

## 8.5 Acceptance of Grant Funding - Regional Events Acceleration Fund

REPORT BY THE MANAGER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
TO 19 MAY 2021 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400088, GRA600044

### RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager Economic Development on the Acceptance of Grant Funding - Regional Events Acceleration Fund;**
2. **if successful, accept \$150,000 in grant funding from the NSW Government Regional Events Acceleration Fund;**
3. **if successful, amend the 2020/21 Budget to include grant funding received of \$150,000; and**
4. **if successful, authorise the General Manager to finalise and sign the funding agreement with the NSW Government.**

### Executive summary

Council was invited to apply for grant funding from the NSW Government Regional Events Acceleration Fund in regards to the 2021 NRL Premiership Match held at Glen Willow Stadium in April. The intention of this grant is to support major events held in regional NSW. The funding aims to help meet the costs of attracting or retaining major events and help fund the operational and infrastructure improvements existing events need to increase visitation and length of stay.

If successful, the Regional Events Acceleration funding will help Council cover delivery costs of the NRL Premiership event.

### Disclosure of Interest

Nil

### Detailed report

In March 2021, Council was invited to apply for grant funding to help cover the costs of the 2021 NRL Premiership Match held in April between Manly Sea Eagles and Gold Coast Titans.

As identified in the Towards 2030 Community Plan, Council works to promote the region as a great place to live, work, invest and visit. Attracting and hosting major events, such as an NRL fixture plays an important role in delivering against this strategy.

Due to COVID-19 related Government Health Orders, a number of costs in relation to hosting major events has increased in 2021, including increased staff costs to include COVID Marshalls, additional cleaning rotations, additional signage, increased fencing and other additional materials. In addition, capacity limits in the stadium resulted in reduced ticket sales, which deteriorated income to offset expenses.

As a result, Council applied to the NSW Government for support in delivering this event through the NSW Government Regional Events Acceleration Fund.

It is recommended, if Council is successful in its application for funding, that it accepts the grant funding, authorises the General Manager to sign the funding agreement and amend Council's Budget for 2020-21, by increasing grant funding by \$150,000 towards the NRL Premiership event.

### Community Plan implications

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Building a Strong Local Economy</b>
Goal	An attractive business and economic environment
Strategy	Promote the Region as a great place to live, work, invest and visit

### Strategic implications

#### Council Strategies

Hosting major events, such as NRL Premiership matches, form part of Council's strategy to promote the Region as a great place to live, work, invest and visit.

#### Council Policies

Nil

#### Legislation

Nil

### Financial implications

The provision of this grant will reduce reliance on Council funds to deliver the NRL Premiership Event.

Budget Year	Operating Performance Ratio	Own Source Revenue	Building & Infrastructure Renewal
2020/21	✓	-	-
Future Years	-	-	-

### Associated Risks

Nil

ALINA AZAR  
MANAGER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JULIE ROBERTSON  
DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

4 May 2021

*Attachments:* Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER