

Minutes of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee - 16 June 2025

Members Lord Mayor - Councillor Clover Moore AO (Chair), Deputy Lord Mayor - Councillor Zann Maxwell, Councillor Olly Arkins, Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore, Councillor Lyndon Gannon (Deputy Chair), Councillor Robert Kok, Councillor Jess Miller, Councillor Matthew Thompson, Councillor Yvonne Weldon AM and Councillor Adam Worling.

At the commencement of business at 4:59pm, those present were -

The Lord Mayor, Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

Councillor Maxwell left the meeting of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee at 5:01pm, prior to discussion on Item 3, and returned at 5:03pm, after the vote on Item 3. Councillor Maxwell was not present at, or in sight of, the meeting during discussion or voting on Item 3.

The meeting of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee concluded at 5:03pm.

Item 1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gannon, seconded by Councillor Ellsmore –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee of Monday 9 December 2024, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 2

Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Olly Arkins made the following disclosures:

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that they work closely with Music NSW in their role as Managing Director of the Australian Festival Association as peak bodies in the music industry. Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances, as they have had no contact with them about this item.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that the Nighttime Industries Association is actively involved in campaigning for a better policy setting for nightlife and creative industries, and they work together in the Councillor's role as Managing Director of the Australian Festival Association. Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances, as they have had no contact with them about this item.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that Green Music Australia is an active organisation in the Australian music industry and Councillor Arkins works closely with them in their role as Managing Director of the Australian Festival Association. Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances, as they have had no contact with them about this item.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that they have known Eamon Waterford, CEO of the Committee for Sydney Inc, for a number of years and regularly attends events they organise. Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances, as they have had no contact with them about this item.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that Savanna Peake is a staff member for Councillor Arkin's fellow Labor Councillor, and currently a board member of the Pride Business Association (NSW). She was not aware that this matter was coming before Council. Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances as they have had no contact with Savanna or anyone from Pride Business Association about this item.

Councillor Lyndon Gannon disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that he has social relationships with members of the Board (Jarrod Lomas and Luke Mayna) of Pride Business Association. Councillor Gannon considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he did not know that they were applying for the grant, and he has not discussed this with them.

Councillor Zann Maxwell made the following disclosures:

- a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that Jarrod Lomas is a personal friend and President of Pride Business Association. Councillor Maxwell is himself a member of the Pride Business Association, and his staff member, Savanna Peake, is currently a Board Director of this organisation. Savanna was unaware this item was coming to Council, and Councillor Maxwell has not discussed this item with board members of the Pride Business Association.

Councillor Maxwell stated he would not be voting on this matter.

- a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that the Committee for Sydney has applied for grant funding in this round and been listed as recommended for funding. Councillor Maxwell may have a role in the assistance of the delivery of this initiative in collaboration with the Committee for Sydney.

Councillor Maxwell stated he would not be voting on this matter.

Councillor Jess Miller disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that she is familiar with Michell Tabet and with Start Some Good. Councillor Miller considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because she has not discussed this grant with either person.

Councillor Adam Worling made the following disclosures:

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that he has a community relationship with the CEO and the board of the Australian Fashion Council. Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because details of this or any grant have never been discussed.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that he has a community relationship with Ainsley Simpson, the CEO of Clothing Stewardship Australia (Seamless). Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because details of this or any grant have never been discussed.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that he has a community relationship with Lorraine Locke, the grants writer and manager of the Darlinghurst Business Partnerships. Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because details of this or any grant have never been discussed.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that he has a community relationship with Lorraine Locke, the grants writer and manager of the Hollywood Quarter. Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because details of this or any grant have never been discussed.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that he has a social relationship with the board of Pride Business Association, and has attended many of their events. Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because details of this or any grant have never been discussed.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that he has a community relationship with Lorraine Locke, the grants writer and manager of the Rainbow Precinct. Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because details of this or any grant have never been discussed.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that he has a community relationship with Renuka Fernando and Ben Stammer, the founders of Revolve. Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because details of this or any grant have never been discussed.

No other Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matters on the agenda for this meeting of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee.

The Innovation, Business and Economy Committee recommended the following:

Item 3

Grants and Sponsorship - Economic Grants

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash and value-in-kind recommendations for the Business Sector Support program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applicants who were not recommended in obtaining a cash grant or value-in-kind for the Business Sector Support program as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council approve the cash and value-in-kind recommendations for the Innovation and Ideas Grant program as shown at Attachment C to the subject report;
- (D) Council note the applicants who were not recommended in obtaining a cash grant or value-in-kind for the Innovation and Ideas Grant program as shown at Attachment D to the subject report;
- (E) Council approve the cash and value-in-kind recommendations for the Haymarket Activation Grant program as shown at Attachment E to the subject report;
- (F) Council note the applicants who were not recommended in obtaining a cash grant or value-in-kind for the Haymarket Activation grant program as shown at Attachment F to the subject report;
- (G) Council approve the cash and value-in-kind recommendations for the Dixon Street Improvement grant program as shown at Attachment G to the subject report;
- (H) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (I) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with any organisation approved for a grant or sponsorship under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy; and
- (J) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided.

(Note – at the meeting of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Gannon, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), and carried on the following show of hands –

Ayes (7) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Arkins, Gannon, Kok, Miller, Weldon and Worling

Noes (2) Councillors Ellsmore* and Thompson*.

Carried.

*Note - Councillors Ellsmore and Thompson abstained from voting on this matter. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 10.4 in the Code of Meeting Practice, Councillors Ellsmore and Thompson are taken to have voted against the motion.)