

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: S117676 **DATE:** 19 February 2021

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Emma Rigney, Director City Life

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 8.2 – Policy - Adoption - Grants and Sponsorship Policy Update

Purpose

That the Lord Mayor and Councillors note the information contained in this memo.

Background

Changes to the eligibility criteria of some of the programs contained in the Grants and Sponsorship Policy will lead to increased opportunities for local businesses and residents.

The Festivals and Events (Village and Community) program is currently open to not-for-profits as well as unincorporated community groups and individuals if applying with a not-for-profit auspice. The proposal is to open this program to for-profit local businesses in addition to the existing applicant types to support recovery.

The Short-Term Empty Properties program is currently open to not-for-profits, for-profits and sole traders in the creative and cultural sector. The proposal is to open this program to the community, economic and sustainability sectors to support equitable and affordable access to space.

As reported in the CEO Update in November 2020, between 2016 and 2020, Council awarded over \$1.4 million through a total of 167 Environmental grants for rating or assessing building environmental performance. The program has unlocked over \$4.4 million of investment by grantees (2016-2020), resulting in an estimated 4,960 tonnes of carbon emissions saved each year. These grant recipients (2016-2018) invested on average \$7.83 for every dollar of City investment (well exceeding the matched funding policy requirement across the cohort).

Smaller businesses can access Innovation Grants in the Environmental Grants program. Businesses are also supported through CitySwitch Sydney in which 22 per cent of members are small/medium businesses. The City's Water Savings Partnership with Sydney Water is working with small to medium businesses, improving water efficiency and reducing operational costs.

City residents are included through the Ratings and Assessments Grants in which Owners Corporations can seek funding to benchmark the environmental performance of apartment buildings and get a tailored action plan to inform future upgrades and reduce utility costs. Residents are also supported through the City's Smart Green Apartments program which has worked with 172 buildings, reducing energy and water bills by over \$4 million per year.

Memo from Emma Rigney, Director City Life

Prepared by: Jeremy Kelshaw, Manager Grants

 Melinda Dewsnap, A/Manager Sustainability Programs

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. M. Barone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MONICA BARONE

Chief Executive Officer