

Ordinary Council Meeting

Late Reports Business Paper

Pursuant to section 9 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Council Meeting of Parkes Shire Council will be held in the Parkes Council Chamber, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes, on Tuesday 17 February 2026 at 3:00 PM.



Kent Boyd PSM

GENERAL MANAGER

Order of Business

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15 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR CUSTOMER, CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMY**15.6 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - 2026 TRUNDLE ABBA FESTIVAL****IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Community**Goal:** Our community is creative, proud and has a strong sense of belonging.**Strategy:** Support and deliver events, festivals and local celebrations that support community connectivity, citizenship and pride.**Author:** Brendan Shipley, Manager Events & Tourism**Authoriser:** Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy**Annexures:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Approve the transfer of up to \$20,000 from the Trundle Town Improvement Reserve to support the 2026 ABBA Festival.

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 March 2025, Council considered a confidential report about the ABBA Festival held in 2024. Council had undertaken to run two festivals on a trial basis after the original hosts requested that Council take-over the management of the event. The two (2) festivals run by Council resulted in significant financial losses.

Council decided that continuing the festival in the same fashion would significantly affect council's finances in an adverse way. The Mayor spoke with the Trundle community prior to the Trundle Progress Association's meeting on 20 March 2025 to convey the news and to advise that whilst Council would no longer run the festival, it would support any other community group that was prepared to deliver the festival. A [media release](#) then followed to report the news to the wider community.

Events Financial Assistance Program

In June 2024, Parkes Shire Council ("Council") endorsed the new Events Financial Assistance Program ("EFAP") to support community and destination events in the Parkes Shire. While Council receives numerous event assistance requests, resources are limited, necessitating a consistent, transparent, and equitable allocation approach. Applications are assessed based on merit, budget availability, Financial Assistance Policy guidelines (Section 6.5), and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

A request has been received from the Trundle and District Progress Association ("TDPA") to assist with the 2026 Trundle ABBA Festival, which is to be held on 2 May 2026.

An analysis under the General Financial Assistance program was conducted instead.

The following table details the assessment of the project against the Financial Assistance Grants general assessment criteria.

Criteria	Assessment	Comment
Budget Compliance: Ensure the request falls within Council's budget.	Complies	There are sufficient funds available in the Parkes TI Reserve.
Community Accessibility: Verify that the facility, activity or event is open to the Parkes Shire community.	Partially compliant	The various activities are not open to the shire community; however local Trundle residents are allowed free access.
Participation Costs: Assess whether the costs for patrons to use a facility, attend or participate are reasonable.	Complies	The cost of the event is reasonable.
Local Government Area: Confirm that the activity or event takes place within the Parkes Shire Local Government Area.	Complies	The primary overnight activities will take place in Parkes, complemented by additional events and experiences throughout the broader region.
Period: Ensure that the activity or event occurs, or the funds are spent, within 12 months of notification of approval.	Complies	The event is scheduled for May 2026, aligning with the 12-month timeframe.
Community Benefit: Evaluate how any excess proceeds or project outcome will benefit the Parkes Shire community, particularly if proceeds are for charity.	Complies	This event is expected to generate an economic uplift through accommodation bookings, engagement with local services, and patronage of hospitality businesses.
Request-Outcome Alignment: Assess how the requested amount compares with the stated outcomes of the activity or event.	Complies	Council's financial investment of \$16,500 aligns with the economic benefit expected from hosting the event.
Strategic Goal Alignment: Determine how the objectives or outcomes align with one or more of Council's strategic goals.	Complies	Aligns with goal to "Support and deliver events, festivals and local celebrations that support community connectivity, citizenship and pride". The event also aligns with the goal to "Support our visitor economy through promotion of our Shire, supporting and delivering local events".
Public Liability Insurance: Verify that public liability insurance is required and current for the activity or event.	Complies	The TDPA has public liability insurance and has updated their policy to include the festival.

The assessment, therefore, is that this project generally meets the guidelines for the provision of funds under the Financial Assistance Policy for general requests.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

In accordance with section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council can provide financial assistance through a specific program, providing the details of the program have been included in Council's draft Operational Plan for the year in which the financial assistance is proposed to be given. Council's EFAP includes two separate funds:

1. Community Events Fund

2. Destination Events Fund

Applications for the Destination Event Fund are accepted throughout the year with no set rounds in place. The maximum funding per application is \$10,000.00. Request above this amount must be presented to Council for approval.

Allocations from the Town Improvement Reserve requires a resolution of Council if the project or event was not specifically listed in its operational plan in accord with the Financial Reserves Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The organisers have requested assistance with the following items:

Item	Estimated Cost to Council
Direct Costs:	
Traffic Control Plans, Advertising and Management	1,250
Road Closure Setup and Pack Down Including Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Barriers, VMS Boards, Webbing, Fencing etc.	8,500
Radios	150
Generator and Portable Toilets inc. Delivery & Pickup	7,628
Gazebo Tents	450
Boulevard Poles	650
Extra Bins with additional collection	1,200
TOTAL:	19,828
In-kind Contribution:	
ABBA Website Hosting (included and paid for under Council's current website management costs)	3,500
Event staff general assistance (as needed)	0

Funding Sources

The Trundle Town Improvement Fund Reserve had an uncommitted balance of \$37,803.41 at the end of January 2026.

The current round of the Community and Destination Events program attracted four submissions totalling \$34,000. The Destination Event fund is fully expended for 2025-2026 budget year.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The provision of additional funds to support the Trundle ABBA festival as a destination event represents a positive opportunity to increase the economy of Trundle and the wider Parkes Shire.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The TDPA is the recognised consultative community group for the Trundle area. The TDPA has met and agreed to support the festival from the Trundle Town Improvement Fund Reserve up to the value of \$20,000.