



November 2025

Public exhibition of the DRAFT
COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY:
Community Engagement Report

Engagement overview

Wyndham City is reviewing its Community Grants & Subsidies Policy to ensure it reflects community needs, good governance, and best practice.

The draft Policy sets out how Council supports local community groups, organisations, and initiatives through grant funding. It provides the framework for how decisions are made, who can apply, and the principles that guide the program.

This engagement process sought to hear from community members, local groups, and organisations about whether the Draft Policy is clear, accessible, and works for them.

This consultation was open for 28 days from 29 October to 26 November 2025. Feedback may help shape the final Policy before it goes to Council for endorsement in early 2026.

A project page on The Loop was established with an online survey as the primary form of engagement. There were 13 responses to the survey. For a full breakdown of who we heard from, see Appendix 1 at the end of this report.

Overall, the comments highlight concerns about fairness, transparency and integrity in the grants process. This includes perceptions of loopholes, misuse, or political influence. Respondents also describe challenges with administrative burden and rigid criteria, particularly for small volunteer groups. There is a call for clearer rules, stronger oversight, and a more balanced, practical and trust-based approach to funding. Appendix 2 provides all comments received (deidentified).

How did the community get involved?

The below tables outline the ways we engaged with the community and the activities undertaken to promote the engagement.

	13 survey contributions		560 page views on The Loop page
	2 direct emails		489 total visitors to The Loop page

Online promotion	4 promotions of this engagement were run via social media. These included a mix of paid and organic advertisements. - Total reach: 29 982 - Total engagement: 571
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What did we hear?

The below highlights the feedback received **via The Loop online survey** during the engagement process.

Question 1: Do you think the Draft Policy provides fair and transparent processes for community groups and organisations?



Yes – 46.15% (6 responses)



No – 53.85% (7 responses)

Question 2: Provide your feedback on the draft Policy here

Theme	Percent	Count
Theme 1: Fairness, transparency and integrity of grants process	58.3%	7
Theme 2: Administrative burden & practical challenges for applicants	58.3%	7
Theme 3: Misuse of funding / concerns about equity between groups	25%	3
Theme 4: Other / unrelated comments	33.4%	5

Next steps

Feedback gathered from the engagement process will be combined with other data and inputs to finalise the Policy. It will be presented to Council for potential adoption in early 2026.

Appendix 1: Who did we hear from?

The below highlights who we heard from during our engagement via The Loop survey.

Age Group	%	Count
Under 12	0%	0
12-17	0%	0
18-24	0%	0
25-34	0%	0
35-44	23.08%	3
45-54	7.69%	1
55-64	23.08%	3
65+	46.15%	6
Total	100%	13

Gender	%	Count
Female	38.46%	5
Male	61.54%	8
Prefer not to say	0%	0
Total	100%	13

Language	%	Count
English	100%	12
Mandarin	8.33%	1
Urdu	8.33%	1

Suburb	%	Count
Hoppers Crossing	7.69%	1
Point Cook	15.38%	2
Tarneit	23.08%	3
Truganina	15.38 %	2
Werribee	23.08%	3
Wyndham Vale	7.69%	1
Outside Wyndham	7.69%	1
Total	100%	13

Identity	Yes %	Yes count
A person living with disability and/or someone caring for a person living with disability	33.33%	4
An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person	0%	0
A person who identifies as LGBTQIA	8.33%	1

Appendix 2: Feedback from engagement

Below is the feedback received from question 2 from the survey: Provide your feedback on the Policy here: There were 12 responses.

I am a member of a Werribee not-for-profit group, but I do not live in Wyndham. A few areas are ambiguous in the requirements and what is actually required - being able to make relevant replies within the application without repetition can be a challenge.
Some community is taking advantage of making too many small groups and making money at the cost of taxpayers' money. City council should reduce the yearly rate and reduce the spending spree in the name of community development.
Home work and clear understanding of rules and who to give funding. In a way that no one is left behind. eventually everyone mostly get it
The draft policy is fine. However in the past there were loopholes that some organisations could apply for a grant without any written consent from the other party. And due to this some larger organisations were using smaller organisations for their advantage sometimes even without their full knowledge.
It is a typical policy of this kind
Being fair and transparent is of course vital but I find it can be over cumbersome and puts too much weight on the applicants, and also the grants team. I used to work in quality assurance in health and not everything could be or should be checked, otherwise the burden of resources is weighted too heavily on the QA persons rather than the practitioners. A couple of points is - always keeping in mind was the project carried over all as planned, were funds spent fairly. I don't think it really matters if e.g. they spend a bit more on wooden material but a bit less on fabric. The process of applying, waiting for outcome and the actual timeline of actually spending funds can be many months even over a year, so many well researched but best guess allocations are made. Earning trust from previous grants should be a factor taken into account. independent small groups that are clearly doing great things for the Wyndham community will always need support. Whether it's space or funds. The acquittal is important of course. But many hours can be spent scanning receipts of a lot of small items which would be challenging for many. Probably even more important is for the grants team seeing the outcome if possible. Also take into account that sometimes a group that is based in, works, supports, networks in Wyndham - needs to take a project OUT of Wyndham to improve their skills, use a resource that is simply not available in Wyndham and also to gain credibility - all of which ultimately comes back to the Wyndham community. Also can Council ensure final part of grant is given to applicant within max four weeks of acquittal completion. Given that all funds have been spent and much from the group's own sources - small groups rarely have other buckets of funds to tap into, to pay suppliers so waiting is very stressful for the applicant and supplier. I think the Grants Team work really hard and have supported many great projects and groups, I'm just trying to suggest balance and done flexibility when things are beyond our control and we are trying so hard to do everything right.
To have 22% of grants funding being awarded to organizations associated with sitting councilors seems very excessive. Even when said councilors have disclosed a conflict of interest, how can this be a fair and transparent process when we have a recorded patterned behavior of 6 councilors block voting together on the majority of votes.
The draft policy complies with all government policies and conditions. This survey asks questions referring to indigenous, disabled and LGB, etc. but does not mention white heterosexual married couples
we pay enough rates every year so funding should never be an issue if the stop funding overseas wars!
The eligibility criteria that currently prevents NFP applying for Wyndham Council large grant in situations where any Board Member's is remunerated is prohibitive given the nature of work and contribution to community benefits these organisations can provide. It is worth noting that if directors take up the provision to be paid, the contribution it is usually tokenistic, however the wording of the criteria is a definite exemption.
I'd like to see an aquatic centre cater for our community and community hub for different sports, youth activities, community support and tourism. How do we get government funding? There's a housing shortage and we are the fastest growing region in Victoria!!
we need an indoor heated public pool and gym in Truganina ok!
You have already decided what you are going to do, this is just a scam