

Greater Geraldton Community Grants Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Greater Geraldton Community Grants Program – Round 33	Meeting No.	1 – 2025/26
Meeting Date	Tuesday 23 September 2025		
Meeting Time	2:00pm		
Meeting Location	Civic Centre, Greenough Room		
Attendees	Cr Steve Cooper / Voting Member Cr Jennifer Critch / Voting Member (via electronic means) Cr Michael Librizzi / Voting Member Cr Victor Tanti / Voting Member Rebecca Bohannan	By Invitation	Josephine Bianchi Jacqui McLean Jay Prow Paul Radalj Brooke Rafferty
		Apologies	
		Leave of Absence	Cr Simon Keemink
		Distribution	As above
Purpose of Committee	To allocate funds provided by Council to Community Groups servicing the Greater Geraldton area in accordance with determined guidelines.		
Attachments	1 – Disclosure of Interests 2 – Greater Geraldton Community Grants Committee Meeting Minutes 25 March 2025 3 – 2025/26 Community Grants Program Round 33 Application Summary (CONFIDENTIAL) 4 – Officer Recommendation for the Allocation of 2025/26 Community Grants Program Round 33 (CONFIDENTIAL) 5 – 2026/27 Festival and Event Funding Program Expression of Interest Summary (CONFIDENTIAL) 6 – Officer Recommendation for the Expression of Interests 2026/27 Festival and Event Funding Program (CONFIDENTIAL) 7 – Awarded Community Funding Report (CONFIDENTIAL) 8 – Community Grants Program Round 33 CEO Authorised Recommendations (CONFIDENTIAL)		

All Committee Members, including external members, are subject to the same rules as a Council Meeting concerning confidentiality, public statements, conflicts of interest and behaviours of members, pursuant to the [Local Government \(Model Code of Conduct\) Regulations 2021](#).

The Presiding Member is to refer to the following Policy, Meeting Procedures and Regulations when chairing a meeting.

[Meeting Procedures Local Law 2011](#)

[Council Policy 4.4. Operation of Advisory Committees](#)

[Council Policy 4.2 Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates](#)

1 Declaration of Opening

Deputy Presiding Member, Cr Jennifer Critch, opened the meeting at 2:00pm via electronic means, as approved by the Mayor - Regulation 14C of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

2 Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamatji people who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we meet/stand. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Yamatji people.

3 Welcome & Apologies

Deputy Presiding Member, Cr Jennifer Critch, welcomed the members and a leave of absence was noted from Cr Simon Keemink.

4 Disclosure of Interests

Cr S Cooper declared a closely associated persons interest in Item 6 relating to application 25/26CGR33-31 (Geraldton Hockey Association), as they are a relative of the applicant.

Cr M Librizzi declared a financial interest in Item 6 relating to application 25/26CGR33-20 (Railway Football Club), as they are a member and sponsor of the applicant.

Cr J Critch declared an impartiality interest in Item 7 relating to Expression of Interest (EOI) 26/27FE-01 (Mullewa District Agricultural Society Inc) and EOI 26/27FE-05 (Mullewa Muster & Rodeo Inc), as they are a member of both groups.

5 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMEND that the minutes of the Greater Geraldton Community Grants Committee Meeting held on 25 March 2025 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

COMMITTEE DECISION:

MOVED Cr M Librizzi, **SECONDED** Cr S Cooper

RECOMMEND that the minutes of the Greater Geraldton Community Grants Committee Meeting held on 25 March 2025 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED 4/0

Time: 2:02pm

Not Voted:

No Votes:

Yes Votes: 4

Name	Vote
Cr V Tanti	Yes
Cr M Librizzi	Yes
Cr J Critch	Yes
Cr S Cooper	Yes

6 Community Grants Program Round 33

The Community Grants Program aims to provide assistance to not-for-profit community groups, clubs and organisations to implement projects, activities and programs that enhance and promote community wellbeing within the Greater Geraldton region.

The Community Grants Program has an annual budget of \$150,000 to be allocated over two (2) rounds during the financial year. The total available for disbursement in Round 33 is \$75,000 which is 50% of the total annual allocation.

Applications opened for the City's Community Grants Program Round 33 on 7 July 2025 and closed on 8 August 2025.

A total of seventeen (17) applications were received, requesting funding of \$121,983.00 for projects worth \$833,999.77.

Six (6) applications have been deemed ineligible on pre-assessment against the Community Funding Guidelines as outlined in Attachment 3 – 2025/26 Community Grants Program Round 33 Application Summary.

The remaining eleven (11) applications have been deemed eligible based on the criteria in the Community Funding Guidelines. Discussion of the individual committee member assessments will form the basis of the Committee decision for recommendations to the CEO for endorsement as per Council Policy 1.8 Community Funding Programs.

Full applications have been provided to the Committee through SmartyGrants for assessment and will be attached as Confidential Attachments to the minutes.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Greater Geraldton Community Grants Committee **RECOMMENDS** the allocation of funding through the 2025/26 Community Grants Program Round to eligible projects as detailed in Confidential Attachment 4 to the Chief Executive Officer for endorsement as per Council Policy 1.8 Community Funding Programs; and
2. **RECORD** the Greater Geraldton Community Grants Committee decision in the minutes

Cr S Cooper declared a closely associated persons interest in Item 6 relating to application 25/26CGR33-31 (Geraldton Hockey Association), as they are a relative of the applicant.

Cr M Librizzi declared a financial interest in Item 6 relating to application 25/26CGR33-20 (Railway Football Club), as they are a member and sponsor of the applicant.

COMMITTEE DECISION:

MOVED Cr S Cooper, SECONDED Cr V Tanti

That the Community Grants Committee RECOMMENDS the following allocation of funding to eligible projects to the Chief Executive Officer for endorsement as per Council Policy 1.8 Community Funding Programs:

1. **APPROVE** funding to Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation for YSRC 2025 NAIDOC Community Event of \$10,000, with in-kind support of up to \$472, subject to the following condition/s:
 - a. Funds are to be allocated to costs associated with drone light show;
 - b. Expenses incurred after the outcome has been reached. Any invoices / receipts provided at the time of acquittal for expenses incurred prior to our notification of the outcome will be ineligible to be covered by the City's funding;
 - c. In-kind support is awarded for the waiver of park & ground fees and bin hire; and
 - d. The City's contribution will not exceed 50% of the total project cost.
2. **APPROVE** funding to Headspace Geraldton for Headspace Geraldton Therapy Garden Extension Project of \$10,000, subject to the following condition/s:
 - a. Funding conditional on submission of a final design and final project budget;
 - b. Funding will be pro-rated based on the final cost;
 - c. Any costs incurred prior to execution of funding agreement will not be eligible for reimbursement under the City's funding program;

- d. Funds are to be allocated to costs associated with painting of external building and staircase, and staircase replacement; and
 - e. The City's contribution will not exceed 50% of the total project cost.
- 3. **APPROVE** funding to Variety WA Midwest for Variety Midwest Annual Kids Christmas Party 2025 of \$7,000, subject to the following condition/s:
 - a. Funds are to be allocated to costs associated with presents/wrapping, entertainment, shade marquees, miscellaneous art and craft items;
 - b. A separate email address will be required for Contact No.2 upon acceptance of funding agreement; and
 - c. The City's contribution will not exceed 50% of the total project cost.
- 4. **APPROVE** funding to Geraldton City Speedway Inc. for Maddington Toyota Sprintcar Series Round at Geraldton City Speedway of \$9,608, with in-kind support of up to \$392, subject to the following condition/s:
 - a. Provision of insurance certificates required as part of the acceptance of the funding agreement;
 - b. Funds are to be allocated to costs associated with race officials;
 - c. In-kind support is awarded for the waiver of bin hire fees; and
 - d. The City's contribution will not exceed 50% of the total project cost.
- 5. **APPROVE** funding to Girl Guides WA for Growing Guiding: Expanding Access for Girls in Geraldton for \$4,000, subject to the following condition/s:
 - a. Provision of insurance certificates required as part of the acceptance of the funding agreement;
 - b. Funds are to be allocated to costs associated with promotional activities/advertising; and
 - c. The City's contribution will not exceed 50% of the total project cost.
- 6. **APPROVE** funding to Geraldton Hockey Association for Protecting Our Assets, Growing Our Game, GHA Storage Shed Project of \$8,000, subject to the following condition/s:
 - a. Funds are to be allocated to costs associated with purchase of a shed; and
 - b. The City's contribution will not exceed 50% of the total project cost.
- 7. **APPROVE** funding to The Churches' Commission on Education Incorporated T/A YouthCARE for YouthCARE BUZ Program Training of \$5,000, subject to the following condition/s:
 - a. Funds are to be allocated to costs associated with resource kits for each trained chaplain;
 - b. Updated insurance certificates required upon expiration of 01/01/2026;
 - c. The City's contribution will not exceed 45% of the total project cost; and
 - d. Course facilitator costs are not eligible for City funding
- 8. **NOT APPROVE** funding to Spring Into Summer Inc. for Spring into Summer Gymnastics Competition.
- 9. **NOT APPROVE** funding to Railway Football Club Geraldton Inc for Goal Nets.
- 10. **NOT APPROVE** funding to Drummond Cove Progress Association for Replacement of Sliding Door.
- 11. **NOT APPROVE** funding to Geraldton Water Polo Association for State Country Championships.
- 12. **NOT APPROVE** funding to Geraldton Kite Festival for Geraldton Kite Festival.
- 13. **NOT APPROVE** funding to Little Things for Tiny Tots Inc. for Connecting Communities.
- 14. **NOT APPROVE** funding to Kiteboarding Western Australia Incorporated for KWA State Wave Titles 2025/26.
- 15. **NOT APPROVE** funding to Geraldton Dog Rescue Inc for DGR Gazebo.
- 16. **NOT APPROVE** funding to Batavia Coast Miniature Railway Society Inc for BCMRSI Railway Track Galvanising and Replacement (240 metres).
- 17. **NOT APPROVE** funding to Teach Learn Grow for Teach Learn Grow Rural Tutoring & Mentoring Program.

CARRIED 4/0

Time: 3:06pm

Not Voted:

No Votes:

Yes Votes: 4

Name	Vote
Cr V Tanti	Yes
Cr M Librizzi	Yes
Cr J Critch	Yes
Cr S Cooper	Yes

7 2026/27 Festival and Event Funding Program

The Festival and Event Funding Program aims to provide assistance to host events within the City that bring tourism and an economic boost to the region.

Expression of Interests (EOIs) opened for the 2026/27 Festival and Event Funding Program on 1 July 2025 and closed on 29 August 2025.

Applications for the 2026/27 Festival and Event Funding Program open in October 2025 and close in November 2025 with assessments complete by February 2026.

Applications for Funding will undergo a further assessment based on the satisfaction of eligibility requirement then referred for evaluation using a point scoring system based on the funding criteria. The prioritised list will be submitted to Council for budgetary consideration and final endorsement.

Four (4) EOIs have been received and have been deemed **eligible** on pre-assessment against the Community Funding Guidelines as outlined in Attachment 5 – 2026/27 Festival and Event Funding Program EOI Summary.

The total of EOIs for funding in 2026/27 is \$78,300 for events worth \$608,000.

Full EOIs have been provided to the Committee through SmartyGrants for review and will be attached as Confidential Attachments to the minutes.

Festival and Event Funding Program 2025/26

Mullewa Agricultural Show	Year 3	\$20,000
Carols by Candlelight	Year 3	\$5,000
Geraldton Cultural Festivals	Year 2	\$10,000
Geraldton Bike Fest	Year 2	\$20,000
P.G.A Spalding Park Open Golf Tournament	Year 2	\$10,000
Outback Bloom – Mullewa's Wildflower Festival	Year 1	\$10,000
Geraldton Blessing of the Fleet	Year 1	\$20,000
Geraldton Greenough Sunshine Festival Family Funday	Year 1	\$20,000
Junior World Windsurfing Grand Final	Year 1	\$45,965
Mullewa Muster & Rodeo	Year 1	\$25,000
Shore Leave Festival	Year 1	\$110,000

<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$295,965</i>
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Festival and Event Funding Program 2026/27

Geraldton Cultural Festivals	Year 3	\$5,000
Geraldton Bike Fest	Year 3	\$10,000
P.G.A Spalding Park Open Golf Tournament	Year 3	\$5,000
Outback Bloom – Mullewa's Wildflower Festival	Year 2	\$5,000
Geraldton Blessing of the Fleet	Year 2	\$15,000
Geraldton Greenough Sunshine Festival Family Funday	Year 2	\$15,000
Shore Leave Festival	Year 2	\$110,000
<i>TOTAL</i>		<i>\$165,000</i>
<i>PLUS EOIs received</i>		
Mullewa Agricultural Show	Year 1	\$25,000
Geraldton Carols by Candlelight	Year 1	\$5,000
Oceania Youth Wave Titles & Junior Windsurfing Camp	Year 1	\$20,000
Mullewa Muster & Rodeo	Year 1	\$28,300
<i>TOTAL</i>		<i>\$78,300</i>

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Greater Geraldton Community Grants Committee **RECOMMENDS** Expression of Interests move to the application stage and extend an invitation to apply
2. **RECORD** the Greater Geraldton Community Grants Committee decision in the minutes

Cr J Critch declared an impartiality interest in Item 7 relating to Expression of Interest (EOI) 26/27FE-01 (Mullewa District Agricultural Society Inc) and EOI 26/27FE-05 (Mullewa Muster & Rodeo Inc), as they are a member of both groups.

COMMITTEE DECISION:

That the Greater Geraldton Community Grants Committee RECOMMENDS Expression of Interests move to the application stage and extend an invitation to apply.

MOVED Cr M Librizzi, **SECONDED** Cr V Tanti

1. **APPROVE** an invitation to Mullewa District Agricultural Society Inc for Mullewa Agricultural Show to submit a full application for funding through 2026/27 Festival and Event Funding Program.
2. **NOT APPROVE** an invitation to Geraldton Carols by Candlelight for Geraldton Carols by Candlelight to submit a full application for funding through 2026/27 Festival and Event Funding Program.
3. **APPROVE** an invitation to Geraldton Windsurfing Club for Oceania Youth Wave Titles & Junior Windsurfing Camp to submit a full application for funding through 2026/27 Festival and Event Funding Program.
4. **APPROVE** an invitation to Mullewa Muster & Rodeo Inc for Mullewa Muster & Rodeo to submit a full application for funding through 2026/27 Festival and Event Funding Program.

CARRIED 3/0

Time: 3:10pm

Not Voted: 1

No Votes:

Yes Votes: 3

Name	Vote
Cr V Tanti	Yes
Cr M Librizzi	Yes
Cr J Critch	Not Voted
Cr S Cooper	Yes

8 Update on Awarded Community Funding

Refer Attachment 7 - Awarded Community Funding Report.

This report has been developed to provide an update to the Committee on projects that have previously been awarded funding through the Community Grants, Community Project Support, Festival and Event Funding and Service Agreement programs.

This provides the status of all current funding including details for projects acquitted since the previous report in March 2025.

CARRIED 4/0

Time: 3:12pm

Not Voted:

No Votes:

Yes Votes: 4

Name	Vote
Cr V Tanti	Yes
Cr M Librizzi	Yes
Cr J Critch	Yes
Cr S Cooper	Yes

9 Terms of Reference for proposed Greater Geraldton Community Grants Panel – Notes of Committee Discussion

Current Terms of Reference for the Greater Geraldton Community Grants Committee

The Committee discussed the proposed move from a Committee to Panel. The current terms of Reference for the committee and options for the proposed panel.

The Committee is to operate under the following Terms of Reference to ensure that funds are allocated in alignment with the key criteria outlined in the Recurrent and Community Grants Guidelines:

- the quorum of a committee meeting is in accordance with Section 5.19 of the Local Government Act 1995, at least 50% of the number of officers (whether vacant or not) of member of the Committee;*
- appoint five Council Members to this Committee;*
- that funds are allocated in accordance with Council Policy 1.8 Community Funding Program; and*
- that all community grants be managed through the Community Grants Guidelines.*

The Committee is to REVIEW the Terms of Reference for the Greater Geraldton Community Grants Panel and provide recommendations to Council for any necessary amendments to the Terms of Reference.

Options for Revised Terms of Reference: (Grants Panel)

Option 1:

- a. appoint up to five Council members to the panel;*
- b. if fewer than five Councillor nominations are received, the remaining positions may be filled by City Officers;*
- c. funding allocations must comply with Council Policy 1.8 – Community Funding Program;*
- d. all community grants are to be administered in accordance with the Community Grants Guidelines; and*
- e. The panel is responsible for assessing applications and recommending funding outcomes.*

Option 2:

- a. appoint up to five Council members to this panel;*
- b. if fewer than five Councillor nominations are received, the remaining positions may be filled by City Officers;*
- c. funding allocations must comply with Council Policy 1.8 – Community Funding;*
- d. all community grants are to be administered in accordance with the Community Grants Guidelines; and*
- e. City officers will conduct the assessment of applications, with the Panel making final funding recommendation based on the Officer's assessment.*

General agreement by the Committee that their preference for the above is Option 2.

10 General Business

Cr M Librizzi thanked all on the Grants Committee and City Officers.

Cr J Critch was in favour of the new SmartyGrants forms and improvements made have been great. Thanked Brooke Rafferty, Rebecca Bohannon and Executives.

Confidential – Potential Additional Funding

11 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2pm Tuesday 24 March 2026 at Civic Centre, Greenough Room.

12 Close

There being no further business the Deputy Presiding Member closed the meeting at 3:28pm