For immediate release 24 February 2025

Council's 2025/26 Annual Grants Program now open

Community organisations, individuals and local businesses that have a project, event, or great idea are invited to apply for funding under the 2025/26 Annual Grants Program.

The program, administered by Wagga Wagga City Council, is designed to help fund projects that benefit our local community.

Applications for the 2025/26 Annual Grants Program are open from Monday 24 February, with a total of \$232,000 available across 10 categories including: Arts, Culture & Creative Industries, Community Programs & Projects, Environment, Events, Local Heritage, Neighbourhood & Rural Villages, Recreational & Community Facilities, Rural Halls, Small Business, and Youth Programs & Projects.

The Annual Grants Program is part of Council's commitment to developing a vibrant and diverse community in line with the goals of the *Community Strategic Plan 2040*.

Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga, Councillor Dallas Tout, encourages community groups and individuals to apply for funding to make their projects happen.

"The Annual Grants Program supports a diverse range of projects that directly benefit our community," Cr Tout said.

"It's one of many ways Council supports our community at a grassroots level, whether you live in a city suburb, a village, or in a rural area.

"It is always so pleasing to see, year on year, such a strong take-up of this program by our community.

"The program supports a wide range of projects and initiatives and reflects Council's commitment to support community-led initiatives that contribute to the city's cultural life, improvements to community infrastructure, and community wellbeing, which help to foster a healthy, inclusive, and vibrant community."

Director Community, Janice Summerhayes, said, "The Annual Grants Program supports a wide range of services and activities that contribute to meeting important needs and priorities in our community.

"We will be holding a Community Consultation Session on Friday 4 April 2025. I encourage anyone interested to attend to learn more about the application process and discuss their project ideas and plans with the relevant Grants Officer for their category."

Applications for the 2025/26 Annual Grants Program close on Monday 5 May 2025 at 11:59pm. For more information, visit <u>wagga.nsw.gov.au/community/grants-and-sponsorships</u>

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www.wagga.nsw.gov.au 1300 292 442

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Contact 6926 9190 or media@wagga.nsw.gov.au

About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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