

## Grants and Sponsorship - Round One 2019/20 - Environmental Grants

**File No:** S117676

### Summary

The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city. To achieve the objectives of Sustainable Sydney 2030 requires genuine partnership between government, business and the community.

The provision of grants and sponsorships is a mechanism to further the aims identified in the City's social, economic and environmental policies. Applications are assessed against these policies and against broad City objectives and plans. In this way, the City and the community act collaboratively to bring to life Sustainable Sydney 2030 and the City of Villages it envisions.

The City advertised the following three environmental grant programs in Round One of the annual grants and sponsorship program for 2019/20:

- Environmental Performance - Building Operations: funding is available to help lower the costs of implementing building operations efficiency measures;
- Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments: funding is available to undertake building performance ratings and certifications, energy audits and assessments to enable a building or facility owner to understand their opportunities to improve environmental performance; and
- Environmental Performance – Innovation: funding is available to assess or demonstrate new technologies or processes that are currently not being implemented in the local market, but have the potential to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions and resource efficiencies that could be rolled out at scale within the local area.

For the Environmental Performance Grants, 19 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of 15 grants to a total value of \$131,284 for the 2019/20 financial year.

On 11 December 2017, Council adopted a revised Grants and Sponsorship Policy. All grants in this report were assessed against criteria and guidelines set out in this policy, with reference to Sustainable Sydney 2030, Environmental Action 2016-2021 Strategy and Action Plan, and Residential Apartments Sustainability Plan.

All grant recipients will be required to sign a contract, meet specific performance outcomes and acquit their grant.

All cash figures in this report exclude GST.

## Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment Grant Program as per Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program as per Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST; and
- (D) 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.

## Attachments

- Attachment A.** Round One 2019/20 - Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessment Grant Program
- Attachment B.** Round One 2019/20 - Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program
- Attachment C.** Round One 2019/20 - Not Recommended for Funding - Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program

## Background

1. The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports residents, businesses and not-for-profit organisations to undertake initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city.
2. On 6 February 2019, the City announced Round One of the annual grants program for 2019/20 as being open for applications on the City's website, with grant applications closing on 11 March 2019.
3. The three environmental programs promoted were:
  - Environmental Performance - Building Operations;
  - Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments; and
  - Environmental Performance - Innovation.
4. Information about these grant programs (such as application dates, guidelines, eligibility criteria and sample applications) was made available on the City's website. The City actively promoted the programs through Facebook, Twitter, What's On and Google AdWords. Email campaigns were also utilised to target interested parties who have applied previously for grants at the City or who have expressed an interest in the City's programs. The grants were also promoted to peak industry organisations, networks and stakeholders.
5. The three Environmental Performance programs are open to appropriately incorporated for-profit and not-for-profit organisations. Nine applications were received this round from for-profit organisations. Eight of the applications from for-profit organisations are recommended in this report:
  - Aldprop Pty Ltd;
  - Ambler Family Trust / Regime PL;
  - Daisho Development Sydney;
  - Greenspace Global Pty Limited;
  - Laudet Pty Ltd;
  - The Schwartz Family Company (2 applications recommended); and
  - The Trustee for the Best Hotel.
6. The three environmental performance grant programs aim to build capacity and address barriers to the implementation of environmental actions within key customer sectors.
7. The assessment panels for applications received under the Environmental Performance Grants Program comprised the Sustainability Engagement Managers, Manager Carbon Strategy, Waste Strategy Manager, Environmental Projects Officer, Sustainability Engagement Coordinators, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator - Building Tune-Up, Sustainability Engagement – Residential and Sustainability Engagement Coordinator – Smart Green Apartments.

**Environmental Performance - Building Operations Grant Program**

8. The Environmental Performance - Building Operations Grant Program aims to improve the environmental performance of buildings by lowering the costs and mitigating the barriers of implementing building efficiency measures, such as water monitoring in residential apartments.
9. No applications were received.

**Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments Grant Program**

10. The Environmental Performance - Ratings and Assessments Grant Program aims to address barriers to the uptake of building performance ratings and assessments across energy, water, waste and other sustainability aspects. Ratings and assessments enable a building owner or facility manager to understand their building's environmental performance and to identify efficiency opportunities. Applicants are required to implement efficiency measures based on the recommendations of the assessments.
11. Eleven applications have been received and assessed. All eleven are recommended for support to a value of \$80,689. There were seven applications received from the accommodation and entertainment building sectors, and four applications received from the residential building sector.

**Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program**

12. The Environmental Performance - Innovation Grant Program supports the feasibility or demonstration of new technologies or processes that are currently not being implemented in the local market, but have the potential to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions and resource efficiencies that could be rolled out at scale within the local area. Eight applications have been received and assessed. Four are recommended for support to the value of \$50,595.
  - (a) Bugisu Project Limited is aiming to undertake a feasibility study to implement a scalable, zero-waste, and closed-loop coffee delivery service by using 10 workplaces as delivery nodes and engaging over 200 workers with the project.
  - (b) Greenspace Global Party Limited will be installing sensor technology to monitor the effects and performance of an urban farm at 2 Market Street, Sydney. The demonstration project will aim to show how transforming under-utilised urban spaces into productive green spaces can improve liveability, amenity and safety, by quantifying the benefits to the environment and human health.
  - (c) Sydney Institute of Marine Science will be undertaking a feasibility study to investigate the potential for natural burrowing animals (bioturbators) to be reintroduced into Sydney Harbour to remediate harmful pollutants retained in sediments that enter via stormwater inputs.
  - (d) The University of New South Wales will develop a feasibility study to investigate walkability in Sydney through the mapping of greenery and noise using crowd-sourced data from smartphones to better understand and manage the environmental performance of the city.

13. The 2019/20 Environmental Performance Program budget is summarised as follows:

Total cash budget	\$870,000
Total cash committed to previously approved applications	\$30,000
Total cash amount available for allocation	\$840,000
Total number of eligible applications	19
Total cash requested	\$341,434
Total number of applications recommended for cash support	15
Total amount of funding cash recommended	\$131,284
Amount remaining for subsequent allocation of the program	\$708,716

14. The Environmental Performance Grant Program will open again for applications in June 2019 for the second round of the 2019/20 financial year.

## Key Implications

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

15. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This program is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 2 provides a road map for the City to become A Leading Environmental Performer - the grant projects recommended in this report will support the City's endeavours to work with our business and residential communities to reduce greenhouse emissions, potable water use and encourage diversion of waste from landfill across the local government area.

### Organisational Impact

16. The grants and sponsorships contract management process will involve staff in the City's grants and sustainability teams setting contract conditions and performance measures for each approved project and reviewing project acquittals.

### Environmental

17. The recommended environmental grants under the Ratings and Assessments Program will provide energy and water savings as a result of improved monitoring and applicants implementing efficiency measures as a condition of the grants.

18. The recommended environmental grants under the Innovation Program will enhance knowledge sharing, skills uptake and capacity in best practice environmental performance, approaches and solutions in the local area.

### **Budget Implications**

19. A total value of \$131,284 in cash is recommended in this report and is provided in the draft 2019/20 Environmental Performance Grants budget.

### **Relevant Legislation**

20. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that 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.
21. Section 356(3)(a) - (d) is satisfied for the purpose of providing grant funding to for-profit organisations because:
  - (a) the funding is part of the Environmental Grants - Environmental Performance Grants program;
  - (b) the details of the program have been included in Council's draft operation plan for financial year 2019/20;
  - (c) the program's budget does not exceed five per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2019/20; and
  - (d) the program applies to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

### **Public Consultation**

22. For all programs open to application in Round One of the annual grants and sponsorship program for 2019/20, two question and answer sessions were held in Town Hall House to assist potential applicants with their applications on the following dates:
  - (a) Wednesday 20 February 2019, 4pm to 7pm; and
  - (b) Monday 25 February 2019, 4pm to 7pm.

**EMMA RIGNEY**

A/Director City Life

Ailsa McConnachie-Folwell, Grants Officer