

15 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR STRATEGIES AND COMMUNITIES**15.1 Determination of DA 10.2026.65.1: Lot 65 - 142 Stafford Street Gerroa - Demolition of existing dwelling & construction of new 2 storey dwelling house**

CSP Objective: Outcome 3.3: We love where we live and are strongly connected within our region. Growth and development will be managed sustainably, thoughtfully and equitably, while preserving our built and natural heritage.

CSP Strategy: 3.3.2 Manage development and growth sustainably and thoughtfully.

Delivery Program: 3.3.2.1 Council meets the legislative requirements for Planning and Assessment.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's determination of Development Application No 10.2026.65.1 for the demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new 2-storey dwelling house at Lot 65 DP 29242 – 142 Stafford Street, Gerroa.

Development Application 10.2026.65.1 is being reported to Council because it proposes a clause 4.6 variation to clause 4.4 (Floor Space Ratio) of the Kiama Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011 of 56%. Determination of applications where clause 4.6 variations exceed 10% are not within staff delegations for determination and must be determined by the elected Council.

It is recommended that Council support the clause 4.6 variation to Kiama LEP 2011, clause 4.4 and determine the proposed development by way of approval.

Financial implication

The Development Application fee has been paid in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 and Council's adopted Fees and Charges.

If the application is approved a Local Infrastructure Contribution will be required to be paid in accordance with section 4.17 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and the Section 7.12 Contribution Plan.

If the application is refused, the application may be challenged in the NSW Land and Environment Court (LEC) and there would be costs associated with defending the refusal.

Risk implication

If the Development Application is refused, the determination may be challenged in the NSW LEC.

If Council determines to refuse the application, the subject of this report, valid planning reasons must be provided.

Policy

The statutory instruments relevant to the development include the following:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

- 15.1 Determination of DA 10.2026.65.1: Lot 65 - 142 Stafford Street Gerroa - Demolition of existing dwelling & construction of new 2 storey dwelling house (cont.)

-
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021.*
 - *State Environmental Planning Policy (Sustainable Buildings) 2022.*
 - *Kiama Local Environmental Plan 2011.*
 - Kiama Development Control Plan 2020.
 - Kiama Community Participation Plan 2019.

Item 15.1

Consultation

The application was referred internally and to external agencies. All internal feedback was considered as part of this assessment.

Communication/Community engagement

Consultation has occurred in accordance with Section 8 of the Kiama Community Participation Plan 2019, namely by:

- Directly notifying adjoining property owners of the exhibition period.
- Making all information publicly available on Council's DA Tracker between 28 April 2026 and 12 May 2026.

One (1) submission was received in response to the DA.

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

- 1 10.2026.65.1 - Section 4.15 Assessment Report [⇒](#)
- 2 10.2026.65.1 - Plans [⇒](#)
- 3 10.2026.65.1 - Draft Notice of Determination - Approval [⇒](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Support the request to vary Kiama LEP 2011, cl.4.4 (Floor Space Ratio) made pursuant to Kiama LEP 2011, cl.4.6 for DA No 10.2026.65.1 (PAN-629857) at Lot 65 DP 29242 – 142 Stafford Street, Gerroa.
2. Approve, subject to conditions of consent set out in enclosure 3, Development Application No 10.2026.65.1 (PAN-629857) at Lot 65 DP 29242 – 142 Stafford Street, Gerroa.
3. Advise persons who made a submission on Development Application No 10.2026.65.1 of Council's decision.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

- 15.1 Determination of DA 10.2026.65.1: Lot 65 - 142 Stafford Street Gerroa - Demolition of existing dwelling & construction of new 2 storey dwelling house (cont.)

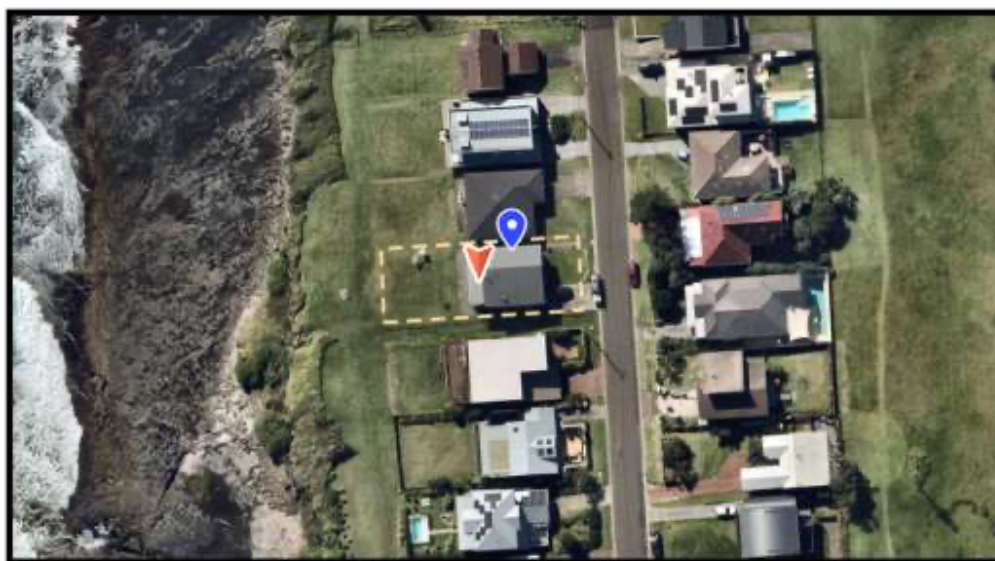
Background

APPLICATION DETAILS	
Application Type:	Development Application
Application Number:	10.2026.65.1
NSW ePlanning Portal Reference:	PAN-629857
Proposed Development:	Demolition and new dwelling house - Proposed demolition of existing two-storey dwelling and construction of a new two-storey dwelling and inground pool.
Applicant:	Mr A Bell
Property title:	LOT: 65 DP: 29242
Property address:	142 Stafford Street GERROA NSW 2534

The Site

The site is known as Lot 65 DP 29242 - 142 Stafford Street, Gerroa.

The subject site has a frontage to Stafford Street. The site contains a dwelling house. The surrounding area is residential in character and the site is adjoined by similar residential developments to the north, east and south. To the west, the site adjoins a public foreshore reserve.



Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

- 15.1 Determination of DA 10.2026.65.1: Lot 65 - 142 Stafford Street Gerroa -
Demolition of existing dwelling & construction of new 2 storey dwelling house
(cont.)

The Proposed Development

The proposed development includes:

- Demolition of existing dwelling.
- Construction of a new 2-storey dwelling house.
 - Associated swimming pool.
 - Associated driveway works.
 - Associated landscape works.

Key Issues

The following key issues are relevant to the assessment of this application having considered the relevant planning controls, referral comments and the proposal in detail.

1. Variation to Kiama LEP 2011, cl.4.4 – Floor Space Ratio.
2. Compliance with planning controls, environmental planning instruments and Kiama DCP 2020.
3. Submissions

Variation to Kiama LEP 2011, cl.4.4 – Floor Space Ratio (FSR)

The application seeks to vary the clause 4.4 development standard for maximum FSR pursuant to Kiama LEP 2011, cl.4.6. The proposal seeks a 56% variation to the development standard.

The application has been supported by a clause 4.6 variation to the clause 4.4 development standard which demonstrates that compliance with the development standard is unreasonable in the circumstances of the case and that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravention of the development standard.

Clause 4.4 requires a FSR for the site to be limited to 0.45:1 or 281 m² of gross floor area (GFA). The proposed development has a GFA of 438m², which results in an FSR of 0.68:1 and represents a departure of 56% to the development standard.

The proposal achieves objectives of Kiama LEP 2011, notwithstanding the numerical non-compliance to FSR. The applicant has demonstrated that strict compliance with the development standard is unreasonable and unnecessary in the circumstances of the case and the proposal is consistent with the objectives of the R2 Low Density Residential zone and also the objectives of cl.4.4.

The non-compliance arises from the proposal, including multiple car storage areas. The proposal includes a subterranean lower garage area which is accessed via the car lift and this area does not satisfy the requirements to be excluded from GFA being either basement storage or car parking to meet the requirements of the consent authority.

The definition for *gross floor area* in the Kiama LEP excludes, amongst other things:

- any area for common vertical circulation, such as lifts and stairs, and

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.1 Determination of DA 10.2026.65.1: Lot 65 - 142 Stafford Street Gerroa - Demolition of existing dwelling & construction of new 2 storey dwelling house (cont.)

- any basement storage and vehicular access, and
- car parking to meet any requirements of the consent authority (including access to that car parking).

The Kiama DCP 2020 requires a minimum of two (2) car parking spaces for a single dwelling. The subterranean lower garage area does not satisfy the requirements to be classified as a basement. The additional car parking spaces are therefore required to be included in the *gross floor area* calculation.

Despite this technical breach of the FSR controls, the proposal presents as single-storey dwelling from Stafford Street and is of a similar bulk and scale to other development observed in the immediate vicinity.

The proposed development has been designed to sit sympathetically within the existing streetscape. Despite the numerical departure from the FSR development standard, the presentation of the dwelling to the street, public domain and adjoining properties is proportionate.

The Applicant's clause 4.6 variation also demonstrates that the amenity, streetscape and design outcomes resulting from the proposed development are sufficient environmental planning grounds in this instance to soundly justify the numerical departure from the development standard.

Compliance with planning controls, environmental planning instruments and Kiama DCP 2020

The proposal is generally compliant with the applicable planning controls, environmental planning instruments and Kiama DCP 2020. A detailed assessment of the proposal is included in the Section 4.15 Assessment Report (enclosure 1).

Submissions

One submission was received in response to the DA. Detailed consideration of submissions is included in the Section 4.15 Assessment Report (enclosure 1) and are addressed below.

Summary of Public Submissions	
Objection Raised	Staff Commentary
Availability of notification documents	The relevant DA documents were made available in accordance with Council's Community Participation Plan during the notification period.
Scale of development	The proposed development being a two-storey dwelling house is of a scale which is appropriate in the context of the locality.
Extent of Floor Space Ratio (FSR) variation	The proposed development includes an exceedance to the maximum permissible FSR for the site. The variation

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

- 15.1 Determination of DA 10.2026.65.1: Lot 65 - 142 Stafford Street Gerroa - Demolition of existing dwelling & construction of new 2 storey dwelling house (cont.)

	to FSR has been considered pursuant to a cl4.6 request and is considered satisfactory.
Degree of excavation	The proposed development includes excavation to a depth of 2.2m below ground level existing. The development has been supported by engineering designs demonstrating that this extent of cut can be reasonably managed on the site.
Streetscape and character	The proposed development is generally consistent with the existing and desired future character of the locality and includes appropriate setback and landscaping design.
Quality of cl4.6 written request	The applicant provided a revised cl.4.6 written request on 13/08/2026 via an additional information request. The revised cl4.6 request is considered satisfactory and demonstrates how compliance with the development standard is unnecessary or unreasonable in the circumstances of the case and that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify the contravention.
Details of cut and fill	The proposed cut to the site has been shown on the architectural plan and included in the waste management plan.
View sharing	The proposed development has been designed and sited to respond appropriately to view sharing principles and does not unreasonably impact the view sharing opportunities of adjoining properties.
Established building pattern	The rear setback of the proposed development is appropriate in the context of the site and surrounding development.

Item 15.1

Options

1. Adopt the recommendation thereby granting approval to the application, subject to conditions in enclosure 3.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

- 15.1 Determination of DA 10.2026.65.1: Lot 65 - 142 Stafford Street Gerroa -
Demolition of existing dwelling & construction of new 2 storey dwelling house
(cont.)
-

2. Refuse the application and provide reasons.
3. Adopt an alternative recommendation and provide reasons.

Conclusion

A comprehensive assessment of the Development Application has been undertaken under section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (enclosure 1) in accordance with all statutory requirements.

It is recommended that the cl4.6 variation to FSR be supported and the application be determined by way of approval subject to conditions of consent set out in enclosure 3.

Item 15.1

15.2 Endorse for public exhibition: Draft Reconciliation Action Plan

CSP Objective: Outcome 1.3: We are committed to learning about, honouring, preserving, and sharing both our Aboriginal heritage and the history of first settlement.

CSP Strategy: 1.3.1 Respect and honour First Nations peoples and their connection to Country. Safeguard cultural areas and items of significance and engage with community and seek knowledge with intent to learn, share and protect

Delivery Program: 1.3.1.1 Recognise and respect our First Nations people and their connections to the land and water, and cultural practices.

Summary

Council recognises and promotes the proud traditions of First Nations people, their spiritual connection to the Land and Water, and their right to live according to their own beliefs, values and cultural practices.

In 2024, Council commenced development of its first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), in partnership with the Aboriginal Advisory Group, the RAP Working Group, Reconciliation Australia, and Council staff, to ensure the plan reflects both community aspirations and organisational priorities.

The Draft Reconciliation Action Plan provides a strategic framework to strengthen relationships with First Nations people, embed reconciliation across Council's operations, and deliver meaningful actions that foster respect, inclusion, cultural awareness and opportunities within the Kiama local government area. It includes an Action Plan for implementation over the period 2026-2028.

The draft RAP has been reviewed and endorsed by Reconciliation Australia. This report seeks Council's endorsement to place the draft RAP on public exhibition for feedback and input from broader community.

Financial implication

The commitments within the draft RAP will be predominately delivered by existing community development team, within existing resources including operational budget, staffing resources and external grants. Where additional resources are required, Council will seek to leverage partnerships, shared initiatives and external funding opportunities to support delivery. The current committed budget includes:

- \$10,000 to RAP initiatives and cultural services.
- \$5,000 to NAIDOC Week program.

It is noted that Council will be hosting the regional NAIDOC Week awards in July 2027. Council will seek corporate sponsorship for this event and any Council-contribution will come from 2027/28 NAIDOC Week program and RAP initiatives budget.

Risk implication

The draft RAP will reduce the risk of fragmented or uncoordinated approach to working with First Nations community and other stakeholders, by establishing a clear strategic framework that aligns Council and community efforts.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.2 Endorse for public exhibition: Draft Reconciliation Action Plan (cont.)

Policy

The draft RAP aligns with Council's Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan, and various operational plans including draft Community Development Plan, Community Engagement Strategy and Creative Kiama Plan. Externally, it aligns with Reconciliation Australia's Action Plan Framework, National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and relevant Aboriginal Affairs policies and strategies relating to community participation, employment pathways, and engagement and partnership with Aboriginal communities.

Consultation (internal)

Council departments were consulted with the aim of whole of Council approach, to embed reconciliation into Council's day-to-day operations, services, programs and decision-making:

- Property and Commercial Services.
- Planning and Development.
- People and Culture.
- Communications.
- Cultural Development Officer.
- Procurement.
- Executive Leadership Team.

Communication/Community engagement

In addition to existing stakeholder consultations, a broader community consultation will take place during the Public Exhibition seeking further input and ensuring the proposed priorities and actions accurately reflect the community needs, interests and aspirations.

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

- 1 Draft Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) For Public Exhibition - October 2026 [⇒](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Reconciliation Action Plan for public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.
2. Following conclusion of the public exhibition period:
 - (a) Receive a further report for consideration detailing the public exhibition period result, or
 - (b) Adopt the Reconciliation Action Plan if no submissions are received and there are no substantial changes proposed for any other reasons.

Background

Council's journey and efforts toward reconciliation dates back many years. Over the years, Council has enjoyed a mostly positive relationship with the local First Nations community. This has included participation in cultural events throughout the year to provide Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremonies, cultural performances, to share of the local Dharawal culture, history and stories at Yarning Circles or through the arts.

Kiama Council's inaugural RAP establishes the first formal framework for reconciliation, setting out clear, achievable actions and responsibilities to be delivered over an 18-24-month period and providing a foundation for Council's longer-term reconciliation journey.

The RAP will provide a formal framework to guide Council's commitment to reconciliation and our relationships with First Nations people. The development of RAP commenced in 2024 and has involved extensive consultation with the local Aboriginal community, Traditional Owners, Elders, Council's Aboriginal Advisory Group and staff across all Council departments. The RAP has also undergone three rounds of review and feedback with Reconciliation Australia, and it was endorsed by Reconciliation Australia on 26 August 2026.

The draft RAP seeks to deliver on the following four objectives:

1. Relationships

Build and strengthen relationships with local First Nations stakeholders, Traditional Owners, Elders and organisations. Promote reconciliation through community events, National Reconciliation Week, Sorry Day, NAIDOC Week, schools and community partnerships, while strengthening culturally safe and inclusive workplace practices.

2. Respect

Increase understanding and recognition of Aboriginal cultures, histories, knowledge and rights through cultural awareness training, cultural protocols, First Nations art and storytelling, cultural signage, significant cultural events and NAIDOC Week activities.

3. Opportunities

Increase Aboriginal employment, traineeships, professional development and economic opportunities. Strengthen engagement with local Aboriginal artists, businesses and suppliers and improve Council's procurement processes to support First Nations businesses.

4. Governance

Strengthen RAP governance through the RAP Working Group and Aboriginal Advisory Group, maintain First Nations representation, engage senior leaders, allocate resources and embed RAP commitments into Council planning, reporting and accountability processes

Conclusion

The Draft RAP provides Council with a clear and practical framework to strengthen relationships, build respect and create meaningful opportunities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the Kiama Local Government Area. Placing the draft RAP on public exhibition will ensure broader community feedback and awareness of Council's commitment to reconciliation. Adoption of the RAP will support a

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.2 Endorse for public exhibition: Draft Reconciliation Action Plan (cont.)

coordinated and accountable approach to reconciliation, align with Council's strategic priorities and contribute to creating a more inclusive, culturally responsive and connected community. It is therefore recommended that Council endorse the Draft RAP for public exhibitions and invite community feedback prior to final adoption.

Item 15.2

15.3 Endorsement: Establishment of the Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP)

CSP Objective: Outcome 3.1: A strong economy, vibrant local businesses and local economic growth.

CSP Strategy: 3.1.1. Foster local economic growth by supporting businesses, start-ups, entrepreneurs and new partnerships, and promoting Kiama local government area as a place for new business.

Delivery Program: 3.1.1.1 Support a wide range of business opportunities through land use planning.

Item 15.3

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement for the establishment of the Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP).

The proposed SEP is a key action of the Kiama After Dark Strategy and is intended to support a vibrant, safe and inclusive town centre by providing a clear framework for entertainment activities, trading hours and sound management. It aims to encourage live music, cultural activities, dining and business activation while balancing the amenity of residents and other land uses. The SEP is designed to provide greater certainty for venues, businesses, residents and future development by establishing clear expectations for entertainment noise and land use planning within the precinct.

The Kiama Town Centre SEP is proposed to operate as a 24-month trial, with ongoing monitoring, reporting, and community feedback informing the future permanent consideration of the precinct and its controls.

Financial implication

The consultant costs associated with preparing the planning framework have been accommodated within existing project budgets utilising the NSW Government grant funding received to 'Develop a Night-time Economy Strategy and undertake key preparatory works to establish a Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) trial.

Should the SEP proceed, ongoing monitoring, community engagement, administration and evaluation activities will be undertaken within available resources where possible. Any future budget implications arising from the long-term operation of the SEP will be considered through Council's annual budgeting process.

Risk implication

The establishment of the SEP presents both opportunities and risks. Risks associated with the SEP relate primarily to amenity impacts associated with increased entertainment noise and extended trading hours.

Further risks are discussed in greater detail in the body of the report.

Policy

- Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035;
- Visitor Economy Strategy 2035;
- Creative Kiama Cultural Plan 2025-2029;
- NSW Government Vibrancy Reforms; and

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.3 Endorsement: Establishment of the Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) (cont.)

Item 15.3

-
- Kiama After Dark Strategy.
 - Consultation (internal)
 - The development of the SEP has involved collaboration across multiple Council business units, including:
 - Tourism and Economic Development.
 - Planning and Development.
 - Environment and Compliance.
 - Community and Cultural Development.
 - Executive Leadership Team (ELT)

The Tourism Economic Advisory Committee and Councillors have also been presented with a slide presentation explaining the project.

Communication/Community engagement

Council has undertaken significant engagement to inform the development of the Kiama After Dark Strategy and the proposed SEP, including:

- Kiama Nighttime Economy Forum - on 2 June 2025.
- Community survey and youth specific survey.
- Consultation with NSW Government agencies, including police, health and transport stakeholders.
- Meetings with local businesses and venue operators.

Subject to Council's endorsement, following Gateway determination, all SEP documentation will be placed on public exhibition in accordance with the State-wide Community Participation Plan.

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

- 1 Kiama Town Centre SEP - Planning Proposal [⇒](#)
- 2 Kiama Town Centre SEP - Draft Precinct Management Plan [⇒](#)
- 3 Kiama Town Centre SEP - Draft Sound Management Framework [⇒](#)
- 4 Kiama Town Centre SEP - Draft DCP Amendment [⇒](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the establishment of a 24-month trial Special Entertainment Precinct for the Kiama Town Centre.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.3 Endorsement: Establishment of the Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) (cont.)

2. Endorse the draft Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct Management Plan, draft Sound Management Framework and draft Kiama Development Control Plan 2020 Amendment for the purposes of public exhibition, to occur concurrently with the exhibition of the Planning Proposal.
3. Submit the Planning Proposal to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination in accordance with Section 3.34 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
4. Request that the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces authorise Council as the Local Plan-Making Authority (LPMA) to exercise delegation for the finalisation of the Planning Proposal.
5. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to undertake all necessary actions to comply with the conditions of the Gateway Determination, including executing the public exhibition and mandatory consultation with the community, key authorities, and state government agencies.
6. Receive a further report following the conclusion of the public exhibition period detailing a summary of submissions received, any proposed amendments, and final recommendations regarding the finalisation of the Planning Proposal and adoption of the supporting precinct frameworks.

Item 15.3

Background**After Dark Strategy**

The concept of strengthening Kiama's night-time economy has been discussed within the community for more than a decade. Local business owners, industry representatives and community leaders have consistently identified opportunities to increase evening activity, support local businesses, enhance visitor experiences and encourage greater activation of the town centre after dark.

In 2024, Council commenced preparation of the Kiama After Dark Strategy with support of NSW Government funding. The strategy sought to understand current night-time economy conditions, identify barriers to growth and establish a long-term framework to support evening and night-time activity across the municipality.

Extensive consultation with businesses, residents, community groups, government agencies and other stakeholders informed the development of the strategy. Feedback highlighted strong support for increased evening dining, entertainment, cultural activities, live music and community events, while also recognising the importance of balancing growth with residential amenity.

A key recommendation of the adopted Kiama After Dark Strategy is the establishment of a trial Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) in the Kiama Town Centre. As the primary commercial and cultural hub of the municipality, the Town Centre is uniquely positioned to model the operational frameworks, acoustic criteria, and business activation incentives required to sustain a night-time economy.

Concurrently, a secondary priority of the Strategy is to investigate other planning mechanisms to support vibrancy in other pockets of the LGA. Executing the Kiama Town Centre SEP as a 24-month trial serves a dual purpose:

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.3 Endorsement: Establishment of the Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) (cont.)

- It addresses the immediate strategic goals for the civic heart of Kiama.
- It functions as a data-driven pilot program. The insights, compliance data, and community feedback gained during this trial will directly inform how Council adapts and scales similar planning frameworks to benefit other commercial hubs across the local government area in the future.

Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP)

Special Entertainment Precincts were introduced by the NSW Government as part of the Vibrancy Reforms and are designed to support local centres by providing greater certainty for businesses, residents and regulators. They enable councils to manage entertainment sound at a precinct level while establishing clear expectations regarding amenity and operational performance.

The legislative provisions are included in the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act). Relevant clauses include:

202B Meaning of “special entertainment precinct”

- (1) A **special entertainment precinct** is an area in which—
- (a) sound from entertainment activity from premises in the area is regulated in accordance with a precinct management plan, and
 - (b) requirements about sound attenuation included in a precinct management plan apply to certain types of development in the area, and
 - (c) listed live music and performance venues are authorised to trade for an additional 1 hour under the *Liquor Act 2007*, section 130L.

202C Establishing special entertainment precincts

- (1) A special entertainment precinct may be established—
- (a) by the council for the area in which the precinct will be located, by identifying the precinct in a local environmental plan that applies to the land on which the precinct will be located, or...

202D Preparation of precinct management plan

- (2) Before the special entertainment precinct is established, the council for the area in which the special entertainment precinct will be located must prepare a plan (a **precinct management plan**) that provides for the following—
- (a) the trading hours for premises in the special entertainment precinct,
 - (b) the regulation of sound from entertainment activity from premises in the special entertainment precinct,
 - (c) that the process for managing complaints in relation to licensed premises in the proposed special entertainment precinct is the process set out in the *Liquor Act 2007*, Part 5, Division 3.

Council resolved at its Extraordinary Meeting of 24 February 2025 (Resolution 25/060OC) to establish a Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct and

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.3 Endorsement: Establishment of the Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) (cont.)

undertake the necessary consultation with property owners, residential tenants, local businesses and the broader community.

The proposed Kiama Town Centre SEP encompasses the municipality's primary commercial, hospitality and tourism precinct and is supported by amendments to the Kiama Local Environmental Plan 2011, Kiama Development Control Plan 2020, a Special Entertainment Precinct Management Plan and an independently prepared Sound Management Framework.

The proposed SEP will operate as a 24-month trial, during which Council will undertake monitoring, community engagement and evaluation to assess performance against the objectives of the Kiama After Dark Strategy and the Special Entertainment Precinct framework.

SEP Risks and Opportunities

It is worth noting that there are other mechanisms available to achieve the intended outcome, and that the SEP approach may over complicate the local planning framework and / or result in unintended consequences by limiting existing trading hours, enabling additional exempt development provisions and impacts to developers and business operators through additional assessment and application costs in preparing acoustic assessments for low-impact business operations.

One of the primary purposes of the Kiama Nighttime Economy Forum was to dispel the following myths associated with SEPs:

- establishment of a SEP would negate need for development consent (i.e. a DA) – **myth**, development consent is still required for hospitality and entertainment venues. Conditions relating to noise and trading hours are 'turned off' and the businesses are required to comply with the Precinct Management Plan (PMP). In some instances, this may require existing operators to lodge DAs for acoustic works required to comply with the PMP.
- events on public land would be exempt – **myth**, the Kiama LEP 2011 already makes events on public land exempt from requiring development consent.

Compliance activities, associated with noise and trading hours, within a SEP become the responsibility of NSW Liquor and Gaming.

It is also a requirement to include a notation within Planning Certificates to notify purchasers that a SEP is in place.

There are cost implications for new adjoining developments to meet acoustic and sound attenuation standards for noise controls. This is likely to increase the cost of new residential development within the Town Centre.

Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct

Where?

The proposed SEP covers Kiama's commercial and hospitality core, including:

- Terralong Street retail and hospitality precinct.
- Manning Street hospitality area.
- Hindmarsh Park and Orry Kelly Stage.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.3 Endorsement: Establishment of the Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) (cont.)

- Kiama Harbour and surrounding attractions.
- Kiama Train Station precinct.
- Existing licensed venues, restaurants, cafes and bars.
- Community facilities including the Library and Old Fire Station Community Arts Centre.

The boundary generally focuses on the established town centre where entertainment, dining, tourism and commercial activity are already concentrated. See Figure 1.



Figure 1 Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct area

Why are there Sound Category Areas?

The sound categories recognise that not all parts of the town centre have the same character or sensitivity to noise.

The categories were developed by acoustic consultants based on:

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.3 Endorsement: Establishment of the Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) (cont.)

-
- Existing entertainment activity.
 - Background noise levels.
 - Traffic noise.
 - Existing land uses.
 - Future land uses.
 - The desired vibrancy outcomes for different locations within the precinct.

The intention is to allow greater activity in the commercial core while providing more protection around residential interfaces.

SCA 1 - Entertainment Focus Area

Purpose: Support the highest level of activation.

Characteristics:

- Most supportive of live music and entertainment.
- Outdoor activation encouraged.
- Higher entertainment sound levels permitted.
- Late-night entertainment generally expected to occur indoors in acoustically treated buildings.

Reasoning:

- These areas already have significant activity; hospitality uses and higher background noise levels.
- They are the logical locations for entertainment investment and vibrancy

SC2 – Areas of activation with moderate sound levels

Purpose: Balance activation with nearby sensitive uses.

Characteristics:

- Moderate entertainment sound levels.
- Outdoor dining and low-level music supported.
- Louder entertainment generally expected indoors.

Reasoning:

- Acts as a transition between the active town centre core and more sensitive areas.
- Allows a reasonable level of entertainment sound while reducing potential impacts on surrounding receivers.

SCA 3 - Residential Buffer Area

Purpose: Protect residential amenity.

Characteristics:

- Lowest entertainment sound limits.
-

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.3 Endorsement: Establishment of the Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) (cont.)

- Higher-intensity entertainment uses unlikely to be viable.
- Functions as a buffer between the entertainment precinct and residential areas.

Reasoning:

- These locations are closest to sensitive receivers such as homes and accommodation.
- Provides protection from cumulative entertainment noise impacts.

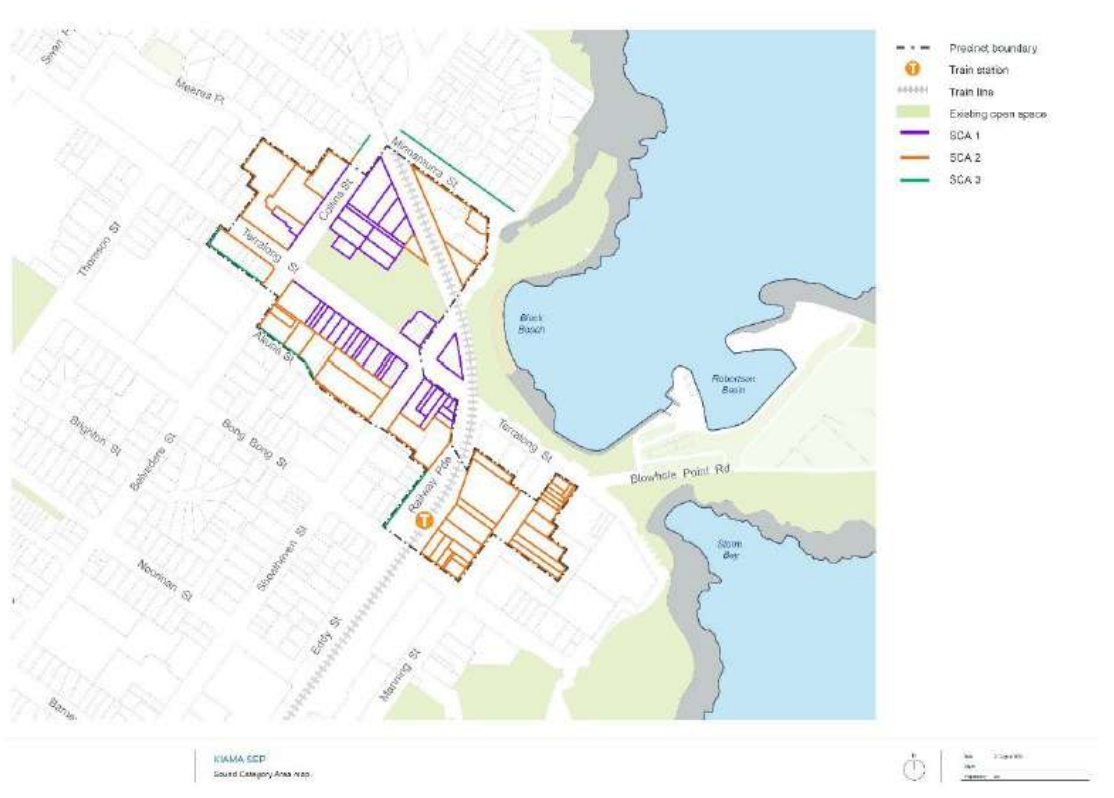


Figure 2 Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct – Sound Category Areas

Trading Hours

The SEP proposes maximum trading hours of:

- 5:30am to 1:00am for venues undertaking entertainment activities.
- 5:30am to 1:00am for non-venues such as shops and businesses.

Venues can access these hours without needing separate planning approvals for trading hour extensions, provided they comply with the SEP sound requirements. Existing venues with lawful approvals beyond those hours retain those rights.

The proposed Kiama Town Centre SEP creates a town centre framework that supports more live music, entertainment, dining and after-dark activity by providing consistent sound controls and trading hours, while using different sound categories to balance vibrancy in the commercial core with protection for nearby residents.

Planning Proposal

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.3 Endorsement: Establishment of the Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) (cont.)

The SEP is formally implemented through amendments to the local planning controls including Kiama Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP) and the Kiama Development Control Plan 2020 (DCP) and is supported by a Precinct Management Plan (PMP) and Sound Management Framework.

A Planning Proposal (PP) is the process to amend the zoning or development standards in a Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP).

The PP seeks to implement the trial Special Entertainment Precinct for the Kiama Town Centre by amending the Kiama LEP 2011 as follows:

1. Insert a new clause in Part 6 Additional local provisions:

Clause 6.15 Special Entertainment Precinct

- i) *This clause applies to land identified as the "Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct" on the Special Entertainment Precinct Map.*
- ii) *For the Local Government Act 1993, section 202, a special entertainment precinct is established on the land to which this clause applies.*

2. To implement the above, the following LEP map sheet is proposed to be added:

- i. 4400_COM_SEP_012_20260929.

The PP (Enclosure 1) is supported by a Precinct Management Plan (Enclosure 2), Sound Management Framework (Enclosure 3) and Draft Development Control Plan amendment (Enclosure 4).

The following Planning Proposal process is set out in the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's (DPHI) *Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline*:

Stage 1: Pre-lodgement Scoping proposal

This step is not required for a Council led PP.

Stage 2: Planning Proposal prepared and reported to Council for endorsement

The PP has been prepared by a consultant on behalf of Kiama Council. The PP has been prepared in accordance with all relevant criteria including:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.*
- NSW DPHI's Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline, 2026.
- Relevant Ministerial Directions issued under s9.1 of the Act.
- Kiama Council's Planning Proposal Policy, 2023.

The Local Environmental Plan Making Guidelines outline that a Planning Proposal is required to have both Strategic Merit and Site-Specific Merit for a Gateway Determination to be issued. These criteria have been addressed in Section 5 of the PP Report (Enclosure 1).

The PP is also required to be consistent with all relevant Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions. These have been addressed in Section 5 of the PP Report (Enclosure 1).

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.3 Endorsement: Establishment of the Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) (cont.)

Item 15.3

Stage 3: Gateway Determination – issued by DPHI

Should the recommendations in this report be endorsed, the next steps are for the Planning Proposal to be lodged on the NSW Planning Portal and then submitted to DPHI for a Gateway determination. Council should also advise that they are seeking to be authorised as the Local Plan Making Authority (LPMA). The LPMA is the authority responsible for making the LEP as identified by the Gateway determination. This may be the Minister (or delegate) or the relevant council

Stage 4: Post Gateway – Council (or PPA) actions Gateway requirements.

The Gateway determination may include conditions requiring additional information, public exhibition and consultation with key authorities and Government agencies which will be actioned by Council staff accordingly.

Stage 5: Public Exhibition and Assessment

Once all additional information, agency engagement has occurred, the Planning Proposal will be placed on public exhibition in accordance with the Gateway conditions. Public Exhibition of the PP will include exhibition of the PMP, Sound Management Framework and draft DCP amendments.

Stage 6: Finalisation of the change to the LEP.

Following this consultation process, the Planning Proposal would be reported back to Council with a recommendation that the Proposal is progressed to finalisation and that Council use its plan making delegations to finalise the relevant amendments to Kiama LEP 2011.

To amend the Kiama LEP 2011, Council must request the NSW Parliamentary Counsel's Office (PCO) to draft the legal instrument that will give effect to this PP, in accordance with section 3.36(1) of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979*. Following receipt of the final legal instrument and mapping, Council will refer the final instrument to the DPHI for review and Gazettal in the Government Gazette and NSW Legislation website.

Conclusion

It is requested that Council endorse the necessary Planning Proposal be submitted to the NSW DPHI for a Gateway Determination.

Following receipt of a Gateway Determination staff will undertake the necessary formal consultation with the relevant State Agencies and then the broader community. This will also include publicly exhibited the draft Kiama Town Centre Special Entertainment PMP, draft Sound Management Framework and draft Kiama DCP 2020 Amendment.

The final Planning Proposal, PMP, Sound Management Framework and DCP will then be reported to Council for finalisation. Once this has occurred the 24-month trial of the SEP can commence.

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome Report 2026-2027

CSP Objective: Outcome 3.2: We have an economy that balances tourism opportunities with resident needs and ensuring we don't lose our community feel.

CSP Strategy: 3.2.1 Thoughtfully manage tourism development and the visitor economy.

Delivery Program: 3.2.1.2 Support provided for the event industry ensuring a diverse, year-round calendar that strengthens Kiama area's visitor appeal and delivers social and economic benefits to the Kiama local government area.

Summary

Kiama Municipal Council values the contribution that community groups, artists, event organisers and businesses make to the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the municipality.

Council's Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program provides financial and in-kind support for initiatives that strengthen community connections, enhance cultural vibrancy, support local organisations and contribute to the visitor economy.

The 2026/27 funding round is comprised of three streams:

1. Community Grants.
2. Destination Event Funding.
3. Community Donations (Small Grants).

This report presents the outcomes of the 2026/27 funding round for Community Grants and Destination Event Funding and seeks Council endorsement of the recommended funding allocations. It also provides a summary report of funds allocated to date under the Community Donations (Small Grants).

Financial implication

The total budget available under the 2026/27 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program is \$85,500, comprising:

- Community Grants: \$27,000.
- Destination Event Funding: \$46,500.
- Community Donations (Small Grants – open year-round): \$12,000.

Recommended allocations are within the adopted budget.

Risk implication

The recommendations in this report are consistent with the Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Policy and Guidelines. The Policy and Guidelines are consistent with the recommendations of the internal Audit. There is a risk that a resolution contrary to this recommendation would be inconsistent with the adopted Policy.

Policy

- Kiama Municipal Council Strategies and Plans:

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

-
- Code of Conduct.
 - Community Strategic Plan.
 - Disclosure of Conflict of Interest.
 - Grants, Donations & Sponsorship Policy 2026.
 - Grants, Donations & Sponsorships Guidelines for Applicants (updated August 26).

Item 15.4

Consultation (internal)

All applications have been reviewed by an internal Grants Assessment Panel (the Panel). The Panel was comprised of three Council staff with knowledge and expertise relevant to the specific funding program.

Communication/Community engagement

Council's competitive grants program was promoted via Council's communication channels (website, media release, newsletters and social media) and through various community networks.

Council shared an Electronic Direct Mail (EDM) information package for the 2026/2027 annual round of the Grants Program. In addition, online Information sessions and 1:1 meetings with potential applicants to discuss project ideas, eligibility criteria, budgeting and the online application procedures. These engagement activities also provided opportunities to discuss the changes to the Policy and Guidelines.

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

- 1 Grants, Donations and Sponsorship - Council Policy (August 2026)⇒
- 2 Grants Donations and Sponsorship - Guidelines for Applicants (August 2026)⇒

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive the application assessment summary for the 2026/27 Council competitive grants program, noting that only one round of grant funding will be administered by Council in 2026/27,
2. Under the Community Grants, endorse the following funding recommendations:
 - a. Kiama Surf Lifesaving Club - Junior Ocean Skills & Board Development Initiative - \$4,849.
 - b. Kiama & District Historical Society Inc - Celebrating the Kiama area during Australian Heritage Festival 2027 - \$2,757.50.
 - c. Zonta Club of Kiama-Shellharbour - International Women's Day High Tea - \$2,100.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

-
- d. Jones Beach Board riders Inc. - South Coast Cup 2027 -\$2,000.
 - e. Waves of Thinking - First Nations Families Connecting Through Waves - \$5,000.
 - f. Headspace Kiama – Salty Sessions - \$2,500.
 - g. Kiama Business Network - Kiama Connects: Supporting Small Business Wellbeing and Community Connection - \$2,000.
 - h. Gerringong Netball Club - Twilight Netball Competition \$2,000.
3. Under the Destination Event Funding Program, endorse the following funding recommendations:
- a. Kiama Golf Club - Kiama Seaside Veterans Tournament - \$500.
 - b. Kiama Jazz & Blues Festival - Kiama Jazz and Blues 40th Anniversary - \$6,000.
 - c. KISS Arts - Kiama Fringe - \$15,000.
 - d. Olivia Deans - Kiama Art & Makers Festival - \$5,320.
4. Accept the request from Kiama Jazz & Blues Festival to receive multi-year funding for a period of two years (2026/27 and 2027/28), noting that funding in future years remains subject to annual budget allocation, satisfactory acquittal of previous funding and continued compliance with the program guidelines and eligibility criteria.
5. Decline the requests from MOSAIQUE Kiama and Kiama Art and Makers Festival for multiyear funding.
6. Under the Destination Event Funding Program, endorse the following funding recommendations for events previously approved for multiyear funding (year 2 of 3) under Resolution 25/263OC, noting that multiyear funding remains subject to annual budget allocation, satisfactory acquittal, and continued eligibility:
- a. Sydney FC - Kiama Football Festival - \$3,680.
 - b. Jamberoo Car Club - Jamberoo Car Show & Family Day -\$4,000.
 - c. Mark Bryant - Kiama Sevens Rugby Tournament - \$4,000.
 - d. Shoalhaven Oz Tag - Kiama Beach Tag - \$4,000.
 - e. Crooked River Wines - Crooked River Wines Wine Festival - \$3,500.
7. Delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the authority to redistribute any unallocated funds resulting from a successful applicant declining funding to other successful applicants that received partial funding, up to the value of their original funding request and within the relevant funding program budget.
8. Note that a review of the eligibility criteria of Council's Grants, Donations and Sponsorship – Guidelines for Applicants is required to remove the inconsistencies identified in this report.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Background

Council endorsed the current Grants, Donations & Sponsorships Policy (The Policy) in September 2025. The Policy was subsequently updated in August 2026 to align with Council Resolution 26/2120C, endorsed at the Council meeting held on 18 August 2026. The Policy is publicly available on Council's website: <https://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/Services/People-and-community/Grants-Donations-and-Sponsorship>

The Policy provides the framework for Council to manage the allocated funds to the Grants Program in an effective, efficient and equitable manner and in compliance with Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993*- the use of public funds.

The Grants, Donations & Sponsorship Guidelines for Applicants (The Guidelines) were initially updated in March 2026 and were further revised in August 2026 to reflect amendments adopted under Council resolution 26/2120C. The Guidelines assist applicants when applying for Council grants and ensure that they understand their eligibility and obligations. The Guidelines are publicly available on Council's website: <https://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/Services/People-and-community/Grants-Donations-and-Sponsorship>

The Grants program has been streamlined into three streams of funding: Grants, Donations and Sponsorship.

The revised Policy includes three funding programs as follows:

- Community Grants – A one-off or reoccurring financial or in-kind contribution provided to not-for-profit organisations or community groups to support specific projects, programs or events that align with Council's strategic goals and priorities. This funding stream is open for one round annually with up to \$5,000 available per applicant.
- Donations – A one-off goodwill small financial contribution or in-kind support provided by Council to not-for-profit organisations or community groups for charitable or grassroots community initiatives. Donations are small funding (up to \$750) that can contribute to a community cause and benefit a group of residents directly or indirectly. This funding stream is open year-round (or until funds exhausted).
- Sponsorship – A financial or in-kind funding provided to businesses, festival promoters or commercial entities and not-for-profit organisations in exchange for direct marketing, branding exposure or promotional benefits to Council. Sponsorships are provided through a formal application process and should generate benefits to cultural, economic and tourism outcomes. The funding amounts specified in the table below.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Funding Program	Amount	Scope	Application Timeframe	Responsible Department
Donations (small grants)	Maximum \$750 per application	To support small scale grassroots initiatives and programs.	Open all year via the SmartyGrants portal.	Community Outcomes
Sponsorship (inclusive of Destination Kiama events and all other sponsorship requests))	Events and Programs up to \$10,000 or \$8,000 for events in year 3+. Major events up to \$20,000 or up to \$10,000 for events in year 3+.	To support commercial initiatives including Destination Kiama, major events, festivals and large-scale for-profit community programs.	One round annually via the SmartyGrants portal.	Tourism and Economic Development
Community Grants (priorities include community events, health, sustainability, education, diversity, cultural arts initiatives)	Up to \$5,000	To support not-for-profit organisations, schools, artists and community groups whose initiatives demonstrate significant direct or indirect benefit to the community.	one round annually via the SmartyGrants portal.	Community Outcomes

Item 15.4

This report presents the recommended applications for funding under Community Grants, Destination Kiama and provides an update on the Donations (Small Grants) Program to date. A summary of the funding recommendations and allocations is provided in the tables below

Community Grants

In 2026-2027 financial year, the budget was reduced by 54%, taking the total budget available in the round to \$27,000.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Council received eleven (11) applications for funding in the Community Grants stream. Of the eleven (11) applications, nine (9) were found to be eligible and are recommended for funding as follows:

Applicant	Kiama Jazz & Blues Festival		
Project Title	KJBF 40 TH Anniversary LGA-Wide Busking Competition		
Amount requested	\$5,000	In kind component	N/A
Location	Kiama	Date	05/03/27
About the applicant	Kiama Jazz & Blues Club Incorporated is a not-for-profit community organisation that has delivered the Kiama Jazz & Blues Festival since 1987. The volunteer-run festival provides accessible cultural experiences through a predominantly free program and is supported by local volunteers, venues, businesses and community partners, contributing significant social and economic benefits to the Kiama region.		
About the project/ event	The KJBF 40 th Anniversary Busking Competition is a free, open-entry music competition held across the Kiama LGA from the 5-7 March 2027, as a part of the festival's 40 th Anniversary. Open to musicians of all ages and experience levels, the competition aims to increase access to arts and cultural participation, provide pathways for emerging performers, and attract audiences to local business and community precincts throughout the municipality.		
Beneficiaries	Kiama LGA residents, Local businesses, Tourism, arts and cultural sector.		
Assessment	The assessment panel found the project aligns with the objectives of the Community Grants Program and as such is eligible for funding. The requested budget towards <i>Competition Coordination and Judging</i> is deemed ineligible expense under the Community Grants Program guidelines. It is noted that <i>Kiama Jazz & Blues Festival</i> has submitted applications under both the Community Grants Program and the Destination Event Funding Program. In accordance with the Grants, Donations and Sponsorship Guidelines, an applicant may only receive funding from one Council funding stream for the same event or project.		

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

	While the assessment panel has determined that this project is eligible for funding under the Community Grants Program the panel has recommended that funding be provided under the Destination Program (refer to below).
--	---

Applicant	Kiama Surf Lifesaving Club		
Project Title	Junior Ocean Skills & Board Development Initiative		
Amount requested	\$4,849	In kind component	N/A
Location	Kiama	Date	04/01/27
About the applicant	Kiama Surf Life Saving Club Inc is a volunteer-led, not-for-profit organisation that has served the Kiama community since 1908. In addition to providing surf lifesaving, patrol and rescue services, the club delivers junior water safety and youth development programs that build skills, confidence and community participation among local young people.		
About the project/ event	The Kiama SLSC Junior Ocean Skills & Board Development Initiative is a youth capability and aquatic education project that delivers year-round junior board coaching, surf zone navigation and water safety training to more than 285 local young people aged 5 to 14. The project will establish a shared fleet of specialised nipper rescue and training boards to support skill progression, remove financial barriers to participation and provide equitable access to appropriately sized equipment. The initiative aims to build ocean confidence, strengthen water safety skills and support the ongoing development of future volunteer surf lifesavers within the Kiama community.		
Beneficiaries	Kiama LGA residents, young people.		
Assessment	Recommended for full funding of total \$4,849 The assessment panel found the project to align with the objectives of the Community Grants Program.		

Applicant	Kiama & District Historical Society Inc
Project Title	Celebrating the Kiama area during Australian Heritage Festival 2027.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Item 15.4

Amount requested	\$1,480	In kind component	\$1,277.50
Location	Kiama	Date	15/04/27
About the applicant	Kiama & District Historical Society Inc. is a volunteer-run community organisation dedicated to preserving and promoting the history and heritage of the Kiama municipality. Since 1975, the Society has managed historical collections, operated the Pilot's Cottage Museum, and contributed to local heritage conservation, reviews and heritage listings throughout the Kiama LGA.		
About the project/ event	The Kiama & District Historical Society Heritage Festival Program will deliver a series of community heritage activities as part of the 2027 Australian Heritage Festival. The program includes the development of an updated self-guided heritage walks booklet, guided heritage walks across Kiama, Gerringong and Jamberoo, guest speaker presentations, heritage building open days, family-friendly community events and museum-based activities. The project aims to celebrate and promote local history, heritage and culture, increase community participation, and encourage residents and visitors to engage with the unique heritage assets of the Kiama LGA.		
Beneficiaries	Kiama LGA residents, tourism, local heritage conservation, local business.		
Assessment	Recommended for full funding of total \$ 2,757.50 (monetary component \$1,480 and in-kind component \$1,277.50) The assessment panel found the project to align with the objectives of the Community Grants Program.		

Applicant	Zonta Club of Kiama-Shellharbour		
Project Title	International Women's Day High Tea		
Amount requested	\$2,500	In kind component	N/A
Location	Kiama	Date	07/03/27
About the applicant	Zonta Club of Kiama-Shellharbour is part of a leading global organisation building a better world for women and girls and children through advocacy and service projects. The		

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Item 15.4

	Kiama-Shellharbour club commenced in 2024 and raises funds for local organisations who support women and children, primarily those who are victims of domestic abuse.
About the project/event	The Zonta Club of Kiama–Shellharbour International Women’s Day High Tea is a community event celebrating women, their achievements and the valuable contribution they make to the local community. Now in its third year, the event brings together women and the wider community for an afternoon of guest speakers, local entertainment and social connection, while showcasing local businesses, artists and community organisations. Complimentary tickets are provided through support organisations to encourage participation by women experiencing disadvantage, vulnerability or social isolation, helping to foster inclusion, community connections and community wellbeing.
Beneficiaries	Women and girls, Kiama LGA residents, local business, Community organisations supporting women, Kiama LGA residents.
Assessment	Recommended for part funding of total \$2,100 The assessment panel found the project aligns with the objectives of the Community Grants Program. Part funding is recommended. The requested budget allocated to <i>Internet and eftpos</i> is deemed ineligible expense under the Community Grants Program guidelines.

Applicant	Jones Beach Board riders Inc.		
Project Title	South Coast Cup 2027		
Amount requested	\$4,000	In kind component	N/A
Location	Kiama	Date	08/05/27
About the applicant	Jones Beach Boardriders is a volunteer-led community surf club based at Jones Beach, Kiama Downs. The club provides inclusive opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to participate in surfing through regular competitions, junior and women’s development programs, coaching, community events and social activities. With a strong focus on youth development, gender inclusion and pathways for emerging surfers, the club promotes physical		

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Item 15.4

	activity, wellbeing, community connection, mentoring and volunteering while strengthening grassroots surf culture within the Kiama community.
About the project/event	The South Coast Cup 2027 is a community-led interclub surfing event hosted by Jones Beach Boardriders at Jones Beach, Kiama Downs. The event brings together boardriders clubs from across the region in a unique tag-team competition involving junior, women, men and over 40 divisions, creating opportunities for participants of different ages and experience levels to compete, connect and learn from one another. Delivered primarily by local volunteers, the event promotes mentoring, teamwork, physical activity and community participation, while culminating in a family-friendly presentation and community gathering that strengthens connections between local clubs, organisations and communities.
Beneficiaries	Kiama LGA residents, local business, tourism.
Assessment	Recommended for part funding \$2,000 The assessment panel found the project aligns with the objectives of the Community Grants Program. Part funding is recommended as the event is supported by a range of additional revenue sources, including sponsorships, fundraising, and participant entry fees.

Applicant	Waves of Thinking		
Project Title	First Nations Families Connecting Through Waves		
Amount requested	\$5,000	In kind component	N/A
Location	Kiama	Date	20/02/27
About the applicant	Waves of Thinking is a local surf school dedicated to providing safe, inclusive surfing experiences for people of all ages and abilities. Led by experienced instructors, the organization promotes physical activity, wellbeing, ocean confidence and community connection through surfing and nature-based experiences.		

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Item 15.4

About the project/ event	<i>First Nations Families Connecting Through Waves</i> is a five-week community wellbeing program for local First Nations families, delivered at Seven Mile Beach, Gerroa. Led by local First Nations community members and cultural practitioners, the program combines cultural activities, connection to Country, water safety education, surfing and ocean confidence development with wellness activities such as breathwork and ice baths. The initiative aims to strengthen family and community connections, support mental, physical and cultural wellbeing, build confidence and resilience, and foster a sense of belonging through shared experiences, cultural learning and connection with the ocean.
Beneficiaries	Kiama LGA residents, First Nations Community.
Assessment	Recommended for Full funding \$5,000 The assessment panel found the project aligns with the objectives of the Community Grants Program.

Applicant	Headspace		
Project Title	Salty Sessions		
Amount requested	\$5,000	In kind component	N/A
Location	Kiama	Date	
About the applicant	Headspace Kiama is a youth-friendly service that supports the mental health and wellbeing of young people aged 12 to 25 in the Kiama LGA. The service provides free or low-cost access to mental health support, counselling, alcohol and other drug services, physical and sexual health support, and assistance with education and employment pathways. Working collaboratively with young people, families, schools, and community organisations, headspace Kiama aims to improve early intervention, resilience, and positive life outcomes for local young people.		
About the project/ event	Salty Sessions is a free five-week wellbeing initiative delivered by headspace and OneWave for young people and the adults who support them, including parents, carers, teachers, clinicians and youth workers. Each session combines facilitated wellbeing check-ins with free activities such as yoga, surfing and learn-to-surf experiences,		

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Item 15.4

	creating opportunities for social connection, physical activity and positive mental health support. The program promotes early intervention, builds resilience and community connections, and provides pathways to additional support for participants experiencing psychological distress.
Beneficiaries	Kiama LGA residents, youth, people experiencing social isolation and mental health challenges.
Assessment	Recommended for full funding of total \$2,500 The assessment panel found the project to align with the objectives of the Community Grants Program. Recommended for part funding.

Applicant	Kiama Business Network		
Project Title	Kiama Connects: Supporting Small Business Wellbeing and Community Connection		
Amount requested	\$5,000	In kind component	N/A
Location	Kiama	Date	01/02/27
About the applicant	Kiama Business Network is a local, not for profit organisation dedicated to supporting businesses of every kind across the Kiama LGA. We are committed to evolving and adapting to the needs of our ever-expanding business community. We are here to create opportunities for connection and growth through networking events, resources and advice.		
About the project/ event	Kiama Connects is a program free of charge, informal networking events designed to reduce social isolation among small business owners and strengthen connections across the Kiama community. Delivered by Kiama Business Network, the program includes Business Connects and Coffee Connects events held across Kiama, Gerringong, Jamberoo and Kiama Downs. The initiative will support local small and micro businesses to host events, increasing opportunities for business visibility, community engagement, collaboration and networking, while promoting the wellbeing and resilience of the local business community.		
Beneficiaries	Kiama LGA small business.		

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Item 15.4

Assessment	Recommended for part funding of total \$2,000 The assessment panel found the project aligns with the objectives of the Community Grants Program. Part funding is recommended, due to limited information on wider community benefit and budget justification.
-------------------	---

Applicant	Gerringong Netball Club		
Project Title	Twilight Netball Competition		
Amount requested	\$5,000	In kind component	N/A
Location	Kiama	Date	01/10/27
About the applicant	Gerringong Netball Club is a community-based sporting organisation that facilitates participation in the Kiama Netball Association winter competition and provides additional netball opportunities throughout the year. The club supports participants of all ages and abilities through competitions, development programs and community activities that promote active lifestyles, skill development, teamwork, friendship and community connection within an inclusive and supportive environment.		
About the project/ event	The Twilight Community Netball Competition is a 10-week community-based program running from October to December, providing a fun, inclusive and non-competitive opportunity for adults aged 17 years and over to participate in netball. Open to people of all skill levels, including those with little or no previous netball experience, the program promotes regular physical activity, healthy lifestyles, social connection and community participation. Through weekly competition and inclusive participation, the initiative aims to reduce social isolation, foster a sense of belonging, and strengthen community networks while supporting the health and wellbeing of participants.		
Beneficiaries	Kiama LGA residents.		
Assessment	Recommended for part funding of total \$2,000 The assessment panel found the project aligns with the objectives of the Community Grants Program.		

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

	Part funding is recommended due to its ranking compared to other applicants and the applicant have the ability to deliver the project with a reduced funding allocation.
--	--

Council received a further two applications which are not recommended for funding as follows:

Usman Khwaja Foundation- UKF Kiama Cricket Hub: Uniting Community through Cricket. Application received for \$5,000. While the Assessment Panel acknowledged the project's potential community benefit and alignment with program objectives, the application is not recommended for funding. The Panel noted that the applicant is not based in the LGA, the proposal lacked sufficient evidence of an identified local community need or an existing local partnership or network. As a result, the application was not assessed as competitive against other funding requests received in this round.

Surfers for Climate: "Silver surfers". Application received for \$5,000. The Assessment Panel acknowledged the value of the proposed program; however, due its ranking compared to other applicants, the level of funding available and projects viability to be delivered with part funding, the application is not recommended for funding.

The Community Development Team will provide feedback to the above unsuccessful applicants.

Donations (Small Grants)

The Donations (Small Grants) stream of the Grants Program is open year-round and offers funding of up to \$750 to eligible not-for-profit organisations or community groups. For the 2026/2027 financial year, the allocated budget in this stream is \$12,000. Applications are approved by the CEO in accordance with the Policy.

The following table provides an overview of programs/ initiatives funded to date in the 2026/2027 financial year:

Applicant Name	Program/initiative	Amount funded
Illawarra Rose Society	Monthly member meetings- North Kiama Neighbourhood Centre (in-kind hall hire).	\$500 (in-kind)
Kiama Summerlife	A free, volunteer-run 9-day community event for local young people, offering inclusive activities such as music, crafts, games, and a free BBQ at Coronation Park.	\$750
The Simple Gift of a Bag	Volunteer sewing workshops creating post-operative drain bags for breast cancer patients (in-kind hall hire).	\$750 (in-kind hall hire)

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Kiama Netball Assoc. Inc.	A pre-season wellbeing and development event for netball players and families, featuring nutrition and injury-prevention education, resilience and wellbeing workshops, parent support sessions, and activities that strengthen community connections and engagement.	\$750 (in-kind hire of pavilion)
Kiama Garden Club Inc	Kiama Garden competition.	\$250

Item 15.4

Remaining budget: \$9,000.**Destination Event Funding**

Funding was reduced by 54% in the 2026/2027 financial year, taking the annual budget to \$46,500.

Council received seven (7) applications under the Destination Event Funding Program. Following review by Council's Tourism & Economic Advisory Committee, Council's Internal Assessment Panel scored each application against the adopted funding criteria and with consideration of available budget, the following recommendations are made.

1. Kiama Seaside Veterans Tournament

Applicant	Kiama Golf Club
Event Title	Kiama Seaside Veterans Tournament
Amount Requested	\$1,000
Previous Council funding	\$1,000
Recommended Funding	\$500
Season	Spring
Estimated Attendance	120
Estimated Out-of-Area Attendance	70%
REMPAN Estimated Economic Impact	\$50,800

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Event Date	Monday 23 – Thursday 26 November 2026
About the Event	Established mid-week four-day golf tournament attracting participants from across NSW and interstate, generating extended stays (5+nights) and visitor expenditure throughout the municipality. Core demographic 55+ from across NSW. Supporting this event annually has provided a pathway for Kiama Golf Club to host the National event in 2027 attracting 500-600 competitors.
Event Category	Destination
Assessment	Recommended for part funding of \$500. The assessment panel found the event aligns with the objectives of the Destination Event Funding Program through demonstrated overnight visitation and visitor expenditure. Part funding is recommended due to available budget constraints.

Item 15.4

2. The Rubens

Applicant	All Access Events & Paxx Group
Event Title	The Rubens at The Pavilion Kiama
Amount Requested	\$10,000
Previous Council funding	\$4,000 for two concerts in 2025
Recommended Funding	Not recommended
Season	Summer
Estimated Attendance	600
Estimated Out-of-Area Attendance	50%

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

REMLAN Estimated Economic Impact	\$63,050
Event Date	13 February 2027
About the event	One night ticketed live music event featuring Australian band The Rubens at The Pavilion Kiama. Experienced concert promotor that has brought a number of events to The Pavilion previously.
Event category	Destination
Assessment	Not recommended for funding. The application demonstrated organisational capacity however, the event is ticketed entry and currently on-sale, proceeding regardless of Council funding. The rationale for Council funding is unclear. The application refers to trialling a new event delivery model in 2025; however, the event is already on sale and forms part of an established live music program.

Item 15.4

3. Kiama Jazz & Blues 40th Anniversary

Applicant	Kiama Jazz & Blues Club – Paul Berger
Event Title	Kiama Jazz & Blues 40th Anniversary
Amount Requested	\$10,000 + a multiyear commitment
Previous Council funding	\$7,000 declined in 2025.
Recommended Funding	\$6,000
Season	Autumn
Estimated Attendance	6,000

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Item 15.4

Estimated Out-of-Area Attendance	37%
REMPAN Estimated Economic Impact	\$608,000
Event Date	Friday 5 – Sunday 7 March 2027
About the event	Established three-day music festival celebrating its 40th anniversary, delivering performances and activations across multiple venues and public spaces throughout the municipality.
Assessment	Recommended for part funding of \$6,000 and approval for multiyear funding. The assessment panel found the event demonstrates strong destination appeal, significant economic impact and broad activation across the municipality. The proposed evaluation framework is substantially stronger than previous years and, if implemented, should provide robust visitation and economic impact data. The proposed busking trail extends activity across Kiama, Gerringong, Jamberoo and Minnamurra, providing broader activation across the local government area. Part funding is recommended due to limited funding availability. Multiyear funding is recommended in recognition of the event's established track record, strategic value to the visitor economy and commitment to improved impact measurement. Future funding remains subject to annual budget allocation, satisfactory acquittal, and continued compliance with program guidelines and eligibility criteria. Multi-year funding can only be granted for 2026/27 and 2027/28 as the current council can not commit the future Council to funding obligations.

4. Kiama Fringe

Applicant	Tamara Campbell Laughter House Entertainment / KISS Arts
Event Title	Kiama Fringe
Amount Requested	\$15,000

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Previous Council funding	\$15,000 in 2025 to deliver KISS Arts Festival.
Recommended Funding	\$15,000
Season	Autumn
Estimated Attendance	10,000
Estimated Out-of-Area Attendance	30%
REMPAN Estimated Economic Impact	\$1,521,000
Date	Thursday 8 – Sunday 18 April 2027
About the event	An 11-day arts and culture festival in the Autumn school holidays, activating multiple venues (including the Spiegel tent) across Kiama through performances, exhibitions and creative experiences.
Event category	Destination
Assessment	Recommended for full funding of \$15,000. The assessment panel found the event aligns strongly with the objectives of the Destination Event Funding Program. This is a different event to the previously run KISS Arts event. This 11-day event seeks to activate multiple venues across town and diversifies Kiama's events calendar. It targets significant visitation and overnight stays, with a clear destination-led marketing approach. Criterion 5 of the Assessment Criteria for Destination Event Funding is the requirement to demonstrate a need for Council funding. It is noted that this criterion is somewhat at odds with the general eligibility criteria for Destination and Major Events to demonstrate self-sustainability. As a first year event, external funding is needed. The applicant has sought funding from the NSW Government. Unfortunately this funding request was unsuccessful.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

	The applicant has demonstrated a strong organisational capability and experience through the delivery of previous KISS Arts Festival and Kazador events. Activates The application demonstrates strong organisational capability, significant visitor economy potential and a demonstrated reliance on Council funding to proceed.
--	--

Item 15.4

5. Kiama Art and Makers Festival

Applicant	Olivia Deans
Event Title	Kiama Art and Makers Festival
Amount Requested	\$10,250
Recommended Funding	\$5,320
Season	Autumn
Estimated Attendance	600
Estimated Out-of-Area Attendance	33%
REMPAN Estimated Economic Impact	\$95,600
Date	Saturday 22 May 2027
About the event	In its first year, this is a one-day arts and makers festival showcasing local artists, creative businesses and makers through exhibitions, stalls and creative experiences.
Beneficiaries	Local artists, creative businesses, visitors, tourism operators and the broader visitor economy.
Assessment	Recommended for part funding of \$5,320. The assessment panel found the event has potential to support arts, culture and creative tourism while diversifying Kiama's events calendar. Part funding is recommended, relevant to the event concept and estimated impact.

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)**6. MOSAIQUE Kiama**

Applicant	Nicole O'Brien
Event Title	MOSAIQUE Kiama
Amount Requested	\$20,000
Recommended Funding	Not recommended
Season	Winter
Estimated Out-of-Area Attendance	50%
REMPAN Estimated Economic Impact	\$406,000
Date	Saturday 5 – Sunday 6 June 2027
About the event	A proposed two-day cultural and lifestyle event incorporating markets, food, entertainment over the June long weekend.
Assessment	Not recommended for funding. While the application touched on the festival like activations, the assessment panel found the event concept lacked clarity and sufficient differentiation from existing market-style events. The proposal would benefit from further refinement and a clearer destination proposition.

7. The Creative Business Summit

Applicant	Creative Business Hub Summit
Event Title	The Creative Business Summit
Amount Requested	\$3,850
Recommended Funding	Not recommended
Season	Winter
Estimated Out-of-Area Attendance	40%

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

REMLAN Estimated Economic Impact	\$8,700
Date	Thursday 5 August 2027
About the event	A one-day conference for creatives, artists, makers and small business owners featuring professional development, networking and industry speakers.
Assessment	Not recommended for funding. The application offers positive creative industry outcomes; however, required documentation was not provided, including event management planning, risk management and operational readiness information. The application also did not demonstrate a clear reliance on Council funding for delivery, reducing its competitiveness against higher-ranked applications.

Item 15.4

Existing commitments

Under the Destination Event Funding Program, endorse the following funding allocations for events subject to existing multi-year funding commitments (Year 2 of 3), originally approved under Council Resolution 25/263OC:

Applicant	Event	25/26 Amt	Recommended for 26/27
Sydney FC	Kiama Football Festival	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 3,680.00
Jamberoo Car Club	Jamberoo Car Show & Family Day	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Mark Bryant	Kiama Sevens Rugby Tournament	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Shoalhaven Oz Tag	Kiama Beach Tag	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Crooked River Wines	Winter Wine Festival	\$ 5,240.00	\$ 3,500.00
	TOTAL	\$36,240.00	\$ 19,180.00

Report of the Director Strategies and Communities

15.4 Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Program - Open Round Outcome
Report 2026-2027 (cont.)

Funding anomaly

Kiama Jazz & Blues Festival has submitted applications under both the Community Grants Program and the Destination Event Funding Program. In accordance with the Grants, Donations and Sponsorship Guidelines, an applicant may only receive funding from one Council funding stream for the same event or project. Should Council endorse both funding recommendations, the applicant will be required to nominate a single funding allocation to accept, with any declined funding able to be redistributed in accordance with Recommendation 7.

Item 15.4