Western Parkland City Liveability Program Guidelines

September 2018
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Purpose of the Western Parkland City Liveability Program

The Western Parkland City Liveability Program (the Program) is a key element of the Western Sydney City Deal signed by the Australian and New South Wales Governments, and the eight Councils of the Western Sydney Parkland City: Blue Mountains City, Camden, Campbelltown City, Fairfield City, Hawkesbury City, Liverpool City, Penrith City and Wollondilly Shire.

Liveable cities support the health, wellbeing and quality of life of people who live and work in them. The Program will fund Council projects that support the development of the Western Parkland City by creating neighbourhoods that are liveable, creative, sustainable and healthy. Local projects will assist communities retain their unique characteristics, build on their strengths and support environmental infrastructure and open spaces. Projects will deliver community facilities, improve urban amenity or enhance liveability, to enable and complement new housing supply.

The objectives of the Program are to:

- Provide public infrastructure which improves the lives of residents in the Western Parkland City,
- Improve access to quality public open space and preserve the natural environment
- Support and improve access to social and community infrastructure,
- Create connected and inclusive communities,
- Support cultural diversity, and
- Enable and complement new housing supply to support greater housing choice in the Western Parkland City.

Funding for the Western Parkland City Liveability Program

A $150 million Western Parkland City Liveability Program has been established with contributions of $60 million from both the Australian and NSW governments, and $30 million from councils.

The eight Councils of the Western Parkland City will equally share the $150 million of Program funding. Councils can use this allocation across one or multiple projects.

Administration of the Western Parkland City Liveability Program

The NSW Government will administer the Program through the Western Sydney City Deal Delivery Office. The Australian and NSW Governments are committed to ensuring that the process for providing funding under the Program is transparent and in accordance with these guidelines.
**Timing**

The Program will run over a four year period (2018/19 – 2021/22).

The first round of applications will open on 5 September 2018. Applications must be received by **4.00pm AEST, 3 October 2018** to be considered in the first round.

In the event that the Program is not fully subscribed in the first round, an additional round will be opened later in 2018 or early 2019. The Delivery Office will publish the opening and closing dates of any future funding rounds on www.greater.sydney/liveability-program.

**Assessment of proposed projects**

An Assessment Panel will assess each project proposal submitted by Councils. Membership of the Assessment Panel will be made up of representatives from the Australian and NSW Governments.

Eligible projects will be assessed against the Program Criteria below. All criteria must be met in order to be considered for funding under the Program.

The Assessment Panel will meet as required and the Delivery Office will provide administrative support to the Assessment Panel.

The Assessment Panel will provide advice and recommend projects assessed as suitable, through an Assessment Report, to the Australian Government Minister for Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population and the NSW Minister for Western Sydney for their consideration and joint decision. Successful projects will be published on www.greater.sydney/liveability-program.

**Eligibility**

The Program is open to the eight councils of the Western Parkland City: Blue Mountains City, Camden, Campbelltown City, Fairfield City, Hawkesbury City, Liverpool City, Penrith City and Wollondilly Shire.

The project must be a capital project that contributes to new or enhances existing infrastructure. The project may include reasonable studies that will inform and contribute to new or existing infrastructure that is the subject of the application for funding under the Program.

**Projects that are ineligible for funding under the Western Parkland City Liveability Program**

- Projects related primarily to operational expenditure including, but not limited to, regular repairs and maintenance of Council assets.
- Projects where the Council does not have, or cannot reasonably expect to get, the necessary approvals or permissions to proceed.
- Projects that primarily involve the development of private or commercial “for-profit” ventures.
• Projects that include funding of infrastructure on private land.
• Projects that should be funded as core NSW Government responsibility from another source e.g. a school or hospital.
• Project works or costs that are covered by insurance claims e.g. repairs following a weather event.
• Projects that seek retrospective Australian and NSW Government funding for works that have physically commenced prior to the execution of a funding deed.
• Projects that will require ongoing funding from the Australian or NSW Governments.
• Projects primarily related to marketing, advertising or product promotion.
• Transport projects, except for active transport projects.

Program Criteria

The Assessment Panel will assess eligible projects against the following criteria:

1. **The project will improve the liveability of the Western Parkland City**
   • The project should deliver social, economic or environmental benefits to a broad section of the community, to enable and complement new housing, in one or more of the following areas:
     - community infrastructure
     - enhanced urban amenity
     - enhanced local liveability
   • The project should address an existing or future community need.

2. **The project will be new or a separate stage of an existing project**
   • Projects must be either new or a separate stage of an existing project. Construction that is the subject of Australian and NSW Government funding under the Liveability Program can only commence following execution of a funding deed.
   • Projects are able to include funding from developer contributions, however the project or relevant stage funded by the Program should be beyond the capacity of current developer contributions for essential local infrastructure (section 94 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979).

3. **The project will deliver value for money**
   • Councils will need to demonstrate that the project delivers value for money.
   - Councils will be required to submit a detailed application for their projects using the Liveability Program Application Form. The application will include a cost benefit analysis to be completed by Councils.
   - Projects will not be excluded on the basis that they produce significant private benefits, but it is expected that the identifiable public benefits from funded projects will exceed the public costs. Where private benefits are significant, appropriate contributions from the private beneficiaries will be expected.
   • Under the Program, each eligible Council’s maximum allocation will be up to $18.75 million. This includes combined funding of up to $15 million from Australian and NSW Governments and $3.75 million in Council contributions. Where the total
costs of the project/s in the application is less than the Council’s maximum allocation, the Council must be able to demonstrate a contribution of at least 20 per cent.
  o Council contributions to the Program ($3.75 million) cannot be in-kind and cannot be made using funds received from an existing Australian or NSW Government grant program.

4. The project will be aligned with Council and other strategic plans
   • The project should be aligned with Council’s policies, including Community Strategic Plan, Cultural Plan or Tourism Strategy, long term financial plans or other specific strategic plans.
   • The project should be consistent with the objectives and directions of the Western City District Plan and other Australian or NSW Government strategic policies or plans. This includes delivering improved community facilities and enhanced urban amenity and liveability to complement and enable the delivery of the housing supply targets in the Western City District Plan.
   • The project can be a joint venture, involving more than one Council, where the project provides benefits across multiple local government areas.
   • Projects with significant community benefits that are widely distributed across the Western Parkland City area will be viewed favourably.

5. Council has the capability and capacity to deliver the project
   • Council will need to demonstrate that it has the necessary funds to meet its required contribution to the project/s it proposes for funding under the Program.
   • Council should demonstrate that it has or can contract the project management and other appropriate expertise required to successfully deliver the project.
   • Council should demonstrate that it has taken account of full lifecycle costs for the project.
   • Council should demonstrate that it has a viable plan for maintaining ongoing delivery of benefits from the project to the community after construction is completed.
   • Council should demonstrate that there are no regulatory or other significant impediments to delivering the project.

Program Evaluation

Councils may be required to participate in a program evaluation to determine the extent to which projects have contributed to the objectives of the Program. This evaluation may include providing evidence of how projects have resulted in a measurable change to the wellbeing and quality of life of residents within the Western Parkland City. Potential indicators for evaluation could include:

- Access to public open space
- Access to social, community and recreational infrastructure
- Improved pedestrian and cycle connectivity
- Social and cultural opportunities
- Housing choice and affordability.
How to apply

Applications are to be submitted using the Western Parkland City Liveability Program Application Form. The application form is available for download at www.greater.sydney/liveability-program.

Applications can be submitted via email or by post.

- Email: citydeal@gsc.nsw.gov.au
- Post: PO Box 257, Parramatta NSW, 2124.

Applications close 4.00pm AEST, 3 October 2018. Late applications may not be accepted.

Accountability and acquittal of funds

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding deed with the NSW Government. Payments are made on the basis of progress claims and regular reporting is required. Successful applicants must submit reports in line with the funding deed. The amount of detail provided in reports should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount. Requests for variations or changes to the projects will be considered in limited circumstances and may be accepted or rejected subject to certain conditions.

Australian Government requirements for certain projects

The Australian Government Building and Construction Work Health and Safety Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme) will apply to a project if the value of the Australian Government contribution to the project meets the Scheme threshold of at least $10 million.

The Code for the Tendering and Performance of Building Work 2016 (Building Code 2016) will apply if the value of the Australian Government funding for a project meets the Building Code 2016 threshold of at least $10 million.

For more information on these requirements a Fact Sheet is available for download at www.greater.sydney/liveability-program.

NSW Government requirements for certain projects

The NSW funding component for a project may be sourced directly from a $60 million specific reservation for this program from the Restart NSW fund.

Therefore, part of the assessment process for a project may include its review by Infrastructure NSW and formal consideration of the project by the Treasurer. This includes assessing whether the project improves the economic growth and productivity of the State.

Confidentiality and disclosure

All information submitted by applicants may be provided to other organisations for the purposes of appraisal.
The Delivery Office will consult on applications with relevant stakeholder groups, which may include other Australian and NSW Government agencies, independent experts and other relevant external parties. Applicants should identify any information submitted which they wish to be considered as confidential, supported by reasons for the request. Except as disclosed, the Delivery Office will keep all information confidential and secure.

Information about projects may be used for material prepared by the Australian and NSW Governments and summary information about successful projects will be posted on relevant government websites.