



## 1. Parkes Elvis Festival (PEF) 2026 - Completed

Project Status (RAG - Report):	Critical (Red) / At Risk (Amber) / On Track (Green)						
	Scope	Budget	Schedule	Resources	Risks	Benefits	
	Total to date ^	Income Pipeline / Commitments	Actual + Commitments	Less DNSW Funding for PEF 2027 ^	Totals	Adjusted Project Budget	Op Plan Budget
Income	1,209,433	65,500	1,274,933	-155,000	1,119,933	1,093,457	852,782
Expenses	1,402,322	109,234	1,511,555		1,511,555	1,352,544	1,352,544
Totals (Loss)			(236,622)		<b>(391,622)</b>	<b>(259,087)</b>	<b>(499,762)</b>

^ DNSW partnership funding was announced after the original budget was set. The amount is for the 2026 and 2027 events; however, a larger portion of the funding will be received during the 2025-26 financial year. An adjustment has been made to show the prepaid portion attributable to the 2027 event.

### Project Details

The Parkes Elvis Festival 2026 is a major cultural celebration that honours Elvis Presley's legacy while delivering substantial economic and community benefits to the region. Drawing thousands of visitors annually, the festival boosts local tourism and business activity through a diverse program of performances, competitions, workshops, and community events. Its success relies on strong stakeholder engagement, including sponsors, local businesses, artists, and government bodies, alongside a strategic marketing plan aimed at maximizing audience reach through digital and media channels.

### Task Completed

- Strategic Theme Selected: "Love Me Tender" confirmed as the official 2026 Festival theme, guiding program, brand, and marketing development.
- Stakeholder Debriefs Completed: Post-PEF 2025 debriefs held with major sponsors, delivery partners, and internal teams to inform planning and improvements.
- Project Governance Activated
- Internal Improvement Actions Underway: High-priority recommendations from the Elvis Festival Review are being integrated into delivery planning
- Festival Program Framework Initiated: Over 20 artist and performances currently in the pipeline
- Stakeholder Engagement Initiated: Portfolio Holders, NSW Trainlink, venue managers
- Detailed budget and financial plan developed
- DNSW Event Investment Proposal Submitted
- Sponsorship and Partnership Strategy PEF 2026 developed
- Develop a marketing and promotion strategy
- Procurement workflow
- PEF Website live on 1 July 2025
- Created a Sponsorship and Funding Prospectus
- Festival Launch held and tickets are now on sale
- Volunteer program strategy developed
- Programming for the event now finalised
- Marketing campaign plan submitted to DNSW
- Event Management Plan Finalised
- All festival assets & merchandise set to print
- Risk Management plan finalised
- Final touches to souvenir program
- Souvenir Program Printed
- Operational Logistics Finalised
- Music Licensing
- All printed assets & merchandise received
- Volunteer roster finalised and induction completed



## Customer Corporate Services and Economy

### Major Projects & Current Works - March 2026

- Emergency Management briefing held
- Event Bump-In Begins
- Parkes Elvis Festival held
- Review of outstanding purchase orders and unpaid sponsorship

- Post-event survey, evaluation and debriefs

#### **Tasks forecast to be completed (next steps: 3 months)**

- Final acquittals and reporting

#### **Current Works**

Other income not yet recognised in the festival accounts are listed under 'Income Pipeline'. There two outstanding sponsor invoices and the additional Destination NSW funds in relation to the grant milestones that are yet to be claimed in the 2026FY.

<b>Pipeline Income Item</b>	<b>Pipeline</b>
Sponsorship Payment – Parkes Courier Service	2,500
Sponsorship Payment – Adjusta Mattress	3,000
Destination NSW 2026 Milestone Funds	60,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>65,500</b>

The festival has now been delivered. A post event report is being finalised for presentation to Destination NSW and to the April meeting of Council. This report also includes a Post Implementation Review, which outlines the lessons learned after the delivery of the 2026 festival.

After reviewing the commitments and adjusting for income as shown in the above table, the overall expenditure for the festival will exceed the original budget by \$159k or 12%. There was additional grant income of \$235k from DNSW, which was in addition to the original budget amount of \$90k. Overall, while disappointing that expenditure was not kept below the budget the overall result was a loss of \$392K which was better than the Operational Plan Budget of \$500k.



## 2. Parkes Elvis Festival (PEF) 2027

<b>Project Status (RAG - Report):</b>	Critical (Red) / At Risk (Amber) / On Track (Green)					
	Scope	Budget	Schedule	Resources	Risks	Benefits
	Total to date ^	Income Pipeline / Expense Commitments	Actual + Commitments	^ Grant Funding Adjustment for PEF 2027 ^	Totals	Estimated total when works complete *
Income	0	392,222	392,222	266,111	658,333	1,687,100
Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	1,832,924
Totals (Loss)	0	392,222	392,222	<b>266,111</b>	<b>658,333</b>	<b>(145,824)</b>

^ Note that part of the DNSW partnership funding (\$155,000) and the Open Streets program (\$111,111) was received during the 2025-26 financial year. An adjustment has been made to show the prepaid portion attributable to the 2027 event.

\* Estimated totals are draft budget figures pending approval.

### Project Details

The Parkes Elvis Festival 2027 is a major cultural celebration that honours Elvis Presley's legacy while delivering substantial economic and community benefits to the region. Drawing thousands of visitors annually, the festival boosts local tourism and business activity through a diverse program of performances, competitions, workshops, and community events. Its success relies on strong stakeholder engagement, including sponsors, local businesses, artists, and government bodies, alongside a strategic marketing plan aimed at maximizing audience reach through digital and media channels.

### Task Completed

- Strategic Theme Selected: "Evis on Tour" confirmed as the official 2027 Festival theme, guiding program, brand, and marketing development.
- Secured Feature Artists
- Dean Z Venue DA - Submitted

### Tasks forecast to be completed (next steps: 3 months)

- Secure Wall of Fame artist and concert
- Venues Finalised (Leagues Club, Spicer Oval)

### Current Works

Planning for the Parkes Elvis Festival 2027 is now formally underway, with the initial phase focused on establishing foundations for successful delivery and prioritising early contract negotiations. Key activity during this period has centred on high-level program scoping, preliminary operational planning, and the commencement of discussions with headline artists, major suppliers, and core partners to secure availability, manage cost pressures, and reduce delivery risk. Early stakeholder engagement and commercial negotiations are being treated as strategic priorities to ensure certainty around key components, enable accurate budgeting, and support timely progression into detailed planning stages.

### Progress Photos

No further photos available.



### 3. The Community Improvement District (CID) Pilot Program

<b>Project Status (RAG - Report):</b>	Critical (Red)/ At Risk (Amber) /On Track (Green)				
	Scope	Budget	Schedule	Resources	Risks
<b>Approved Budget</b>	<b>Expenditure this month</b>	<b>Total Expenditure to date</b>	<b>Outstanding Commitments</b>	<b>Actual + Commitments</b>	<b>Estimated total when works complete</b>
300,000 (Ops)	0	\$206,308.41	\$36,702.93	\$243,011.34	300,000
60,000 (Cap)	0	\$209.95	\$43,021.77	\$43,231.72	60,000

#### Project Details

The Parkes Community Improvement District (CID) Pilot Program is a NSW Government-funded initiative aimed at testing business-led, place-based revitalisation in the Parkes CBD. Parkes Shire Council is one of a limited number of participants across NSW, with \$360,000 in funding to deliver a comprehensive two-year pilot exploring governance, engagement, planning, branding, and activation.

#### Scope and Deliverables

The program delivers a blend of non-physical and physical interventions:

Non-Physical Deliverables include

- the development of a **CBD Vibrancy Strategy** (via an external consultant),
- creation of a **governance model**,
- a suite of training and development **workshops for local businesses**, and
- accessible **branding assets** that businesses can adopt and adapt.

Physical Deliverables include

- a **temporary lighting** installation,
- delivery of a **place-based community event**, and
- both **temporary and permanent street closures** assets with vehicle management to support safe, welcoming activations.

#### Tasks Completed

- Agreement executed by the Recipient and provided to the Agency
- An agreed draft Project Plan (Annexure A) including a list of anticipate expenditures budget.
- Release of RFQ for Strategic Place Plan for Parkes CBD Vibrancy Strategy (non-physical intervention stream).
- Comms Plan Created (relative to upcoming deliverables)
- Milestone 1 data compiled
- Parkes: Small Business Edition's bookings confirmed.
- Evaluation of RFQ completed
- Strategic Planner engaged for CBD Vibrancy Strategy
- Various engagement activities including NAIDOC and Homegrown
- Small business workshop marketing
- Initial event planning completed including stage and layout
- Milestone Report 1 data compiled
- Business workshops delivered
- Branding consultant appointed
- Type of temporary bollards determined for street closures
- Preliminary findings report about the CBD Vibrancy strategy completed.
- Completion of Clarinda St and Cooke Park lighting.
- Branding workshops held with Council and the reference group.
- Event stage and layout established.
- Lighting Installation complete



**Customer Corporate Services and Economy**  
Major Projects & Current Works - March 2026

- Draft Vibrancy Strategy to Council
- Draft Vibrancy Strategy open to public feedback
- February branding workshop – consultation 2 held
- Branding reference group consultation held

- Branding reference group meeting held

**Tasks forecast to be completed (next steps 1-3 months)**

- Brand design review and consultation
- Community Event planning and delivery within the Parkes CBD and Cooke Park - 18 April
- Redesign of business engagement committee due to low interest
- Grant Milestone reporting
- Elvis 2027 Business Activation Kit development
- Purchase of street closure bollards

**Current Works**

There are three components of the project that were progressing for the past month. Firstly, planning for the community event “Light up Parkes” is progressing, with promotion now being seen in social and other media. This event will be held on 18 April. Secondly, the Reference Group has seen some preliminary designs for the district brand and vision project and lastly, orders have been placed for the temporary vehicle management barriers, which will be used to close the street in support of the place-based community event.

**Progress Photos**





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## 4. Fresh Start Program – New Cadets, Apprentices and Trainees (CATs)

<b>Project Status (RAG - Report):</b>	Critical (Red) / At Risk (Amber) / On Track (Green)				
	Scope	Budget	Schedule	Resources	Risks
	<i>Approved Budget</i>	<i>This month</i>	<i>Total to date</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>Estimated total when complete</i>
Expenditure	359,189	31,855	241,366	117,823	359,189
Income	359,189	56,868	173,099	186,090	359,189

### Project Details

The Fresh Start Program (the Program) funding is part of a commitment from the NSW government that was negotiated by the Unions to increase the NSW local government workforce by 15%. Under the Program, \$252.2 million is being invested over six years to provide direct support to local councils across the state in wage support for 1,300 new apprentices, trainees and cadets.

There are four rounds of funding:

- 1 - January 2025
- 2 - July 2025
- 3 - January 2026
- 4 - January 2027

Note that the project budget will vary depending on the number of new trainees, cadets and apprentices continue in the programme.

### Task Completed

- Round 1 Submission
- Council received provisional approval for 8 positions:
  - Apprentice Plumber - Appointed
  - Apprentice Electrician – On hold
  - Small Plant Apprentice - Appointed
  - Parks and Gardens Apprentice - Appointed
  - Work Health and Safety Trainee - Appointed
  - Concrete Trainee - Appointed
  - Cadet Planner - Appointed
  - Civil Engineer Cadet – On hold
- Round 1 progress report completed 30/3/2025
- Round 2 funding submission completed 31/03/2025
- Council received approval for 3 positions under Round 2:
  - Finance Trainee - Appointed
  - Works Coordinator Trainee - Appointed
  - Heavy Vehicle Mechanic Apprentice – Appointed – Employee resigned
- Round 1 progress report 2 completed 30/04/2025
- Round 3 funding submission submitted on 31 July 2025 for:
  - 7 x Civil Construction Apprentices – Cert 3 (Plant Operator)
    - 1 x Appointed
- Invoices sent in for grant payment for roles that have been recruited.
- Provisional approval for seven (7) Civil Construction Apprentices received under Round 3.
- Recruitment for the Civil Construction apprentices - complete.
- Quarterly claim report completed
- Round 2 recruitment forms due – recruitment update
- Round 3 commencement forms due 28/02/2026 – Recruitment update
- Quarterly Claim Report – 31 March 2026



**Customer Corporate Services and Economy**  
Major Projects & Current Works - March 2026

**Tasks forecast to be completed (next steps: 1 month)**

- Quarterly Claim Report Due – 30 June 2026

**Current Works**

Recruitment tasks and funding body reports are the primary area of work now. Supervisor training is currently underway and will continue in April.

So far, Council has received approval for 18 new trainees, apprentices and cadets. To date:

- 11 roles have been appointed
- 5 civil apprentices could not be filled and have now been withdrawn.
- 2 roles could not be supported (electrician and civil engineer) so have been withdrawn.
- 2 resigned (Heavy Vehicle Apprentice and Trainee Works Coordinator). Funding withdrawn.
- 1 resigned (Finance Trainee) to take a role in the Events team. Funding withdrawn.

This leaves 8 new trainees, apprentices and cadets with Council. Council will reapply for further funding in Round 4 later in the year.

**Progress Photos**

*Nil*



<b>5. CiA Live - Corporate Software System Upgrade – Stage 2B Property</b>							
Due Date	Approved Budget	Expenditure this Month	Total Expenditure to Date	Outstanding Commitments	Estimated Total when Works Complete		
30 June 2027	52,000	0	0	0	52,000		
<b>Project Status (RAG - Report):</b>		Critical (Red) / At Risk (Amber) / On Track (Green)					
		Scope	Budget	Schedule	Resources	Risks	Benefits
<b>Project Details</b>							
<p>Technology One has introduced an upgrade program, called CiA Live, to move all its existing customers from the older Ci system interface to the newer CiAnywhere browser-based system interface. Technology One is putting most of its R &amp; D effort into the CiA product and sees no future in developing two interfaces. Moving to the CiAnywhere system has provided end users a more user-friendly experience of TechnologyOne products with enhanced performance, a simplified interface, and capability to streamline business processes.</p> <p>Budget is based on fixed price contract over 5 years, payable annually. Adjustments may be made to the budget for workforce costs once scoping has been completed.</p> <p>The first part of the project included the upgrade of the Financial based systems and has been completed.</p> <p>The next stage has been rescoped to run stages 2, 3, and 4 concurrently. This avoids staff having to jump between Ci in the Cloud and Ci Anywhere for Property &amp; Rating functions.</p>							
<b>Task Completed</b>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial Systems</li> <li>Stage 2A of the Property Systems (including customer requests and management)</li> <li>High level resourcing plan completed</li> <li>Project SharePoint site with Task Board created.</li> <li>A high-level resourcing plan has been developed</li> </ul>							
<b>Tasks forecast to be completed (next steps: 1 month)</b>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schedule project introductions and kick off meeting for P&amp;R transitions</li> <li>Develop test checklists</li> <li>Training content provided</li> </ul>							
<b>Current Works</b>							
<p>At this stage, detailed scoping has not yet begun. The project remains dependent on TechnologyOne completing the same transition for early adopter councils. As those councils have not yet finalised their stages 2–4 rollout, Council’s project is currently on hold pending confirmation of timelines and commencement dates.</p> <p>No budget expenditure has occurred to date. The approved funding is based on a fixed price contract payable annually over five years, with any internal resourcing impacts to be confirmed during scoping.</p>							



**Customer Corporate Services and Economy**  
Major Projects & Current Works - March 2026

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Immediate next steps include confirming project introductions with TechnologyOne, preparing internal testing checklists, and reviewing resource impact estimates once the scoping phase begins.

***Progress Photos***

There are no photos available currently.