

ITEM 5.4 ADMINISTRATOR'S MINUTE NO 09/2017 - ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROGRAMS FUNDED FROM MERGER SAVINGS FUND

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ATTACHMENTS 1 [↓ Summary of Merger Savings Fund Projects](#)

BACKGROUND

I am pleased to announce funding for new programs that support arts and culture, youth, environmental sustainability and community events on the Northern Beaches.

At the Council meeting 3 May 2017, I foreshadowed my intention of allocating funds to programs that support community wellbeing and environmental sustainability through an Administrator's Minute and announced two specific projects under the proposed Arts and Cultural Program (for a creative art space in Avalon or Newport as well as for public art in key locations). At the same meeting, I resolved to seek feedback from the community on the proposed programs and projects by publicly exhibiting the Administrator's Minute along with the draft Operational Plan 2017/18.

I have considered the 15 submissions received from community members and note that the majority were in support of the proposed initiative. The Council Report on Adoption of the Operational Plan 2017/18 provides further detail on the submissions.

The programs will be funded through Council's Merger Savings Fund which was established through Council Resolution on 7 July 2016 (033/16) for the purpose of setting aside savings from the merger of the three Councils (Manly, Warringah and Pittwater) to provide an on-going pool of money for projects that directly benefit the community. The new programs and initiatives are a direct result of efficiency savings achieved through the merger. These new cultural and environmental programs will not exhaust the Merger Savings Fund; there is scope for the new Council to address other areas of priority to the community.

The recommended programs and projects below will ensure that significant dividend is delivered to the community every year from the efficiencies achieved through the merger of the three Councils and will contribute to the community's vision of creating a *safe, inclusive and connected community that lives in balance with our extraordinary coastal and bushland environment* (draft Community Strategic Plan 2017 - 2028). An overview of the allocated projects is provided in the Summary of Merger Savings Fund Projects at Attachment 1 to this report. These will be subject to detailed project scoping and planning by Council staff upon inception of each project.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

A. Allocate funds from the Merger Savings Fund to the following programs and projects:

a. **Arts and Cultural Program:**

- i. Creative Art Space at the northern end of the Northern Beaches local government area (e.g. Avalon or Newport) - \$1 million in 2017/18
- ii. Public Art in key locations (e.g. coastal walkway) with commissions from local artists where possible - \$500,000 per year for four years commencing in 2017/18

b. **Youth Program:**

- i. PCYC in Dee Why: six major annual youth events and activities - \$200,000 per

year for four years commencing 2017/18

- ii. Youth Wellbeing Hub in the northern part of the local government area (e.g. Mona Vale): seed funding (e.g. rental assistance) for establishment of a space for hosting youth outreach services - \$90,000 per year for two years commencing 2017/18 with an intent to secure long term external funding beyond the seed funding term
- iii. Youth Friendly Spaces: development of youth inclusive spaces which will enhance existing sites (e.g. skate parks) or support the development of new sites (e.g. multi-purpose courts, handball, parkour, graffiti walls, play maze, giant slides, ropes and wall ball) - \$200,000 per year for four years commencing in 2017/18 with works at Lionel Watts in the first year and specific projects to be identified and scoped towards the end of 2017/18

c. Environment Program

- i. Community Nursery at Curl Curl Community Hub - \$200,000 for initial establishment in 2017/18 plus \$10,000 per year for ongoing maintenance in three subsequent years (2018/19; 2019/20; 2020/21)
- ii. Tick Research to enable Council to better manage risks to public health resulting from prevalence and exposure to ticks. As per Council Resolution 82/17 from Council meeting 30 May 2017: \$25,000 per year for three years commencing 2017/18
- iii. Single Use Plastics reduction program where a dedicated resource (new staff member) will work with local businesses to reduce reliance on single use plastics – \$100,000 per year for two years commencing 2017/18

d. Community Events Program

- i. Northern Beaches community event and implementation of priority recommendations from the strategic review of the annual events program currently underway. The project will assist in the development of a new event that showcases the Northern Beaches and celebrates this unique place - \$150,000 in 2017/18 and \$200,000 in 2018/19 when the event will be delivered
- ii. Mona Vale Skate Park global amateur street skateboarding qualifying series on 21 – 23 July 2017 - \$2,100 for hire fees and waste management services

- B. Amend the Operational Plan and Budget 2017/18 to reflect the allocation of funds to the projects listed in Recommendation A above



Dick Persson
ADMINISTRATOR