



MINUTES

COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday 3 December 2024

6.00pm

Council Chambers

The Five Strategic Pillars



Community & Corporate Services Committee
Terms of Reference

Function:

This Committee is responsible for:

- Community Services: Achieving the outcomes outlined in the Strategic Community Plan, focusing on a diverse and inclusive community, happiness, health, and resilience, and community engagement.
- Corporate & Commercial Services: Delivering the outcomes outlined in the Strategic Community Plan, emphasizing safety, resilience, economic strength, tourism, visionary leadership, and workplace culture.
- Monitoring the City's financial health and strategies.
- Conducting internal reviews of service complaints.

It accomplishes this by:

- Developing policies and strategies.
- Creating progress measurement methods.
- Receiving progress reports.
- Considering officer advice.
- Debating current issues.
- Offering advice on effective community engagement and progress reporting.
- Making recommendations to Council.

Chairperson: City of Albany elected member, elected from the Committee.

Membership: Open to all elected members

Meeting Schedule: Monthly Meeting Location: Council Chambers

Directorates: Corporate & Commercial Services and Community Services

Executive Officer(s):

- Executive Director Corporate & Commercial Services
- Executive Director Community Services

Delegated Authority: None

COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES –03/12/2024

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1. **DECLARATION OF OPENING** The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting open at 6.00pm

2. **PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL LAND OWNERS**

“Heavenly Father, we thank you for the peace and beauty of this area. Direct and prosper the deliberations of this Council for the advancement of the City and the welfare of its people. Amen.”

“We would like to acknowledge the Noongar people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land.

We would also like to pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging”.

3. **RECORD OF APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Mayor	G Stocks
Councillor	M Traill
Councillor	D Baesjou
Councillor	S Grimmer (Deputy Chair)
Councillor	R Sutton
Councillor	L MacLaren
Councillor	P Terry
Councillor	C McKinley

Staff:

Chief Executive Officer	A Sharpe
Executive Director Community Services	N Watson
Executive Director Corporate & Commercial Services	M Giffellon
Bicentenary Coordinator	A Gregory
Meeting Secretary	C Crane

Apologies:

Councillor	A Cruse (Leave of Absence)
Councillor	T Brough (Leave of Absence)
Councillor	M Lionetti

There was 1 member of the public in attendance.

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4. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Name	Committee/Report Item Number	Nature of Interest
Councillor Traill	CCS681	Impartial. The nature of the interest being that Councillor Traill is involved with the project entitled 'Multivalent Voices – Kinjarling/Kincinnup/Albany – 1826'. Councillor Traill has declared that there is no personal financial gain involved.
Councillor Baesjou	CCS681	Impartial. The nature of the interest being that Councillor Baesjou's family member is an employee of Southern Edge Arts and is an Applicant for funding.

5. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE** Nil

6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

In accordance with *City of Albany Standing Orders Local Law 2014* (as amended) the following points apply to Public Question Time:

- Clause 5) The Presiding Member may decide that a public question shall not be responded to where—*
- (a) the same or similar question was asked at a previous Meeting, a response was provided and the member of the public is directed to the minutes of the Meeting at which the response was provided;*
 - (b) the member of the public asks a question or makes a statement that is offensive, unlawful or defamatory in nature, provided that the Presiding Member has taken reasonable steps to assist the member of the public to rephrase the question or statement in a manner that is not offensive, unlawful or defamatory.*

7. **PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS** Nil.

8. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

MOTION

MOVED: COUNCILLOR TRAILL

SECONDED: DEPUTY MAYOR TERRY

THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Community and Corporate Services Committee meeting held on 12 November 2024, as previously distributed, be CONFIRMED as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED 8-0

9. **PRESENTATIONS** Nil.

10. **UNRESOLVED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS** Nil.

CCS678: MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2024

Proponent / Owner	: City of Albany
Attachments	: Monthly Financial Report – October 2024
Report Prepared By	: Manager Finance
Authorising Officer:	: Executive Director Corporate & Commercial Services

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

1. This item relates to the following elements of the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan or Corporate Business Plan informing plans or strategies:
 - **Pillar:** Leadership.
 - **Outcome:** Strong workplace culture and performance

IN BRIEF

- Under the Local Government Financial Management Regulations, a local government is to prepare monthly a statement of financial activity and statement of financial position that is presented to Council.
- The City of Albany's Monthly Financial Report (inclusive of the statement of financial activity and the statement of financial position) for the period ending 31 October 2024 has been prepared and is attached.
- In addition, the City provides Council with a monthly investment summary to ensure the investment portfolio complies with the City's Investment of Surplus Funds Policy.
- The financial information included within the Monthly Financial Report for the period ended 31 October 2024 is preliminary and has not yet been audited.

RECOMMENDATION

CCS678: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: COUNCILLOR SUTTON
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MCKINLEY

THAT the Authorising Officer Recommendation be ADOPTED.

CARRIED 8-0

CCS678: AUTHORISING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 31 October 2024 be RECEIVED.

DISCUSSION

2. To fulfil statutory reporting obligations, the Monthly Financial Report prepared provides a snapshot of the City's year to date financial performance. The report provides the:
 - (a) Statement of Financial Activity by nature classifications (satisfying Regulation 34 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*);
 - (b) Statement of Financial Position (satisfying Regulation 35 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*);
 - (c) Basis of Preparation;
 - (d) Explanation of material variances to year-to-date budget;
 - (e) Net Current Asset & Funding Position;
 - (f) Investment Portfolio Snapshot;
 - (g) Receivables; and

(h) Capital Acquisitions.

3. Additionally, each year a local government is to adopt a percentage or value to be used in the Statement of Financial Activity for reporting material variances. Under Council item CCS647, Council approved that a variance between actual and budget-to-date of greater than \$100,000 is a material variance for reporting purposes in the Statement of Financial Activity for 2024/2025.
4. The Statement of Financial Activity and Statement of Financial Position may be subject to year-end adjustments and have not been audited.
5. It is noted that rounding errors may occur when whole numbers are used, as they are in the reports that follow. The 'errors' may be \$1 or \$2 when adding sets of numbers. This does not mean that the underlying figures are incorrect."

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

6. The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* stipulate that each month Local Governments are required to prepare and report a Financial Activity Statement (reg 34) and a Financial Position Statement (reg 35).
7. Each of these statements are to be presented at an ordinary meeting of the council within two months after the end of the relevant month, as well as recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is presented.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

8. The City's 2024/25 Annual Budget provides a set of parameters that guides the City's financial practices.
9. The Investment of Surplus Funds Policy stipulates that the status and performance of the investment portfolio is to be reported monthly to Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. Expenditure for the period ending 31 October 2024 has been incurred in accordance with the 2024/25 budget parameters.
11. Details of any budget variation more than \$100,000 (year to date) is outlined in the Statement of Financial Activity. There are no other known events, which may result in a material non-recoverable financial loss or financial loss arising from an uninsured event.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. Nil.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

13. Nil.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

14. Nil.

CONCLUSION

15. The Authorising Officer's recommendation be adopted.
16. It is requested that any questions regarding this report are submitted to the Executive Director Corporate & Commercial Services by 4pm of the day prior to the scheduled meeting time. All answers to submitted questions will be provided at the Committee meeting. This allows a detailed response to be given to the Committee in a timely manner.

Consulted References	:	<i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i>
File Number	:	FM.FIR.7

CCS679: LIST OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – NOVEMBER 2024

Business Entity Name : City of Albany
Attachments : List of Accounts for Payment
Report Prepared By : Manager Finance
Authorising Officer: : Executive Director Corporate and Commercial Services

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

- This item relates to the following elements of the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan or Corporate Business Plan informing plans or strategies:
 - Pillar/Priority:** Leadership.
 - Outcome:** Strong workplace culture and performance.

IN BRIEF

- Council has delegated to the Chief Executive Officer the exercise of its power to make payments from the City's municipal and trust funds. In accordance with Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, a list of accounts paid by the Chief Executive Officer is to be provided to Council.

RECOMMENDATION

CCS679: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: COUNCILLOR TRAILL
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MCKINLEY

THAT the Authorising Officer Recommendation be ADOPTED.

CARRIED 8-0

CCS679: AUTHORISING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the list of accounts authorised for payment under delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer for the period ending 15 November 2024 totalling \$10,484,987.11 be RECEIVED.

DISCUSSION

- The table below summarises the payments drawn from the City's Municipal and Trust funds for the period ending 15 November 2024. Please refer to the Attachment to this report.

Fund	Transaction Type	Amount (\$)	%
Municipal	Electronic Funds Transfer	\$7,478,545.19	71.33%
Municipal	Payroll	\$2,974,898.76	28.37%
Municipal	Credit Cards	\$31,343.16	0.30%
Municipal	Cheques	\$200.00	0.00%
Trust	N/A	\$0.00	0.00%
TOTAL		<u>\$10,484,987.11</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

- Included within the Electronic Funds Transfers from the City's Municipal account are Purchasing Card transactions, required to be reported under Regulation 13(A), totalling: \$151,904.61.

4. The table below summaries the total outstanding creditors as at 15 November 2024.

Aged Creditors	Amount (\$)
Current	\$485,212.99
30 Days	\$863,079.87
60 Days	\$0.00
90 Days	\$(1.00)
TOTAL	\$1,348,291.86

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5. Regulation 12(1)(a) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, provides that payment October only be made from the municipal fund or a trust fund if the Local Government has delegated this function to the Chief Executive Officer or alternatively authorises payment in advance.
6. The Chief Executive Officer has delegated authority to make payments from the municipal and trust fund.
7. Regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* provides that if the function of authorising payments is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, then a list of payments must be presented to Council and recorded in the minutes.
8. As part of the Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations 2023 (SL2023/106), additional reporting is now required by Local Governments. Regulation 13(A), a new regulation, requires Local Governments to report on payments by employees via purchasing cards.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Expenditure for the period to 15 November 2024 has been incurred in accordance with the 2024/2025 budget parameters.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Expenditure for the period to 15 November 2024 has been incurred in accordance with the 2024/2025 budget parameters.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. Nil

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

10. Nil

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

11. Nil

CONCLUSION

12. That the list of accounts have been authorised for payment under delegated authority.
13. It is requested that any questions on specific payments are submitted to the Executive Director Corporate Services by 4pm of the day prior to the scheduled meeting time. All answers to submitted questions will be provided at the Committee meeting. This allows a detailed response to be given to the Committee in a timely manner.

Consulted References	:	<i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i>
File Number	:	FM.FIR.2

CCS680: DELEGATED AUTHORITY REPORTS – 16 OCTOBER 2024 to 15 NOVEMBER 2024

Proponent / Owner : City of Albany
Attachments : Executed Document and Common Seal Report
Report Prepared By : PA to Mayor and Councillors
Authorising Officer: : Chief Executive Officer

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

1. This item relates to the following elements of the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan or Corporate Business Plan informing plans or strategies:
 - **Pillar:** Leadership.
 - **Outcome:** A well informed and engaged community.

RECOMMENDATION

CCS680: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: COUNCILLOR MACLAREN
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MCKINLEY

THAT the Authorising Officer Recommendation be ADOPTED.

CARRIED 8-0

CCS680: AUTHORISING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Delegated Authority Reports 16 October 2024 to 15 November 2024 be RECEIVED.

BACKGROUND

2. In compliance with Section 9.49A of the *Local Government Act 1995* the attached report applies to the use of the Common Seal and the signing of documents under Council's Delegated Authority:
 - **Delegation: LG1.18 (D006)** – Sign Documents on Behalf of the City of Albany (Authority to Executive Deeds & Agreements and apply the Common Seal)
 - **Delegation: LG4.06 (D009)** – Provide Donations, Sponsorship, Subsidies & Authority to Apply for Grant Funding (Including the provision of sponsorship through the waiver of fees & charges)
 - **Delegation: LG5.05 (D018)** – Award Contracts (Supply of Equipment, Goods, Materials & Services)

CCS681: ALBANY 2026 COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Proponent / Owner : City of Albany
Report Prepared By : Albany 2026 Coordinator
Authorising Officer: : Executive Director Community Services

Councillor Traill and Councillor Baesjou declared an Impartiality Interest in this item. Both Councillor Traill and Councillor Baesjou remained in the Chamber and participated in the discussion and vote for this item.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

1. This item relates to the following elements of the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan or Corporate Business Plan informing plans or strategies:
 - **Pillar:** Prosperity
 - **Outcome:** A highly sought-after tourist destination.

In Brief:

- To endorse the Assessment Panel recommendations for the *Albany 2026 Community Sponsorship Program (\$10k - \$50k funding stream)* for events being held within the year of the Bicentenary, 1 January to 31 December 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

CCS681: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: COUNCILLOR SUTTON
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR TRAILL

THAT the Authorising Officer Recommendation be ADOPTED.

CARRIED 7-1

Record of Vote:

Against the Motion: Councillor McKinley

CCS681: AUTHORISING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council APPROVE the Assessment Panel recommendations for the *Albany 2026 Community Sponsorship Program* as outlined in Paragraph 18 – Table 2 of this report.

BACKGROUND

2. The importance of grassroots/community-led events and projects has been identified within the Council adopted (and community informed) Albany 2026 Strategic Plan.
3. Council allocated \$400,000 in the 2024-2025 Budget to support grants for community initiatives and activities for Albany 2026.
4. In June 2024, the City announced the *Albany 2026 Community Sponsorship Program*, offering two funding streams (\$0 - \$10k and \$10k - \$50k) to encourage and support community-led initiatives as part of Albany 2026.
5. Five (5) applications were received in the \$0k - \$10k funding stream. These applications have been assessed by an Evaluation Panel and approved administratively under delegation. The outcome of this funding stream has been included within this report for information only.

6. Eighteen (18) applications were received in the \$10k - \$50k funding stream. These applications have been assessed by an Evaluation Panel and the recommendations are presented within this report for Council approval.
7. Projects sponsored through the Albany 2026 Community Sponsorship Program should showcase Albany's rich cultural heritage, its people, places and stories. Projects should increase community vibrancy, wellbeing, resilience, and connection by enabling local initiatives that bring people together and create a strong thriving community.
8. Outside of the Albany 2026 Community Sponsorship Program, the City also provides funding opportunities (for events/activities) via the Regional Event Sponsorship program. Projects that do not align with the Albany 2026 Community Sponsorship Program may better align to the Regional Event Sponsorship program.
9. In addition, and throughout 2025, the City will release an expression of interest to local community groups and organisations requesting information about events/activities occurring throughout 2026 for consideration for inclusion in official programming/marketing materials to further boost community involvement opportunities outside of those which receive direct funding.

DISCUSSION

Program Overview

10. The Albany 2026 Community Sponsorship Program was open for submissions between 29 July and 23 September 2024.
11. The City received 23 applications (across the two funding streams), requesting a total of \$735,337 in funding.
12. Applications have been assessed against criteria that reflects the community's aspirations as outlined in the Albany 2026 Strategic Plan, and are listed below:
 - Alignment to one (or more) of the Albany 2026 key themes:
 - a. Reflect honestly on our past;
 - b. Celebrate our community today;
 - c. Create a future where anything is possible.
 - General Criteria:
 - a. Showcases Albany's rich cultural heritage and unique characteristics including the stories, people, places and produce of Albany.
 - b. Demonstrates a benefit to the wider community and/or targeted audience.
 - c. Contributes to the presentation and preservation of Menang-Noongar culture.
 - d. Enables existing plans that have community support to come to fruition.
 - e. Will foster the participation of inclusive and diverse communities.
 - f. Exhibits unique qualities or is an innovative idea.
 - g. Contributes positively to the Albany 2026 milestone.
 - h. Enhances community engagement and participation with events and initiatives that promote social inclusion and diversity.
 - i. Positions Albany as a nationally significant regional cultural center.
 - j. Has strong social and or economic uplift.
 - k. Demonstrates organisational capacity and appropriate project governance.
 - l. Has limited reliance on the City for practical and logistical support.

- m. Demonstrates experience delivering projects with similar scope and scale.
 - n. Provides evidence of past success.
 - o. Demonstrates other funding (cash or in kind) has been secured or sought.
 - p. Demonstrates value for money.
13. Events or projects that are supported for funding by Council are required to enter into a contractual agreement with the City inclusive of conditions for grant acknowledgement, project milestones, and project acquittals.

Assessment – Under \$10k

14. A summary of applications approved for funding (under administrative delegation) in the \$0k - \$10k funding stream is outlined in Table 1.
15. This information has been included to provide context to the overall Community Sponsorship Program and the funding split between the two streams.
16. A total of \$16,500 has been allocated and approved within the \$0k - \$10k funding stream; this leaves \$383,500 to allocate within the \$10k - \$50k funding stream.

Table 1 – Albany 2026 Community Sponsorship Program – \$0k - \$10k Outcomes

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Approved
Girl Guides WA	Albany 2026 State Girl Guide Jamboree	3.17 (63.4%)	\$9,500	\$9,500
Description:				
The <i>Albany 2026 State Girl Guide Jamboree</i> will bring over 250 guides and leaders to Albany to explore, learn and commemorate the area's history. With a strong focus on youth development practices and sharing knowledge of Menang Noongar people, the project aligns strongly with the themes of Albany 2026, 'reflect authentically on the past' and 'a future where anything is possible'. The <i>Albany 2026 State Girl Guide Jamboree</i> will mark the events return (since pre-COVID), and the first time it is to be held in Albany in recent history.				
Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Approved
Dr. Harry Freemantle	Multivalent Voices – Kinjarling/Kincinnup/Albany - 1826	2.97 (59.4%)	\$3,000	\$3,000
Description:				
The applicant aims to write and publish a dedicated bicentenary focused journal, titled <i>Multivalent Voices – Kinjarling/Kincinnup/Albany – 1826</i> . With a strong focus on 'truth telling', the project aligns with the Albany 2026 theme 'reflect authentically on the past'. The funding requested will contribute towards the study of content and the print publication, in addition to the hosting of a conference within Albany during 2026.				
Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Approved
King River Hall	King River Hall Flora and Fauna Mural and Trail Signs	3.07 (61.4%)	\$5,959	\$4,000
Description:				
This project involves creating a community-designed mural and nature trail markers that showcase local flora and fauna around Albany's King River area, inclusive of Menang Noongar language. Whilst a lower impact project, it encompasses an area outside of the Albany CBD, extending the reach and benefit of Albany 2026 to more of the community and will remain in place post the bicentenary year.				
Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Approved
Veterans Assist Great Southern Inc.	Albany Seaboard Bulk Fuel Oil Depot	2.85 (57%)	\$8,125	\$0
Description:				

This project aims to install three interpretive signs along a walking trail on Mt Melville, detailing the WWII-era Albany Seaboard Bulk Fuel Storage Depot. With a lack of detail around consultation with the Menang-Noongar community and a score percentage of 57%, the application was not approved for funding.

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Approved
Vikings Sporting Club	State AFL Masters Football Carnival	2.14 (42.8%)	\$9,800	\$0
Description:				
The project aims to bring the annual <i>State AFL Masters Football Carnival</i> to Albany in 2026 and to celebrate the Albany Vikings Sporting Club's 40th anniversary. The project has demonstrated minimal alignment to an Albany 2026 theme, received a score percentage of 42.8%, and the requested funding would go towards a private celebratory function for the applicant.				

Assessment and Recommendations - \$10k - \$50k

17. The Evaluation Panel (for the \$10k - \$50k funding stream) comprised of:
 - a. Albany 2026 Coordinator;
 - b. Albany 2026 Cultural Project Officer;
 - c. Manager Community Relations;
 - d. Local History Coordinator;
 - e. Manager Albany Entertainment Centre, Arts and Culture Trust (non-voting); and
 - f. Executive Director Community Services.
18. A summary of applications recommended to Council for funding is outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Albany 2026 Community Sponsorship Program (\$10k – \$50k) – Assessment Panel Recommendations

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Albany ArtAbility	Albany ArtAbility Art Workshops & Art Markets	INELIGIBLE	\$20,252	\$0
Description:				
The application did not address the compulsory selection criteria and is therefore ineligible for funding.				
Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Albany Pride	Albany Pride 10 Year Anniversary Festival	3.53 (70.6%)	\$50,000	\$6,000
Description:				
The Albany Pride Festival is an important annual cultural event that promotes inclusivity and attracts visitors to the region. In 2026 the Festival will celebrate its 10 th anniversary and run from 18 th February to 27 th March. A recommended funding amount of \$6,000 will support the addition of two new components to the festival: a 'Mentorship Program' and a 'Long Table Art Dinner'. The Mentorship Program will provide the opportunity for a young local artist to be mentored in best curatorial practice and to work alongside skilled creatives to bring the art exhibition (local LGBTQIA+ artists Shaun Wake-Mazey and James Hollands) to life. The Long Table Art Dinner will be held at the Albany Town Hall among the art exhibition and be a ticketed event. The panel's funding recommendation of \$6,000 is to cover the 'Long Table Art Dinner' and the 'Art Workshops', as outlined in the applicant's budget. The remainder of the event is ineligible for 2026 funding and will better align to the City's annual Regional Event Sponsorship.				
Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Art South WA	Festival of Halls	3.78 (75.6%)	\$30,000	\$23,000
Description:				
'Festival of Halls' is a celebration of the arts, culture, and history in Western Australia's Great Southern region. Festival of Halls will span 20 venues and include approximately 20 (free and ticketed) events. The festival will showcase local musicians, visual artists, storytellers, and performers through intimate live performances, workshops, and cultural storytelling. The Festival of Halls project will run in addition to the applicant's annual Southern Art and Craft Trail and presents a unique offering that will activate				

and drive visitation to areas outside of Albany CBD including Redmond, Torbay, Kalgan and others. The panel recommend the applicant host this event in April 2026, aligning with (and benefitting from) the Easter and ANZAC long weekends. Overall attendance at the Festival of Halls (if held in April 2026) is approximately 4,000 attendees.

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Community Arts Network	Mapping Menang	4.27 (85.4%)	\$33,500	\$33,500

Description:

Mapping Menang is a collaborative truth-telling community art project led by Community Arts Network (CAN) in partnership with Menang Traditional Owners and the National Trust of WA. Taking place at Strawberry Hill at Barmup (April 2026), this project aims to celebrate the Menang people's rich cultural heritage. Through community consultations and creative workshops led by First Nations creatives, Menang people will embark on a cultural mapping process recording stories, knowledge and spirituality embedded in landscape - culminating in the creation of a large-scale artwork, layering lore, language and culture into a visual representation of Menang Country. The collaborative artwork will be incorporated into an interactive digital online map embedded with videos and audio content telling the Menang story. A well-considered application scoring highly against all criteria (85.4%), the project has strong alignment to the themes of Albany 2026. The applicant has demonstrated significant experience leading similar projects, with skilled key personnel involved in the project's delivery. The project will result in cultural knowledge and legacy work that will remain within the Albany community for decades to come. The applicant has committed significant funds to the project, has confirmed federal funding (Indigenous Languages and the Arts) and is also seeking support from Lotterywest.

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Cinefest OZ	Celebrate Kinjarling	4.31 (86.2%)	\$50,000	\$35,000

Description:

The applicant will work with local students, creatives and First Nations people to commission three short films inspired by Albany stories in the year leading up to 2026. The project will allow local community to innovate, inspire and showcase the creative heart of Albany, through any screen medium including filmed spoken word, dramatic recreations, creative stories, short documentaries or experimental projection on local landmarks. The applicant would mentor the teams involved through attaching an experienced producer and videographer along with supporting a small production budget for each project. These bespoke film projects will be screened (alongside other Albany focused content) at approximately 10 free public screenings. This project will provide legacy material that can be promoted and referenced throughout 2026 and beyond. The applicant estimates approximately 3,000 participants/attendees over the 10 screenings/events. A well-considered application scoring highly against all criteria (86.2%), the project has strong alignment to the themes of Albany 2026. However, it is recommended that the applicant expand the project to include stories from diverse cultures to broaden its impact.

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Creative Albany	Sculpture at Binalup	3.96 (79.2%)	\$45,000	\$45,000

Description:

The project has strong potential to attract diverse audiences through a "sculpture by the sea" style event that encourages engagement with local Menang culture and the arts. The project is backed by an experienced facilitator and provides a unique platform for artistic expression that reflects the themes of Albany 2026. Guided tours and artist talks will offer attendees deeper insight into the art and artists, enhancing cultural appreciation and participation. The project's community-centred approach and unique format distinguish it as an innovative contribution to the Albany 2026 program. The applicant estimates approximately 20,000 participants/attendees over the 10-day exhibition and across the workshop/tours/talk's components.

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Discovery Bay Tourism Precinct	AWHS Bicentenary Program: Reflect, Respect, Reactivate	3.95 (79%)	\$49,852	\$49,852

Description:

The project demonstrates strong alignment to the themes of Albany 2026 and offers diverse cultural programming across the full calendar year, providing significant value for money. Its extensive community collaboration, particularly with the local Menang-Noongar community, enhances cultural authenticity and inclusivity. Select components will be one off events, however each of the Albany 2026 themes will be accompanied by a month-long exhibition via Artist in Residence programming. The applicant estimates approximately 18,000 participants/attendees over the year-long programming. With potential to elevate Albany's profile nationally, this project offers meaningful historical insights, including the community's evolution from whaling to conservation. With demonstrated organisational capacity to deliver this project, it will provide significant activation throughout the year of 2026.

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Cricket Great Southern Inc.	Australian Country Cricket Championships	WITHDRAWN	WITHDRAWN	\$0
Description:				
The applicant has withdrawn their application.				
Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Friends of Yakamia Forest	Boorna Boodja Tours	3.1 (62%)	\$13,483	\$0
Description:				
The proposed project aligns with the themes of Albany 2026, however the application has not strongly differentiated itself from other similar activities already on offer through the applicant's tour-guiding business. The applicant proposes 12 cultural heritage tours to be held over three months and estimates a minimal participation of up to 180 participants over the 12 tours. The panel has concerns about the value this represents for the amount of funding requested.				
Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Glen Hegedus	Albany 2026 Mural Project	3.45 (69%)	\$50,000	\$50,000
Description:				
The project demonstrates strong alignment to the themes of Albany 2026. The applicant's demonstrated track record of delivering similar projects assures positive community outcomes, with the murals providing a legacy for Albany. With the delivery of the public murals over several weeks throughout 2026, the community can see these artworks slowly form and come to life, adding to the vibrancy of the 2026 programming and delighting visitors to the area. Initial scoping for mural sites has occurred by the applicant and they will work with the City to determine final mural locations. The applicant's pursuit of significant external funding enhances value for money for the City, resulting in three public artworks that will serve as dynamic attractions across the city, encouraging exploration and cultural engagement.				
Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
WA Model A Restorers Club	2026 National Model A Rally	2.6 (52%)	\$45,000	\$0
Description:				
The project concept may appeal to both locals and visitors; however, the applicant has not clearly demonstrated alignment with Albany 2026 themes and did not provide sufficiently detailed responses to several key criteria, resulting in the panel scoring of 52%. Additionally, the applicant has not provided evidence of capacity to deliver a project of this scale, presenting a potential risk to the City without further information. Should the applicant demonstrate a stronger ability to deliver similar events, this proposal may be better suited for alternative funding opportunities, such as the City's Regional Event Sponsorship program.				
Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Wagyl Kaip Southern Aboriginal Corporation	Binalup, Menang First light, First people	3.34 (66.8%)	\$30,000	\$26,148
Description:				
The project demonstrates strong alignment to the themes of Albany. Wagyl Kaip, Menang Elders, the Menang community and acclaimed portrait photographer Nic Duncan will collaborate to create a series of photographic portraits of Menang Elders and other key members of the Menang community to be exhibited (for one month) at the Albany Town Hall during Albany 2026. The exhibition would comprise the framed portraits with accompanying captions. Digital versions of the portraits would also be taken into local schools by Elders who would share the stories behind each portrait with the students. The applicant also aims to mentor a local Menang-Noongar person to help bring this project to fruition (if there is an interested community member). Photographer Nic Duncan has provided significant demonstrated experience with similar culturally significant projects. The project holds potential to create lasting legacy content that will support the preservation and celebration of Menang culture.				
Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Peter Morse	Numen	4.5 (90%)	\$50,000	\$50,000
Description:				

The project demonstrates strong alignment to the themes of Albany 2026, has scored highly across all criteria (90%), and addresses other important themes of multiculturalism, social inclusion, and diversity. The project is a multimedia, immersive song cycle exploring the changing climate and weather patterns of the Great Southern region (including Albany). Celebrating the Menang-Noongar language, the song cycle follows the six Noongar seasons. Each season explores a poetic vision of the Great Southern climate, from its origins in deep time, to the contemporary pressures of climate change and its projected evolution in the next 200 years. Created by locally based artist Peter Morse, this large-scale indoor projection work (venue TBC) will be available for approximately two weeks and will be accompanied by an original musical score by Perth based composer/musician Glenn Rogers. The project will utilise cutting-edge computer visualisation of climate and geological simulations, satellite data and high-definition videography. The content will not only explore Menang-Noongar language, but also the multicultural voices of the region, including English, Filipino, Afrikaans, German, Italian and others. The applicant estimates approximately 11,500 participants/attendees over the proposed two week. This innovative, immersive project promises a unique experience for both community members and visitors, presenting a creative exploration of place and its connection to communities over time. With the applicant's impressive experience, including work for the National Museum of Australia and MONA, there is high confidence in successful delivery. The project has the potential to achieve significant social and economic benefits for Albany and could attract national attention. The applicant has also noted that there is an opportunity to expand the project into a second phase, incorporating live musical performances alongside the digital work, pending the securing of external funding.

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Princess Royal Sailing Club	Princess Royal Sailing Club: Celebrating a Rich Maritime History	2.1 (42%)	\$38,771	\$0

Description:

The project proposes several components, including a regatta, a private function/dinner, a photo display and a sculpture exhibition, to be hosted throughout the month of March 2026. The applicant forecasts approximately 2,320 participants/attendees to be engaged via all aspects. The applicant provided minimal additional information to support the application and as a result it received low scores across all assessment criteria (42%) as it demonstrated limited alignment with Albany 2026 themes. While the concept of showcasing the sporting group's maritime history through audio, visual, and sculptural displays is of interest, the application lacked sufficient detail to recommend for funding through this program. Other funding opportunities may be more suitable.

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Southern Edge Arts	KAARLA WIRREN (Fire Spirit)	3.6 (72%)	\$50,000	\$27,000

Description:

The project demonstrates strong alignment to the themes of Albany 2026. This youth-centered initiative will offer educational opportunities and professional mentoring, equipping approximately 70 young participants with valuable skills through their involvement in a bespoke performance focussed on the theme of fire within a Noongar cultural narrative. The project's public outcome is a one-off performance for an audience of around 1,000 people. The project offers strong cultural and youth engagement benefits, but the anticipated public impact and scale of the event is low in comparison to the submitted budget.

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Surf Life Saving	Albany Surf Craft Challenge - Bicentennial Edition	2.8 (56%)	\$20,000	\$0

Description:

The project demonstrated minimal alignment to the themes of Albany 2026. While the proposal includes new elements, including a "Heritage Exhibition" and "Community Engagement Zone", the application did not strongly represent value for money and the scope remains heavily focused on annual club activities. This applicant may better align with the City's Regional Event Sponsorship or Event Funding programs as the event (without the two new components) is planned to proceed in Albany during 2026 regardless.

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts	The 'Imagine Songwriting' Program	3.3 (66%)	\$23,100	\$13,000

Description:

The project demonstrates strong alignment to the themes of Albany 2026, with the aim to share and capture local stories. It involves a 6-7 week educational/creative program for up to 20 local high school students who are interested in exploring/building

their musical and songwriting skills. The project focuses on upskilling and inspiring local youth to pursue further creative studies/careers. Collaborating with WAAPA students (studying Diploma of Music), these high school students will learn about the creative songwriting process and work towards the creation of new music aligning with the themes of Albany 2026. The new music created will be shared in a public concert to approximately 180 audience members. While the project is primarily focused on skill-building, there will be a small public event and there may be potential for live performances to feature in other City-led events.

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Albany ArtAbility	Tracey Margetts Wearable Art Workshops and Festival Events	2.1 (42%)	\$50,000	\$0

Description:

While the application outlines community engagement efforts and working with diverse communities, it received low scores across all assessment criteria (42%) due to insufficient detail and limited demonstrated capacity to deliver a project of this scale and has not been recommended for funding.

Applicant	Project Title	Criteria Scoring (/5)	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Wellstead Heritage and Historical Committee	Between the Mountain and the Sea - A History of Wellstead District	3.5 (70%)	\$49,995	\$25,000

Description:

The project aims to profile the human history of the lands between 'The Mountain & the Sea' and it will especially pay respect to Traditional Custodians & promote their long and ancient connection to the lands. The aim is to produce/deliver a 30–60-minute historic film capturing the human history of the area, a revised version of the Wellstead History Book, and a two-week exhibition at the Vancouver Arts Centre. The new historic film will be launched during 2025 (outside of the Albany 2026 period) and therefore has not been recommended to receive funding, however the public exhibition will be held in 2026. The project will highlight an area outside of the Albany CBD, expanding the reach and appeal of Albany 2026. The project aligns with the Albany 2026 themes, encouraging the local rural community to celebrate its unique history and deepen connections with the broader Albany area. The recommended funding is to support the public exhibition and film project components. The film production offers educational and cross-cultural value, providing a look at European and First Nations relationships in the region. The project's outcomes (including a film project) will present lasting resources for the community.

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC CONSULTATION

19. Not Applicable.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

20. Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

21. The Albany 2026 Community Sponsorship Program aligns with the City of Albany Sponsorship Policy & Guidelines.

RISK IDENTIFICATION & MITIGATION

22. The risk identification and categorisation relies on the City's Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Framework.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
<u>Reputation:</u> <i>Risk: Events that receive City of Albany funding do not proceed and this reflects negatively on the City.</i>	<i>Unlikely</i>	<i>Minor</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Recommendations are based on the information supplied and the funding criteria. All reasonable support will be provided to enable funded events to proceed.</i>
<u>Reputation:</u>	<i>Likely</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>A rigorous assessment process has been undertaken (against criteria the community set within the Albany 2026 Strategic</i>

Risk: Sections of the community oppose Council's support for events recommended for funding.				Plan) and recommendations made on merit. The events recommended for funding align with the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan, Community Development Strategy, and the Sponsorship Policy & Guidelines.
Reputation: Risk: Events that receive City of Albany funding do not align with the values and objectives of Albany 2026.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	A rigorous assessment process has been undertaken (against criteria the community set within the Albany 2026 Strategic Plan). The events recommended for funding will be required to report against key milestones, ensuring continued alignment with the Albany 2026 themes, values and objectives.
Community: Risk: Event or health and safety guidelines are not followed and increase the risk to public health and safety.	Possible	Major	High	Applicants will be conditioned to complete an event approval application in line with the City's event approval guidelines and be required to follow all other necessary approvals and processes relevant to their event or activity.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

23. Management and oversight of funding and event sponsorship is undertaken using existing staff resources within the Community Services business unit, within existing allocated budgets.
24. The recommended funding allocation totals for both funding streams (\$0k - \$10 and \$10k - \$50k) totals \$400,000. This is within the capacity of the allocation for the Albany 2026 Community Sponsorship Program in the current 2024-2025 Budget and is detailed in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Summary of funding recommended

FUNDING STREAM	TOTAL REQUESTED	TOTAL RECOMMENDED
\$0 - \$10k funding stream (approved under delegation)	\$36,384	\$16,500
\$10k - \$50k funding stream (recommended to Council)	\$698,953	\$383,500
TOTAL	\$735,337	\$400,000

25. Council is required to approve the recommended sponsorships (that are above administrative delegation) in the \$10k - \$50k funding stream.
26. Successful applicants will be issued funding contracts and conditions that include payment milestones and acquittal requirements.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

27. Nil.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

28. Any events/activities held in the public realm will be assessed and conditioned as required by the City's Environmental Health team as part of the event approval process.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

29. Council could make alternate recommendations for funding, including substitute dollar amounts for recommended applicants. This is not recommended given the rigorous assessment process. The applicants recommended for funding are eligible for Albany 2026 Community Sponsorship, and funding amounts have been recommended on merit against the criteria and information supplied.

CONCLUSION

30. Supporting events with sponsorship contributes to the economic, social, sporting, environmental and cultural development of Albany.

31. Providing sponsorship for these events supports the City's vision and Strategic Community Plan, the Albany 2026 Strategic Plan, and is consistent with the City's Sponsorship Policy & Guideline.
32. There are remaining opportunities for local community groups/organisations to be involved in Albany 2026, via the City's annual Regional Event Sponsorship and Event Funding programs and via an upcoming call out/expression of interest to organisations to promote existing activities.
33. There is likely to be additional demand on the Regional Event Sponsorship and Event Funding programs for 2026 and this will be discussed with Council as part of the annual budgeting processes for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.
34. The process for assessment of the applications for the 2026 Community Sponsorship is robust and equitable, and the funding recommendations are within the capacity of the Budget allocated for this purpose.
35. It is recommended that the Authorising Officer's recommendation be endorsed.

Consulted References	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City of Albany Sponsorship Policy & Guidelines• 2026 Community Sponsorship Program Under \$10k guidelines• 2026 Community Sponsorship Program Over \$10k guidelines• Bicentenary Strategic Plan
File Number	:	CR.SPO.85
Previous Reference	:	NA

CCS682: COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE 2025

Attachments : 2025 Council and Committee Meeting Schedule
Report Prepared By : Senior Team Leader
Authorising Officer: : Chief Executive Officer

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

- This item relates to the following elements of the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan or Corporate Business Plan informing plans or strategies:
 - Pillar:** 5. Leadership. A well-governed city that uses resources wisely to meet local needs.
 - Outcome:** 5.3 A well-informed and engaged community.

In Brief:

- Council is required to adopt the proposed Ordinary Council Meeting and Committee Schedule for 2025, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and associated regulations.

RECOMMENDATION

CCS682: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: COUNCILLOR MACLAREN
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MCKINLEY

THAT the Authorising Officer Recommendation be ADOPTED.

CARRIED 8-0

CCS682: AUTHORISING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council, for the purpose of giving Public Notice:

- APPROVE the following Committee Meeting Schedule for 2025:

Community & Corporate Services Committee	Development & Infrastructure Services Committee
<i>No meetings scheduled for January 2025</i>	
Tuesday 11 February 2025	Wednesday 12 February 2025
Tuesday 11 March 2025	Wednesday 12 March 2025
Tuesday 08 April 2025	Wednesday 09 April 2025
Tuesday 13 May 2025	Wednesday 14 May 2025
Tuesday 10 June 2025	Wednesday 11 June 2025
Tuesday 08 July 2025	Wednesday 09 July 2025
Tuesday 12 August 2025	Wednesday 13 August 2025
Tuesday 09 September 2025	Wednesday 10 September 2025
Tuesday 07 October 2025	Wednesday 08 October 2025
Tuesday 11 November 2025	Wednesday 12 November 2025
Tuesday 02 December 2025	Wednesday 03 December 2025

- APPROVE the proposed Ordinary Council Meeting Schedule for 2025:

- Tuesday 25 February 2025
- Tuesday 25 March 2025
- Tuesday 22 April 2025

- Tuesday 27 May 2025
- Tuesday 24 June 2025
- Tuesday 22 July 2025
- Tuesday 26 August 2025
- Tuesday 23 September 2025
- Tuesday 28 October 2025
- Tuesday 25 November 2025
- Tuesday 16 December 2025

BACKGROUND

2. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, local public notice must be given at least once per year detailing when Council and Committee meetings which are open to the public will be held, including the date, the time and the place of those meetings.
3. Ordinary Council Meetings are held monthly, except for January when there are no scheduled meetings.

DISCUSSION

4. Meetings of Council which are open to the public commence at 6.00pm in order to facilitate attendance by members of the public and elected members.
5. Council may choose to undertake a review of the frequency and start time of meetings before setting the meeting dates and times for 2025.
6. Council may also wish to review the distribution date of agendas for Council and Committee Meetings. Currently the agenda for Ordinary Council Meetings is distributed on the third Tuesday of each month (except January when there are no scheduled meetings).

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC CONSULTATION

7. The start time of Council and Committee meetings considers previous public feedback.
8. Community feedback has confirmed that a start time of 6.00pm of those meetings open to the public enables attendance by members of the public.
9. Council may choose to consult with the community to determine if there is a strong desire to change the start time.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

10. The *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* section 12(2) states that:
*“The CEO must publish on the local government’s official website the meeting details for the following meetings before the beginning of the year in which the meetings are to be held – Ordinary Council Meetings; and
Committee Meetings that are required under the Act to be open to members of the public or that are proposed to be open to members of the public.”*
11. Any change to the advertised meeting schedule must be published on the City’s website as soon as practicable after the change is made.

Special Council Meetings

12. Section 12 (4) of the Regulations provides that if a Special Council Meeting is open to the public, the CEO must publish the meeting details, including the purpose of the meeting, on the City’s website as soon as practicable after the decision is made to hold a Special Council Meeting.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

13. Nil.

RISK IDENTIFICATION & MITIGATION

14. The risk identification and categorisation relies on the City's Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Framework.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
Business Operation, Reputation & Financial. Risk: The proposed meeting schedule is not adopted, and local public notice is not given of the dates and times of meetings prior to 01 January 2025.	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	Staff will work with Council to develop a meeting schedule which complies with legislative requirements and meets Council's expectations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no financial implications related to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no legal implications related to this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

17. There are no environmental considerations related to this report.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

18. Council may:

- Choose to adopt the proposed 2025 meeting schedule or:
- Propose a different meeting schedule which is in accordance with the provisions of relevant legislation

Consulted References	:	Local Government Act 1995 Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996
File Number	:	N/A
Previous Reference	:	Report Item CCS586 OCM 19/12/2023

CCS683: TASTE GREAT SOUTHERN EVENT AGREEMENT

Business Entity Name	: Ahoy Management
Attachments	: Taste Great Southern 2025 Partner Proposal
Report Prepared By	: Executive Director Community Services
Authorising Officer:	: Executive Director Community Services

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

1. This item relates to the following elements of the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan or Corporate Business Plan informing plans or strategies:
 - **Pillar:** Prosperity.
 - **Outcome:** A highly sought-after tourism destination.

In Brief:

- The Taste Great Southern festival seeks to promote the Great Southern region through culinary and cultural events in Albany, Denmark, and surrounding areas that attract visitors, highlight local produce, and foster community pride.
- This report seeks Council's consideration of a request for a 3-year sponsorship agreement for Taste Great Southern.

RECOMMENDATION

CCS683: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: COUNCILLOR SUTTON
SECONDED: DEPUTY MAYOR TERRY

THAT the Authorising Officer Recommendation be ADOPTED.

CARRIED 8-0

CCS683: AUTHORISING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council AUTHORISE the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a sponsorship agreement with Ahoy Management for the Taste Great Southern Festival for a period of no more than 3 years with a cash contribution of \$20,000 annually.

BACKGROUND

2. Taste Great Southern is an annual culinary and cultural event held in Albany celebrating the region's exceptional produce, wine, and culinary expertise. The event showcases the talents of local chefs, winemakers, brewers, and producers, alongside cultural and entertainment activities.
3. The festival is usually held over a period of 10 days, usually in early May and in 2024, the festival hosted 43 internal events with attendance of 2,665 people.
4. In 2024 the festival celebrated its 20th anniversary in the region.
5. Ownership of the festival was previously with Great Southern Tourism Events Inc, and management of the festival was contracted to CMS Events until 2024.
6. The festival's ownership has now been transferred to Australia's South West and Ahoy Management have been contracted to continue to deliver the festival.
7. Ahoy Management is based in Perth and Margaret River and is an event management company specialising in community-focused festivals, producing events like the Cabin Fever Festival (a celebration of food, drink, and winter festivities in Margaret River), the Fine

Vines Festival (highlighting the region's renowned wine offerings), and Subi Spritz (a European-inspired festival in Subiaco).

8. The City of Albany has been an annual sponsor of the Taste Great Southern Festival and Ahoy Management is requesting the City to continue this support.

DISCUSSION

9. Ahoy Management has provided a sponsorship proposal for Taste Great Southern which is provided as an attachment to this report.
10. The proposal outlines a reimagined festival designed to showcase the Great Southern's cultural heritage, premium produce, and natural beauty.
11. The event aims to boost visitor numbers during non-peak times, elevate the region's image, strengthen community relationships, and collaborate with local stakeholders.
12. There will be a focus on targeting high-value travellers to the region.
13. In 2025 the festival is proposed to be held from May 1 to May 5. Albany and Denmark will be the main hubs of the festival, with activities spanning across the wider region.
14. A launch event is planned to be held in Perth and the Great Southern region.
15. The program will involve curated collaborations with local businesses, including masterclasses and workshops, offer premium consumer experiences, and interactive and engaging activities in key towns.
16. The City has also been asked to consider some in-kind sponsorship in addition to the cash contribution. The level of in-kind support requested was not previously provided to Taste Great Southern.
17. The sponsorship proposal outlines a number of partnership benefits for the City of Albany's sponsorship. This includes marketing exposure and partner recognition across campaign materials and social media, and recognition as a partner at events throughout the festival.
18. Australia's South West and Ahoy have secured a 3-year funding partnership with Tourism WA.
19. Ahoy is seeking a 3-year sponsorship agreement with the City of Albany to align with the Tourism WA funding period.
20. While the City of Albany administers a Regional Event Sponsorship Fund annually to attract and support regional events, there are a number of historic, established or iconic events that Council chooses to support within the Annual Budget each year.
21. Taste Great Southern has traditionally been one of those events, including Anzac Day, the Albany Show, Albany Car Classic, and Albany Film Festival.

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC CONSULTATION

22. Nil.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

23. Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

24. The sponsorship agreement aligns with the Council's Sponsorship Policy position.

RISK IDENTIFICATION & MITIGATION

25. The risk identification and categorisation relies on the City's Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Framework.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
Reputation Risk: Taste Great Southern receives no sponsorship from local government and this impacts the capacity to revitalise and grow this regional event.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Continue the City of Albany's history of sponsoring Taste Great Southern and enter a multi-year agreement to provide certainty and capacity to deliver on the vision for the festival.
Reputation Risk: Local stakeholder expectations for the festival are not met.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Support Australia's South West and Ahoy to promote the vision for the festival and enhance engagement with local stakeholders.
Community: Risk: Event or health and safety guidelines are not followed and increase the risk to public health and safety.	Possible	Major	High	Applicants will be conditioned to complete an event approval application in line with the City's event approval guidelines and be required to follow all other necessary approvals and processes relevant to their event or activity.
Opportunity: To promote the region's rich and high-quality produce and provenance and engage the hospitality industry in a regional festival that showcases the best of the Great Southern and further builds Albany's reputation as a visitor destination.				

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

26. Council has budget capacity to consider the cash sponsorship requested. Current budget allocations for this purpose are:
- \$20,000 is allocated in the 2024-2025 Budget for sponsorship of the Taste Great Southern Festival; and
 - An annual contribution of \$20,000 for Taste Great Southern is also already included within the Long-Term Financial Plan for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.
27. As there is already an approved budget expense for sponsorship of the Taste Great Southern festival, officers could have approved a one-year sponsorship agreement under delegation, however Ahoy's request for a three-year sponsorship agreement exceeds our delegated authority and requires a decision of Council.
28. In addition to the cash sponsorship, Ahoy Management has requested some in-kind support. The level of in-kind support requested has not previously been provided to Taste Great Southern.
29. The requested in-kind support is as follows:
- Waiving of event application fees:
The fee for an event application is currently \$380 and a waiver of this fee can be considered under delegation on request. This has been done previously for Taste Great Southern.
 - Waiving of venue hire fees if owned by the City
This could represent a substantial but as yet unknown additional sponsorship cost as the venues are not identified. This has not previously been provided to Taste Great Southern and is not recommended as this same support is not provided to other similar City-sponsored events.

- Waiving of bin hire fees for pop-up market

Bin hire is currently provided by Cleanaway and represents a real cash cost to the City. Although the cost would be minimal, it is recommended that Ahoy arrange this directly with the relevant waste contractor at the time of the event.

30. Officers recommend Council consider approving a 3-year cash sponsorship agreement only with the waiver of event application fees to be considered under delegation.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

31. Nil.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

32. Nil.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

33. Council may choose to alter the amount of sponsorship recommended for approval or choose not to approve sponsorship.

CONCLUSION

34. Taste Great Southern festival is now under new ownership and delivery management with a strong focus on reinvigorating the event, rebuilding local relationships and attracting and growing visitation to the region.
35. The City of Albany has been a long-time sponsor of Taste Great Southern and the new festival manager is seeking the City's continued support.
36. The request for a three-year sponsorship agreement would align with the term of the Tourism WA sponsorship contract for the festival.
37. The City has budget capacity to provide the amount of cash sponsorship requested.
38. Officers are recommending Council support this proposal.

Consulted References	:	City of Albany Sponsorship Policy Taste Great Southern 2025 Partner Proposal
File Number	:	CR.SPO.79
Previous Reference	:	N/A

11. MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN – Nil.

12. MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

13. CLOSURE There being no further business the Deputy Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.12pm.

(Unconfirmed Minutes)

Councillor Stephen Grimmer
DEPUTY CHAIR