

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X038945 **DATE:** 18 August 2023

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Emma Rigney, Director City Life

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 6.3 – 2022/23 Quarter 4 Review – Delivery Program 2022-2026 (Environmental Grants)

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Background

At the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on 14 August 2023, further information was sought on the Environmental Grants program regarding spend versus budget to date and whether the spend over the year has decreased.

The cash budget for our Grants and sponsorship program in 2022/23 was increased from \$15.2 million to \$16.2 million (this excludes grants and sponsorship programs which were delivered to support Covid-19 Relief and Recovery as well as any value in kind funding).

In 2022/23, we increased the budget by \$1 million to accommodate the establishment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund and provide additional funding for vulnerable communities.

In 2021/22, at the request of Council, we excluded the commercial office and entertainment sectors from applying to the dedicated environmental program (allowing applications only from the residential strata and accommodation sector). This saw applications received drop from 63 in 2020/21 to 37 in 2021/22 which reflects the reduction in eligible applicants.

As well as the decision to exclude commercial office and entertainment sectors, Council also endorsed a policy that combined all of the programs for Innovation and Ideas into one multidisciplinary program covering environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes. The reduction in environmental applications allowed us to reallocate funds to the Innovation and Ideas grant program budget.

Memo from Emma Rigney, Director City Life

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Approved

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Chief Executive Officer