

# SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

of the  
**Extraordinary Meeting of Council**  
held in  
**Council Chambers,**  
**Wingecarribee Shire Council Civic Centre,**  
**68 Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale**  
on

**Wednesday 29 June 2022**

The meeting will commence at **3:30 pm**

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## **1 REPORTS**

### **1.1 Reconnecting Regional NSW Community Events Program - Wingecarribee**

**Report Author:** Economic Development Coordinator

**Authoriser:** Director Corporate Strategy and Resourcing

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#### **PURPOSE**

To inform Council of the opportunity provided by the NSW government through the Reconnecting Regional NSW Community Events Program.

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#### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

##### **THAT:**

- 1. Council note the overview and intent of the Program.**
- 2. Council endorse the proposal to apply funds to a signature Southern Highlands event which is to deliver positive social outcomes and provide local business support**

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#### **REPORT**

##### **BACKGROUND**

The NSW Government recently unveiled a \$200 million Regional Recovery Package devised to create new jobs and support community events, shows and festivals to boost tourism across the state.

Part of this package is the Reconnecting Regional NSW Community Events Program committing \$25M to promote economic and social recovery across all regional NSW local government areas.

Applications are open to NSW councils, the Lord Howe Island Board and Regional Development Far West to deliver COVID-Safe community events and festivals that are open for the entire community to attend, providing immediate positive outcomes for regional communities.

##### **REPORT**

The grant is non-competitive in that funds have been allocated across NSW based on population. On this basis, Wingecarribee LGA has been allocated \$287,582 dollars.

To secure the funds, an application is to be submitted by 8 July (extended from 24 June) for projects to be completed by 31 March 2023. The program will:

- Facilitate economic recovery in regional NSW by stimulating activity in the events, hospitality, and accommodation sectors, all of which have been heavily impacted by COVID-19 restrictions by providing opportunities for an immediate revenue boost
- Reconnect communities by facilitating the delivery of events that promote greater social cohesion, bringing people together to create improved social outcomes.

Being non-competitive, the application will be reviewed by the funding body, on the basis of an assessment of whether the application meets the two Criteria – positive social outcomes and local business support.

### **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS SUMMER FUN**

It is proposed to hold a signature Southern Highlands event at Bong Bong Picnic Racecourse based on the success of the FireAid Concert held on 24 January 2020. This event was organised by community members who called in favours from top Australian performers and producers to connect our community in celebration, acknowledge local emergency services and to raise funds for locals impacted by the Black Summer Bushfires of 2019-2020.

Following their involvement in FireAid, Bong Bong Picnic Racecourse and Regional Development Southern Inland expressed interest in holding a similar event acknowledging that it is unrealistic to expect significant cost elements to be donated again. The amount available in the grant is a more realistic budget for a 'fireaid-type' event. Without grant funding such an event would necessitate a significant ticket entry fee. Given the funding available the entry would be free or negligible (as a condition of the grant).

In the absence of attendee feedback on the Fire Aid concert, below are survey responses from Council's Community Recovery Concert in April 2021 which is some indication of the success generated by a performance-based activity in a central location.

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|--|--------|
| • It was a great chance to reconnect with community at the event                   | 57.89% |
| • My family/friends simply had a fun night out together                            | 84.21% |
| • I got to watch a particular artist I would not normally get the chance to see    | 52.63% |
| • He children enjoyed the free jumping castles, balloon twisting and face painting | 55.26% |
| • I had the chance to talk to The Red Cross, Recovery Support Service or RFS       | 10.53% |

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## **COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION**

### **Community Engagement**

Significant internal engagement on options eligible under the guidelines together with available funds and internal resources, resulted in a consensus to hold a signature major event and at this stage no community engagement has been undertaken.

### **Internal Communication and Consultation**

The grant guidelines, eligibility criteria and available internal resources were considered by council staff from Tourism, Economic Development, Community Development and Resilience. A signature event delivers on the intent of the program in supporting performers, local artisans and producers; hospitality and accommodation - all industries that have been identified in the funding guidelines as having been heavily impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

### **External Communication and Consultation**

Discussions were held with agencies involved in organising FireAid 2020 including Regional Development Australia Southern Inland, Business Southern Highlands, Bong Bong Picnic Racecourse and John and Zoe Waters.

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**SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Environment**

There are no environmental issues in relation to this report.

**Social**

The Program is designed to reconnect communities through the delivery of events that promote greater social cohesion and bring people together to create improved social outcomes

**Broader Economic Implications**

Proposed activities must support local business and will be demonstrated in the application as one of the two Assessment Criteria.

**Culture**

The Program will assist communities and businesses to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions and border closures, and cumulative natural disasters.

**Governance**

There are no governance issues in relation to this report.

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**COUNCIL BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There may be opportunity for other Council funded programs and activities to participate in the proposed event to add value and benefit from cross-promotion and community engagement.

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**RELATED COUNCIL POLICY**

Community Strategic Plan – Wingecarribee 2031

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**CONCLUSION**

The Reconnecting Regional NSW Community Events Program is a welcome support from the NSW Government towards boosting tourism, creating new jobs and supporting a community event.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil