Following its review, the assessment panel will provide a written assessment report to the NSW Premier recommending whether the application should be approved for funding.

The Premier is the decision-maker for this grant and will decide on consideration of recommendations of the panel. The Premier's decision is final in all matters, including:

1. the grant approval
2. the grant funding to be awarded
3. any conditions attached to the offer of grant funding.

4.1 Notification of application outcome

The consortium of councils will be notified of application outcome by the end of November 2026 in writing via email.

The consortium of councils will be notified and advised of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

To request feedback on the application please email the Connected Communities team:

- connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au

4.2 Publication of grants information

The Grants Administration Guide (Guide) requires that certain information is published in relation to grants awarded no later than 45 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect (see section 6.5 of the Guide and Appendix A to the Guide). This information is also open access information

under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) (GIPA Act), which must be made publicly available unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information.

In accordance with these requirements, relevant information about the grants awarded will be made available on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder as soon as possible after the grant funding is approved or declined.

All records in relation to this decision will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the State Records Act 1998 (NSW).

5 Successful grant applications

5.1 Grant agreement

The NSW Government requires consistent and accurate reporting of funding expenditure to ensure accountability. The provision of progress and completion reports is a condition of funding.

Throughout the process and at completion, the consortium of councils will be required to attend check-in meetings and provide the Department:

- data against a range of program measures*
- a progress report (at approx. 12 months post execution of the funding agreement) and a completion report responding to previously stated program measures

*All documents and details will be provided prior to project commencement.

The consortium of councils is required to acknowledge the financial support provided by the NSW Government in any program collateral.

All grant-funded events and activities must be covered by insurance.

Waverley Council as the lead agency will be required to:

- provide a valid Certificate of Currency for Public Liability Insurance with a minimum cover of \$20 million in the name of the applicant before funding can be released
- ensure appropriate insurance coverage in place for the project, equipment or activities, and its day-to-day operation
- ensure staff comply with relevant industrial relations and workplace health and safety requirements.

5.2 Grant payment

The Department will enter into a head funding agreement with Waverley Council, which will include a 'grant deliverables' reporting component and acquittal requirements.

Grant funds will be released in two tranches after the execution of the funding agreement between the Department and Waverley Council, execution of agreements between Waverley and Randwick Councils and Waverley and Woollahra Councils and receipt of an invoice from Waverley Council.

Funds will be released via an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) at the beginning of the contract, and all funds must be expended within 24 months of funding having been received, unless otherwise agreed to by the Department.

5.3 Unspent funds

Waverley Council are required to return unspent funds, or funds not spent in accordance with the funding agreement to the Department, unless otherwise renegotiated and agreed to by both parties.

5.4 Indicative reporting and acquittal requirements

The NSW Government requires consistent and accurate reporting of funding expenditure to ensure accountability. The provision of progress and completion reports are a condition of funding.

The consortium of councils will be required to provide:

1. regular progress updates against agreed to deliverables and timelines and actual expenditure
2. a progress report at 12 months to summarise learnings and outcomes from activities delivered to date
3. at 12 month and end of program a year-to-date actual expenditure report
4. a report that summarises the key learnings and outcomes from the project, within three weeks after the project is completed

Waverley Council will be required to provide:

1. an acquittal letter, signed by the recipient organisation's appropriate delegate at the completion of the project

5.5 Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the Program will be undertaken in-line with best practice to determine the effectiveness of the Program including with reference to TPG22-22 Policy and Guidelines: Evaluation. Activities will be evaluated based on the objectives of the program.

6 Additional information

6.1 Publication of grants information

Under the NSW Grants Administration Guide, relevant information about grants awarded must be published on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder within 45 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect.

This information is also open access information under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) (GIPA Act), unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

All records related to these decisions will be managed in line with the State Records Act 1998 (NSW).

6.2 Advertising and promotion

Applicants will be responsible for promoting and advertising activities to the community.

When promoting activities, applicants must acknowledge the financial support of the NSW Government in any relevant promotional materials.

If applicants share photos or videos of the activity with the Premier's Department, the applicant must ensure that appropriate consent has been obtained from participants, or from a parent or guardian where required.

Information about the activity may also be used by the Premier's Department to monitor, evaluate and report on the outcomes of the program and help inform future initiatives.

6.3 Complaint handling

Any concerns about the Program should be submitted in writing via <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/contact-us>.

The NSW Premier's Department is committed to responding to external complaints fairly, efficiently and effectively in accordance with the [TCO and PD External Complaints Handling Policy](#).

This policy sets out the steps for managing an external complaint regarding the Local Government Consortium Grants Program. If you are a person with a disability or experience difficulties in providing your complaint in writing, you can make a verbal complaint by contacting (02) 9228 5555. NSW Premier's Department may require a verbal complaint be made in writing in circumstances where the matter is complex or contentious. If you do not agree with the way the Department handled the issue, you may wish to contact the NSW Ombudsman via: www.ombo.nsw.gov.au.

6.4 Access to information

Under the NSW Grants Administration Guide, information about grants awarded must be published on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder within 45 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect. This information is also open access information under the GIPA Act, unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

Information received in applications is treated as confidential, and funding decisions and assessment outcomes must remain confidential until announced and applicants are notified. However, documents held by the government may be released under the GIPA Act, subject to the deletion of exempt material. Documents submitted as part of a grant application may also be subject to an application under the GIPA Act or an order for papers under Standing Order 52.

6.5 Conflict of interest management

Any real or perceived conflicts of interest arising during the assessment process must be disclosed and managed.

Risks are managed in accordance with The Premier's Department risk management systems and grant guidelines.

Fraud controls are in place to support the management of conflicts of interest.

Any conflicts of interest must be declared and managed in accordance with The Premier's Department Code of Conduct.

Risk management will continue throughout the grant life cycle.

6.6 Confidentiality

Successful applicants may be required to keep the outcome of the application process confidential until the NSW Government makes a public announcement.

The Premier's Department follows all confidentiality requirements that apply to grants administration and the assessment process under the Guide.

7 Appendix

Local Governments State Award – (these costs might change)	
Component	Opt-in councils
Annual leave	7.69%
Sick leave	5.77%
Long service leave	0%
Public holiday	3.46%
Superannuation	12%
Leave loading	0%
Worker/s compensation	2.82%
Total	31.74%