

Submission
No 10

**INQUIRY INTO INTEGRITY, EFFICACY, AND VALUE FOR
MONEY OF THE LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS
ALLOCATION PROCESS**

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 24 January 2025

Partially
Confidential

Hi Abigail,

This submission seeks to address the Term of Reference item 1 (a) the range and availability of funding under the program, and (b) the role and interaction of the Premier's Department and other agencies in the process, assessment, and facilitation of grants.

The Hills Shire Council is located approximately 30 km from the Sydney CBD. Known for its vibrant community and picturesque landscapes, The Hills Shire encompasses a diverse mix of urban and rural areas, offering a unique blend of modern living and natural beauty.

As of June 2023, The Hills Shire has an estimated population of 207,959. Council is dedicated to providing high-quality services and facilities to its residents, fostering a strong sense of community and promoting sustainable development. With a focus on innovation and growth, The Hills Shire Council supports a thriving local economy and is committed to enhancing the quality of life for its residents.

The Hills Shire Council received grant funding from the Local Small Contributions Allocation for several projects, including:

- **Castle Hill:** Installation of drinking fountains at George Thornton Reserve (\$25,000), seating in The Long Hut at Castle Hill Heritage Park (\$50,000), refurbishment of the well at Castle Hill Heritage Park (\$150,000), lighting for the radio control cars racing track at Fred Catterson Reserve (\$80,000), upgrading the irrigation bore at Kenthurst Park (\$40,000), and improving accessibility to AH Whaling Reserve Playground (\$23,500).
- **Kellyville:** Completion of the cycleway loop at Arnold Avenue Sports Complex (\$100,000), installation of seating near the dam and off-leash areas at Bernie Mullane Sports Complex (\$40,000), installation of a basketball practice ring at William Harvey Reserve (\$140,000), and renewal of athletic facilities at Gooden Drive Reserve (\$120,000).
- **Winston Hills:** Installation of seating and tree planting at Bundara Way Reserve (\$1,870).

The program has been well received by Council staff and the selection of projects have enhanced our community infrastructure in parks and reserves. I would support the expansion of this grant to continue to support the local community with necessary infrastructure.

The administration of the program through the SmartyGrants system has been straightforward, the project delivery deadlines from funding agreement execution are adequate, the support provided by the Premier's Department has been satisfactory.

Regards