

**Item 5.****Ad Hoc Grant - Tribal Warrior Sydney to Hobart Sponsorship****File No: 2019/473982****Summary**

The City of Sydney adopted an Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan in 2015 and adopted the Eora Journey Economic Development Plan in 2016. These two plans identify the importance of the City partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to support opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and promote and celebrate the cultures of the First People of Australia.

The Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation is entering the first ever Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crew in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race in 2019, coinciding with the 75th Anniversary of the race. The Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation is seeking support from the City to fund essential wet weather equipment, and compulsory safety and sea survival training. They intend on entering a crew of professional and community sailors with at least 70 per cent of the crew being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage.

The sponsorship demonstrates the City's commitment to creating opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and to building the capacity and skills of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and enterprises. This will showcase the leadership within our community by supporting the aspirations and innovative spirit of Indigenous Elders, mentors and young people involved in this milestone event.

The symbolism of the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crew to sail out of Sydney Heads in this famous race will create significant community and media interest.

The boat and crew are currently undertaking pre-race inspections and will provide the City with a letter of acceptance from the organisers of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race when it is received.

## **Recommendation**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve a cash sponsorship of \$25,000 (excluding GST) to Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation to participate in the 2019 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, to be funded from the 2019/20 General Contingency budget; and
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer a sponsorship agreement with Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation.

## **Attachments**

Nil.

## Background

1. The Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation is an established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation based in Redfern. The City has had a long ongoing and valuable relationship with the organisation over many years.
2. Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation provides cultural cruises, performances, charters and education activities, and is well known for their harbour cultural tours. They also facilitate community development and crime prevention programs including the 'Clean Slate Without Prejudice' mentoring program for Indigenous young people and 'Never Going Back', a program that targets Indigenous inmates who are nearing the completion of their custodial sentences, teaching them valuable skills to assist with transition once released from prison. In December 2016, these programs won gold at the National Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards, recognising good practice in the prevention or reduction of violence and other types of crime in Australia.
3. Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation is the only Indigenous Maritime Training Company and is training the first ever Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crew to enter the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. Tribal Warrior plan on the crew being a mixture of professional and community sailors with at least 70 per cent being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage.
4. In 2016, the City of Sydney provided a sponsorship of \$20,000 cash (excluding GST) for Tribal Warrior's proposed participation in the 2016 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race for that year. Due to safety requirements and circumstances beyond the control of Tribal Warrior, the organisation did not compete and did not take up the approved sponsorship.
5. Tribal Warrior's Chief Executive Officer, Shane Phillips, is working closely with experienced sailor, Wayne Jones, who will skipper the boat and ensure every detail of preparation is addressed to the required standard. Wayne Jones has sailed for over 40 years, has skippered category one open ocean races and is an expert in the area of water rescue services and difficult terrain operations training.
6. Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation is also partnering with Eastsail, a motor cruise and racing yacht company. Eastsail are providing one of their best yachts, the Farr 55 yacht Hollywood Boulevard, and a number of highly experienced crew members. Eastsail and their yacht have competed in many Sydney to Hobart yacht races.
7. The additional crew members will include a number of Tribal Warrior team members including those who completed the Sydney to Gold Coast race in 2017, as well as crew members from major sponsors.
8. The Hollywood Boulevard crew are currently training and will be assessed by the skipper before the crew is finalised. New sailors are currently completing the Sea Safety Survival Course. The race provides an opportunity for all crew members to develop significant and valuable skills.
9. Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation believe participating in the race will forge new and valuable relationships. It will provide a platform for talking about the history of Sydney and Australia, celebrating the fact that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been travelling up and down the coast by sea for many thousands of years. It provides a unique opportunity for sharing cultural celebrations that could include cultural fires on headlands along the coast marking the yacht's passage, and a Welcome to Country in Hobart.

10. The panel assessing the application was comprised of the Youth Team Leader for South Area, Social Programs and Services, a Senior Community Engagement Co-ordinator, Indigenous Lead and Engage and the Grants Program Coordinator.
11. It is recommended that the City's sponsorship of \$25,000 (excluding GST) cash is commensurate with the sponsorship benefits offered and the level of financial support the City has provided to other similar initiatives.

## Key Implications

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

12. 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 sponsorship is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
  - (a) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - Sponsorship of the Tribal Warrior Sydney to Hobart crew aligns with the Reconciliation Action Plan's commitment to provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and to increase knowledge of, and build respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.
  - (b) Direction 7 - A Cultural and Creative City - Sponsorship aligns with the Community Strategic Plan by supporting a creative and cultural city, and with the Eora Journey Economic Development Plan to support the growth of key sectors for Indigenous businesses including cultural tourism.

### Risks

13. The Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race is a challenging and dangerous race. The Tribal Warrior crew will need to complete the Sea Safety Survival Course, and satisfy Eastsail and experienced skipper, Wayne Jones, of their sailing capabilities before being selected to compete.
14. In 2016, pre-race inspections deemed the yacht to be sailed unsuitable. Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation have now partnered with a specialised Yacht-chartering company Eastsail, who have provided a yacht that has competed and placed in the last three Sydney to Hobart Yacht Races.

### Social / Cultural / Community

15. Given the profile of this prestigious event, this proposal will positively impact Australia as a nation by breaking down perceived stereotypes. It will provide inspirational stories that will empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the nation.
16. Participating in the race will provide highly regarded qualifications in the area of ocean sailing. Those competing will also be challenged personally and will be able to share their personal triumph in their community.

**Economic**

17. The Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation, a local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community not-for-profit, will benefit from the public exposure that participating in the race brings. Supporting this initiative will contribute to the capacity of Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation to mentor, train and employ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and promote opportunities for cultural tourism.

**Budget Implications**

18. Funding for the sponsorship of \$25,000 (excluding GST) cash will be drawn from the 2019/20 General Contingency budget.

**Relevant Legislation**

19. 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.

**Critical Dates / Time Frames**

20. The Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race starts on 26 December 2019.

**Public Consultation**

21. The City's support for this initiative will be reported to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel.

**ANN HOBAN**

Director City Life

Alana Goodwin, Grants Program Coordinator