

13 March 2025

Our Ref: 25/79886

Director, Public Accountability and Works Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Via email: PAWC@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Inquiry into Integrity, efficacy, and value for money of the Local Small Commitments Allocation process – Post hearing responses

Please find below Bayside Council's response to the Questions on Notice. There are no transcript corrections.

Question 1

The CHAIR: Are you able to take on notice when you first knew about that? On 1 October 2024 Minister Hocnig posted a picture of himself handing a novelty cheque to Bayside Council for \$400,000, and he talks about how he secured that amount for the park. I am very interested in knowing at what point the council was told about that amount, and if there's any insight you can give around that process at the time.

Answer 1: Council first became aware of the Local Small Commitments Allocation program via email from the Local Small Commitments Allocation Program Office/Community Engagement Group/NSW Premier's Department on 6/10/23.

Council received an additional email from NSW Premier's Department on 21/11/23 citing two project numbers including project number LSCA356 - \$400,000 to upgrade *L'Estrange Park* playground in Bayside Council.

Please refer Appendix A for a timeline of events relating to all projects
Please refer Appendix B & C for an excerpt of emails cited above

Postal address
PO Box 21, Rockdale NSW 2216
ABN 80 690 785 443

Bayside Customer Service Centres
Rockdale Library, 444-446 Princes Highway, Rockdale
Westfield Eastgardens, 152 Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens

E council@bayside.nsw.gov.au
W www.bayside.nsw.gov.au
T 1300 581 299 | 02 9562 1666

Question 2

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: On notice, is it possible for council to just give us a brief chronology of the steps that led to the \$128,000 at Booralee Park and the \$76,000 at King Street Mall, given that they weren't in the advance works program, unlike L' Estrange Park? Most of us here have been in local government. I can understand L' Estrange Park. That's an easy one—400 grand. Also on notice, is there any way the council had any awareness—prior to the election, was there material distributed by Mr Hoenig around the vicinity of L' Estrange Park to say, "If you vote for me, you'll get a big park upgrade", which is what I think any candidate would logically do in that circumstance?

Booralee Park: Council first became aware of Local Small Commitments Allocation funding opportunity for *Booralee Park* via email from Local Small Commitments Allocation Program Office/Community Engagement Group/NSW Premier's Department in November 2023.

Shortly thereafter Council reached out to the NSW Premier's Department who responded on 22/11/23 outlining next steps for the grant submission.

Council wrote to the Member for Maroubra providing details on *Booralee Park* playground upgrades on 21/2/24 and received a letter of support from the Member for Maroubra on 3/5/24. Council uploaded its submission for this project on 7/6/24 and received confirmation that the project application was successful on 5/9/24.

Please refer Appendix D for an excerpt of email cited above

King Street Mall Playground: Council first became aware of Local Small Commitments Allocation funding opportunity for *King Street Mall Playground* via email from Local Small Commitments Allocation Program Office/Community Engagement Group/NSW Premier's Department on 12/11/2024. Council uploaded its submission for this project on 20/1/25 and received confirmation that the project application was successful on 10/3/25.

Please refer Appendix E for an excerpt of email cited above

Question 3

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE: May I ask a similar question, please, taken on notice. In the two years prior to the election, I presume that council received government funding for parks and reserves. Can you provide us with a list of that funding, please?

Appendix F details Council grant funding received for parks, reserves and playground upgrades for the calendar years 2021 and 2022.

I hope that this satisfactorily answers the Public Accountability and Works Committee's questions. Please do not hesitate to contact Bayside Council if you require further information or clarification.

Sincerely

Meredith Wallace
General Manager

APPENDIX A
Timeline of Events

	Booralee Park	Anti-hoon Noise cameras	King St Mall Playground	L'Estrange Park
Overarching Notification of Program Opportunity	6-Oct-23	6-Oct-23	12-Nov-24	6-Oct-23
Notification of Individual Projects	22-Nov-23	21-Nov-23	12-Nov-24	21-Nov-23
Council Wrote to MP	21-Feb-24	Project formally withdrawn via email from Bayside Council to NSW Premier's Dept on 3-May-24	N/A	N/A
Letter of Support received from MP	3-May-24		N/A	N/A
Upload submission via grant portal	7-Jun-24		20-Jan-25	13-Jun-24
Confirmation of successful application	5-Sep-24		10-Mar-25	5-Sep-24

APPENDIX B

Email notification received by Bayside Council regarding Local Small Commitments Allocation Program

From: Local Small Commitments Allocation
<lsc@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2023 4:30 PM
To: Bayside Council
Subject: NSW Government's Local Small Commitments Allocation Program –
Playground and Park Upgrades - ATTENTION General Manager/ CEO
Attachments: LSCA Letter - From Executive Director LSCA PO to Bayside Council.pdf

Dear Ms Wallace,

I am pleased to advise that your council will be receiving funds as part of the NSW Government's Local Small Commitment Allocation Program, to be used towards the upgrades of playgrounds and parks.

Please find attached a letter outlining the next steps you will need to undertake to receive the funding.

If you have any questions, please contact the LSCA Program Office at (02) 9228 5260 or reply to this email.

Kind regards

Alison Morgan
Executive Director
Local Small Commitments Allocation Program Office
Community Engagement Group
NSW Premier's Department

Level 10
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000



APPENDIX C

Email received by Bayside Council regarding L'Estrange Park

OFFICIAL

From: Ann Lewis
Sent: Tuesday, 21 November 2023 8:31 AM
To: ceo@bayside.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Lorraine Olmedo
Meredith Wallace
Subject: Bayside Council - LSCA174 & LSCA356 - Local Small Commitments Allocation Program access to SmartyGrants

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [important](#) [Learn why this is important](#)

OFFICIAL

Dear Recipient

- **LSCA174 - \$80,000 to Bayside Council towards a trial of anti-hoon noise cameras to crack down on excessive hooning noise pollution in Rockdale**

8

- **LSCA356 - \$400,000 to upgrade L'Estrange Park playground in Bayside Council**

We understand you may not have received our original email regarding your organisation being nominated by the NSW Government to make a grant funding submission under the Local Small Commitments Allocation (LSCA) Program. Further details on the LSCA Program are in the attached guideline. We encourage you to read the guideline before you start to complete your Project Details Form as it may address some of the issues you may encounter in the Form. The Form will ask you to provide details about the nature of your project, including what the main deliverables are, the key beneficiaries and the timeframe for completing the project.

Also attached is an email that was sent to organisations who participated in the online information sessions in August. There are links for you to review the recordings of these sessions and further details which may assist you in completing the Project Details Form.

To complete your submission, you will need to log into the NSW Government's grants management platform, **SmartyGrants**, to access the Project Details Form. The user name for Bayside Council projects:

- **LSCA174** - Lorraine Olmedo -
- **LSCA356** - Meredith Wallace -

You will need to use these email addresses to access the project details in SmartyGrants however this can be changed if this email address is no longer current or accessible. **Please contact me if you would like this changed.**

- Go to this website: <https://lscasmartygrants.com.au/>
- Click on **log in** (top right hand corner of the page)
- **Login** with existing details or **Register** if you are new to SmartyGrants
- Click on **My Submissions** at the top of the page

APPENDIX D

Email received by Bayside Council regarding Booralee Park

OFFICIAL

From: Ann Lewis
Sent: Wednesday, 22 November 2023 4:36 PM
To: GM Office <GM.Office@bayside.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Louise Sunderland
Subject: RE: Bayside Council - LSCA174 & LSCA356- Local Small Commitments Allocation Program - access to SmartyGrants

OFFICIAL

Dear Samantha

Thanks for your email.

I will action the change of user name for LSCA174 and 356. Could you let me know what **name will be associated with the email address** for gm.office@bayside.nsw.gov.au

The key dates were a guide for when the LSCA Program commenced. There is no hard end date however projects for this grant program will need to have their funding agreements executed by June 30, 2024 and be delivered with 2 years from execution of the funding agreement.

In relation to the LSCA Playground and Park upgrades, the attached letter which you received, outlines the next steps. We have not yet received the details for the project/s Bayside Council plan to deliver and the project contact details.

Next Steps

- Please reach out to the Member for Maroubra to arrange a meeting.
- **Once council has determined the project(s)** you wish to submit for funding please email the LSCA Program Office (lscap@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au) and **provide them with the name and email contact of the project lead officer**, and the number and titles of the project(s) you wish to submit for assessment.
- Your nominated officer will receive an email from SmartyGrants with login access details and prompts to complete a Project Details Form for each project(s).
- We encourage you to read the attached LSCA Guideline before you

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further assistance.

Kind regards

Ann Lewis

Senior Program Officer

Local Small Commitments Allocation Program

Premier's Department

APPENDIX E

Emails received by Bayside Council relating to King Street Mall Playground

From: Local Small Commitments Allocation
<lsc@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 November 2024 3:58 PM
To: Bayside Council
Cc: GM Office
Subject: CM:24/335106 Local Small Commitments Allocation Program –
Playground and Park Upgrades - Bayside Council
Attachments: LSCA Residual Round Letter - From LSCA PO to Councils - Playground
and Park Upgrades -Bayside.pdf
Categories: Grant Submissions

OFFICIAL

Dear Ms Wallace,

I am pleased to advise that your council has been allocated additional funding as part of the NSW Government's Local Small Commitment Allocation Program, to be used towards the upgrades of playgrounds and parks.

Please find a letter attached outlining the next steps associated with receiving the funding.

If you have any questions, please contact the LSCA Program Office at (02) 9228 5260 or reply to this email.

Kind regards

Alison Morgan

Executive Director

Local Small Commitments Allocation Program Office

Community Engagement Group

NSW Premier's Department

OFFICIAL

Premier's Department



Ref: A6239348
12 November 2024

Ms Meredith Wallace
General Manager Bayside Council
council@bayside.nsw.gov.au

Re: Local Small Commitments Allocation - Playground and Park Upgrades

Dear Ms Wallace,

I am pleased to offer Bayside Council the opportunity to apply for grant funding as part of the NSW Government's Local Small Commitment Allocation (LSCA) Program.

The LSCA Program is a \$37.2 million grants program, managed by the NSW Government, that will deliver \$400,000 to each of the 93 NSW electorates, providing benefits to local communities through a range of projects.

As part of the LSCA Program, Bayside Council is invited to apply for the LSCA funding amount shown in the following electorates:

Funding Amount	Electorate where funds must be spent	Member of Parliament
\$75,200.00	Rockdale	The Hon. Stephen Kemper MP
\$75,200.00		

The application must be used to:

- increase the value of an **existing** LSCA grant for a playground and park upgrade project
- AND/OR
- apply for a **new** LSCA grant to deliver a playground and park upgrade project.

Your local Member(s) of Parliament (MP) has been informed of this LSCA funding allocation.

OFFICIAL

APPENDIX F - Table of Grant funding received by Bayside Council for upgrades of parks and playgrounds for the calendar years 2021 – 2022

Playgrounds, Parks and Reserves

			Jan 2021 - Dec 2022
Project Name	Grant Program	Location	Grant Funding for the Period
			\$ 614,400
Playspace Renewal - Peter Depena Reserve Dolls Point	Everyone Can Play Program	Peter Depena Reserve, Dolls Point	\$ 300,000
Playspace Renewal - Todd Reserve, Mascot	Everyone Can Play Program	Todd Reserve, Mascot	\$ 200,000
Playspace Shade Improvement - Studdert Reserve	Everyone Can Play Program	Studdert Reserve	\$ 114 400
			\$ 4,731,807
Barton Park Open Space and Recreation Renewal	Accelerated Infrastructure Fund/Multi-sport Community Facility Fund 2021/2022/NSW Public Legacy Program	Barton Park	\$ 2,825,000
Sir Joseph Banks Park Upgrade	NSW Public Legacy Program, Places to Play,	Sir Joseph Banks Park	\$ 1,375,000
Foolbridge Barton Park Replacement	Crown Reserve Improvement Fund	Barton Park	\$ 272,727
Scarborough Park Tennis Courts – Detailed assessment	Multi-sport Community Facility Fund 2021/2022	Scarborough Park	\$ 100,000
Wolli Creek Regional Park & Bardwell Valley Parklands	Metropolitan Greenspace Program	Wolli Creek Regional Park & Bardwell Valley Parklands	\$ 100,000
Central Scarborough Park Rehabilitation - Biodiversity Prog	Restoration of Aquatic Endangered Ecological Communities	Central Scarborough Park	\$ 20,000
Sir Joseph Banks Park - Removal of weeds/restore bushland	Crown Reserve Improvement Fund	Sir Joseph Banks Park	\$ 17,080
Revitalising Sir Joseph Banks Park	My Community Project	Sir Joseph Banks Park	\$ 12,000
Scott Park - Removal of high priority weeds	Coastal and Estuary Program	Scott Park	\$ 10 000
			\$ 28,000
Tonbridge Reserve Cricket Net Renewal	Community Facilities Grant	Tonbridge Reserve	\$ 18,000
Jack Munday Reserve Eastlakes Signage	Community Building Partnership	Jack Munday Reserve Eastlakes	\$ 10,000