



City of
Ipswich

AGENDA

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 18 November 2025

10 minutes after the conclusion of the Community and Sport Committee or
such later time as determined by the preceding committee

Council Chambers, Level 8
1 Nicholas Street, Ipswich

<u>MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</u>	
Councillor Pye Augustine (Chairperson) Councillor Marnie Doyle (Deputy Chairperson)	Mayor Teresa Harding Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic Councillor Jacob Madsen Councillor Andrew Antonioli Councillor David Martin Councillor Jim Madden

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

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** Item includes confidential papers

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO. 2025(10)

18 NOVEMBER 2025

AGENDA

WELCOME TO COUNTRY OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO. 2025(09) OF 14 OCTOBER 2025**

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Economic and Cultural Development Committee held on 14 October 2025 be confirmed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE POLICY**

This report outlines the proposed update of the Economic Development Incentive Policy, which will replace the existing 2015 policy.

The updated policy provides a more contemporary framework to attract and support new investment opportunities in the city - it ensures we have the right mechanisms in place to encourage significant, high-value projects that contribute to economic growth in line with our strategic goals.

RECOMMENDATION

That the revised Economic Development Incentive Policy, outlined in Attachment 3, be adopted.

3. 2025 CHRISTMAS IN IPSWICH PROGRAM PREVIEW

This is a report concerning the 2025 Christmas in Ipswich program of events including council-produced, community and carol events as well as markets and retail activations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report outlining the 2025 Christmas in Ipswich Program be received and the contents noted.

4. 2024-2025 COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT CARD - ARTS AND CULTURE

This is a report concerning the 2024-2025 Community and Cultural Services Report Card - Arts and Culture.

Attachment 1 presents the 2024-2025 Community and Cultural Services Report Card – Arts and Culture highlighting the goals, achievements and key deliverables for the 2024-2025 financial year.

It identifies the cohesive and collegiate approach undertaken by Ipswich City Council to deliver great outcomes for our community.

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2024-2025 Community and Cultural Services Report Card – Arts and Culture be received and the contents noted.

5. REPORT - ADVOCACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(03) OF 15 OCTOBER 2025

This is the report of the Advocacy Advisory Committee No. 2025(03) of 15 October 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the recommendations of the Advocacy Advisory Committee No. 2025(03) of 15 October 2025.

6. **NICHOLAS STREET PRECINCT - OCTOBER 2025 NICHOLAS STREET PRECINCT PROJECT CONTROL GROUP

This is a report concerning the October 2025 Nicholas Street Precinct (NSP) Project Control Group (PCG) meeting focussing on the status of the leasing program and the planning, development, delivery and ongoing management of the NSP.

RECOMMENDATION

That the October 2025 Nicholas Street Precinct Project Control Group Report be received and the contents noted.

NOTICES OF MOTION

MATTERS ARISING

QUESTIONS / GENERAL BUSINESS

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO. 2025(09)

14 OCTOBER 2025

MINUTES

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Pye Augustine (Chairperson); Councillors Marnie Doyle (Deputy Chairperson), Mayor Teresa Harding, David Martin, Jim Madden and Andrew Antoniolli

COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES:

Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic and Councillor Jacob Madsen

OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer (Sonia Cooper), General Manager Community, Cultural and Economic Development (Ben Pole), General Manager Environment and Sustainability (Kaye Cavanagh), General Manager Planning and Regulatory Services (Brett Davey), General Manager Corporate Services (Matt Smith), Manager Marketing and Promotions (Carly Gregory), Manager Media, Communications and Engagement (Mark Strong), Chief of Staff – Office of the Mayor (Melissa Fitzgerald), Director Ipswich Art Gallery (Clair Sourgnes), Senior Communication and Policy Officer (Jodie Richter), Manager Community and Cultural Services (Don Stewart), Senior Media Officer (Darrell Giles) and Venue Technician (Max Moylan)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:
Seconded by Councillor David Martin:

**That a leave of absence be granted for Councillor Jacob Madsen for the
Economic and Cultural Development Committee of 14 October 2025.**

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Augustine

Doyle

Harding

Martin

Madden

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

Councillor Andrew Antoniolli arrived at the meeting at 11.04 am.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Marnie Doyle:

Seconded by Councillor Mayor Teresa Harding:

That a leave of absence be granted for Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic for the Economic and Cultural Development Committee of 14 October 2025.

AFFIRMATIVE

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Councillors:

Augustine

Nil

Doyle

Harding

Antoniolli

Martin

Madden

The motion was put and carried.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Councillor Pye Augustine (Chairperson) invited Councillor Marnie Doyle to deliver the Acknowledgement of Country

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Nil

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO. 2025(08) OF 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Antoniolli:

That the minutes of the Economic and Cultural Development Committee held on 16 September 2025 be confirmed.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Augustine

Doyle

Harding

Antoniolli

Martin

Madden

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **MAJOR COMMUNITY EVENT SPONSORSHIP - SPRINGFIELD CAROLS**

This is a report concerning an application for Major Community Event Sponsorship by Springfield Carols Incorporated. The application requests a multi-year agreement from 2025 (for three (3) years) to provide \$15,000 ex GST per event to support the delivery of an annual community Christmas carols event in Springfield Central.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Councillor Marnie Doyle:

That Council provide Major Community Event Sponsorship of \$15,000 (excl. GST) to Springfield Carols Incorporated for the 2025 Springfield Christmas Carol event and \$17,500 (excl. GST) for the 2026 and 2027 Springfield Christmas Carol events (total support of \$50,000 excl. GST across the multi-year agreement).

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Augustine

Doyle

Harding

Antoniolli

Martin

Madden

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

3. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO UNDERTAKE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL -
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS CONFERENCE DUBAI - 11 TO
17 NOVEMBER 2025

This is a report concerning approval to undertake international travel to attend the International Council of Museums Conference (ICOM) in Dubai from 11 to 17 November 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Councillor Marnie Doyle:

That Council approves international travel for the Director Ipswich Art Gallery for participation in the ICOM Conference in Dubai from 11 to 17 November 2025.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Augustine

Doyle

Harding

Antoniolli

Martin

Madden

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

4. NICHOLAS STREET PRECINCT - SEPTEMBER 2025 NICHOLAS STREET PRECINCT
PROJECT CONTROL GROUP

This is a report concerning the September 2025 Nicholas Street Precinct (NSP) Project Control Group (PCG) meeting focussing on the status of the leasing program and the planning, development, delivery and ongoing management of the NSP.

“The attachment/s to this report are confidential in accordance with section 254J(3)(c),(g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.”

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Councillor Marnie Doyle:

That the September 2025 Nicholas Street Precinct Project Control Group Report be received and the contents noted.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Augustine

Doyle

Harding

Antoniolli

Martin

Madden

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

MATTERS ARISING

Nil

QUESTIONS / GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS

The meeting commenced at 11.03 am.

The meeting closed at 11.22 am.

Doc ID No: A12135839

ITEM: 2
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE POLICY
AUTHOR: ECONOMIC POLICY AND STRATEGY LEAD
DATE: 17 OCTOBER 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the proposed update of the Economic Development Incentive Policy, which will replace the existing 2015 policy.

The updated policy provides a more contemporary framework to attract and support new investment opportunities in the city - it ensures we have the right mechanisms in place to encourage significant, high-value projects that contribute to economic growth in line with our strategic goals.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the revised Economic Development Incentive Policy, outlined in Attachment 3, be adopted.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no discernible related party conflicts of interest associated with the report or its recommendation.

IFUTURE THEME

Vibrant and Growing

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The existing Economic Development Incentive Policy (attachment 1) was adopted by Council on 24 February 2015 to support investment attraction through financial-based incentives focused on economic development, considered separately from the development application process.

Since 2015, Council has changed the policy template, requiring all legacy-format policies to be reviewed and transitioned to the new template.

This has also facilitated an opportunity to update the policy within a more contemporary framework that helps catalyse new investment opportunities. The policy (attachments 2 and 3) is an important component to demonstrating that Ipswich City Council is ready to support

and partner with industry on development that contributes to economic growth in line with our strategic goals.

As part of the review of the current Economic Development Incentive Policy, a desktop review of other local government economic incentive policies was conducted. From this review there were key consistencies across several local governments:

- the requirement for there to be a contestable site
- generate new ongoing jobs
- have a significant capital investment
- proven capability to undertake the businesses
- not be financially dependent on incentives
- a range of financial incentives offered, predominately in the form of a fund

The proposed eligibility criteria for this updated policy is outlined below:

- prove that they will provide economic benefits to the City of Ipswich
- project is contestable with a site outside of the Ipswich LGA
- be a commercially viable venture that is not dependent on financial incentives from Council
- hold a current Australian Business Number (ABN) and be registered with the Australian Business Register (ABR)
- have no unresolved compliance issues at any level of government
- demonstrate capability and experience to deliver the proposed activity, including technical, managerial, and financial capacity
- not cause significant detriment to, or displace, existing local businesses
- not conflict with national or international obligations of Queensland or Australia.
- Economic benefits must include two of the following:
 - create a minimum of 20 full-time equivalent ongoing local jobs
 - supports the development of Regional Economic Clusters located in Ipswich
 - deliver at least \$20 million in capital investment or showcase significant economic impact to Ipswich
 - strengthen local supply chains or enhance the capability of local businesses.

The incentives that could potentially be made available to eligible businesses include:

- Concierge service
- Fast tracked development applications*
- Application fee relief
- Financial incentives to address a barrier to investment
- Other**

** subject to criteria outlined in the policy*

*** Council may explore additional incentives on a case-by-case basis to support eligible development proposals. These may include planning-related provisions, financial assistance, or in-kind support, depending on the nature and strategic value of the development.*

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The adoption of the draft Economic Development Policy will replace the existing Economic Development Policy.

The associated procedure, Assessment of Economic Development Incentive Package Procedure – EDM-002 will need to be replaced with a new procedure to align with the updated policy.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Risk of not approving:

- Governance and compliance risks from operating under an outdated policy framework.
- Having a policy that does not support or align with the Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027.
- Reduced investor confidence due to outdated eligibility and unclear assessment criteria.
- Missed economic opportunities by failing to attract competitive investment.
- Inefficient processes that delay decision-making.

Approving the policy presents a risk of generating a number of incentive enquiries that are financially unsustainable.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that any financial incentive resulting from the Economic Development Incentive Policy will be assessed in line with financial delegation and if approved and depending on quantum will be allocated from within existing budgets or via a budget amendment.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

A Councillor Briefing Session on the Economic Development Incentive Policy was conducted on Thursday 6 November 2025. It was acknowledged at that briefing that the associated procedure should allow for prior advice to Mayor and Councillors on any proposed activation of incentives regardless of financial delegation.

Consultation has been undertaken with each branch in the organisation that is affected by the proposal including:

- City Design Branch
- Development Planning Branch
- Finance Branch

- Strategy, Governance and Performance Branch

CONCLUSION

The updated Economic Development Incentive Policy represents a timely and strategic refresh of Council's approach to investment attraction. By aligning with contemporary policy frameworks and incorporating best practices from other local governments, the revised policy ensures Ipswich City Council is well-positioned to support high-value, job-generating developments. It reinforces our commitment to fostering sustainable economic growth and signals to industry that we are a proactive and capable partner in delivering transformative projects that align with our strategic objectives.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	Recommendation A states that the Economic Development Incentive Policy be adopted.
(b) What human rights are affected?	No human rights are affected by this decision.
(c) How are the human rights limited?	Not applicable.
(d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	Not applicable.
(e) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	CURRENT Economic Development Incentives Policy ↓ 
2.	TRACKED Economic Development Incentive Policy ↓ 
3.	REVISED Economic Development Incentive Policy ↓ 

Gemma Rippon

ECONOMIC POLICY AND STRATEGY LEAD

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Dan Heenan

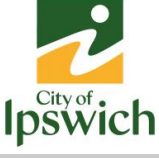
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Ben Pole

GENERAL MANAGER (COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

“Together, we proudly enhance the quality of life for our community”

	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES POLICY	Document No: A3753552
1.1 Objectives: The objective of this policy is to facilitate this development through the provision of development incentive packages that will relate primarily to economic development and will be considered separately to the development application process.		
1.2 Regulatory Authority: Assessment of Economic Development incentive Packages		
1.3 Human Rights Commitment Ipswich City Council (Council) has considered the human rights protected under the <i>Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)</i> (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act. 1.4 Policy Statement: Insofar as the City's objectives are generally served by the enhancement and expansion of the local economy, the Council will, on a case-by-case basis, give consideration to providing economic development incentive packages as a stimulation for economic development in the City or as assistance to Community Groups where they will provide a clear improvement to the quality of life for the city's residents.		
1.5 Scope: Economic Development Incentives packages will be considered to locate or relocate, apply to both new facilities and structures or for the expansion or modernisation of existing facilities and structures. Economic Development Incentive packages may be paid in instalments and may be tied to project or development goals. Economic Development Incentive packages will not be ordinarily considered for projects which would be developed without such incentives unless it can be demonstrated that higher development standards or other development and community goals will be achieved through the use of the incentive. It is the policy of the City of Ipswich that any consideration will be provided in accordance with Council's adopted local laws, policies, procedures and minimum requirements and will be subject to the availability of adequate funds within Council's budget. Nothing herein shall imply or suggest that the Council is under obligation to provide any incentive to any applicant. All applicants shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.		
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS The project shall: 1. be in accordance with Council's Corporate goals		

2. be in accordance with Council's planning scheme (and in particular be consistent with the Strategic Plan and any relevant local area structure plan)
3. not have any significant negative environmental impacts on the community (e.g. significant pollution or hazardous waste or noise).
4. stimulate local employment and/or commercial activity which will benefit existing businesses and the community.
5. not be considered to compete with existing businesses to the extent of being a detriment to the local economy as a whole
6. clearly improve the quality of life for residents of the City.
7. serve as a catalyst to attract or retain other high quality industrial/business, community or cultural heritage developments and tourism developments.

ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PACKAGES

The assessment of Economic Development Incentive packages will be in accordance with Council procedure EXEC-01 with the final determination being made by Council

INCENTIVES AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION

The components of the incentive available will be at the discretion of Ipswich City Council via negotiation with the applicant and relate specifically to the needs of the project and the benefit to the Ipswich Region Economy.

The following are examples of areas of incentives available for consideration:

- loans;
- rates remissions;
- reduction or elimination of fees and charges (charged back to the relevant program);
- time schedule for payment of fees and charges.
- joint marketing/promotion packages

Incentives are not limited to these areas and the applicant may also apply for other specific incentives relative to each project to be considered by Council.

Incentives may also be available from other sources and levels of governments and these may be considered with each application.

1.6 Policy Author: Economic Development Manager.

Date of Council resolution: 24 February 2015

Committee Reference and date: Policy and Administration Board No. 2015(01) of 10 February 2015 – City Management and Finance Committee No. 2015(02) of 17 February 2015

No of resolution: 2

Date to be reviewed: 24 February 2017

IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL | Name of Policy

~~**Objectives:** The objective of this policy is to facilitate this development through the provision of development incentive packages that will relate primarily to economic development and will be considered separately to the development application process~~

Version Control and Objective ID	Version No: <u>2</u>	Objective ID: A3753552
Adopted at Council Ordinary Meeting on		
Due for Review		

1. Statement

Ipswich City Council (Council) supports the growth of the local economy by attracting investment aligned with the four pillars of the Economic Development Strategy 2023–2027 encouraging developments that will contribute to job growth, creating a sense of place, bringing significant capital investment, or strengthening local supply chains.

Council recognises that in order to attract investment that contributes to the strategic vision it needs to provide a competitive environment. This policy outlines the type of development Council wants to attract, and the incentives that will be provided for eligible developments.

The incentives outlined in this policy are to complement any infrastructure incentives policies. In certain instances, Council may introduce new infrastructure charges policies to attract specific types of development.

~~Insofar as the City's objectives are generally served by the enhancement and expansion of the local economy, the Council will, on a case-by-case basis, give consideration to providing economic development incentive packages as a stimulation for economic development in the City or as assistance to Community Groups where they will provide a clear improvement to the quality of life for the city's residents.~~

2. Purpose and Principles

This policy provides guidance on the types of privately funded projects that align with Council's strategic goals and are facing a genuine barrier to investing in the Ipswich Local Government Area (LGA).

Council's strategic goals is defined by the four pillars of the *Economic Development Strategy 2023–2027*:

- **People:** Supporting job growth in key employment areas, particularly future focused industries outlined in the *Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027*.
- **Place:** Enhancing liveability and positioning Ipswich as a destination of choice.
- **Prosperity:** Delivering significant capital investment and/or measurable economic uplift.
- **Partnerships:** Strengthening local supply chains or enhancing the capability of Ipswich-based businesses.

A project is considered to face a genuine barrier where the proponent is ready to invest but is constrained by a financial or measurable impediment that makes locating outside the Ipswich LGA more viable.

3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan theme:

- Vibrant and Growing

4. Regulatory Authority

Assessment of Economic Development Incentive Packages

Local Government Act 2009

5. Human Rights Commitment

Council has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.

6. Scope

~~Economic Development Incentives packages will be considered to locate or relocate, apply to both new facilities and structures or for the expansion or modernisation of existing facilities and structures. Economic Development Incentive packages may be paid in instalments and may be tied to project or development goals. Economic Development Incentive packages will not be ordinarily considered for projects which would be developed without such incentives unless it can be demonstrated that higher development standards or other development and community goals will be achieved through the use of the incentive. It is the policy of the City of Ipswich that any consideration will be provided in accordance with Council's adopted local laws, policies, procedures and minimum requirements and will be subject to the availability of adequate funds within Council's budget. Nothing herein shall imply or suggest that the Council is under obligation to provide any incentive to any applicant. All applicants shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.~~

~~MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS~~

~~The project shall:~~

- ~~1. be in accordance with Council's Corporate goals~~
- ~~2. be in accordance with Council's planning scheme (and in particular be consistent with the Strategic Plan and any relevant local area structure plan)~~
- ~~3. not have any significant negative environmental impacts on the community (e.g. significant pollution or hazardous waste or noise).~~
- ~~4. stimulate local employment and/or commercial activity which will benefit existing businesses and the community.~~
- ~~5. not be considered to compete with existing businesses to the extent of being a detriment to the local economy as a whole~~

- ~~6. clearly improve the quality of life for residents of the City.~~
- ~~7. serve as a catalyst to attract or retain other high quality industrial/business, community or cultural heritage developments and tourism developments.~~

~~ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PACKAGES~~

~~The assessment of Economic Development Incentive packages will be in accordance with Council procedure EXEC-01 with the final determination being made by Council~~

~~INCENTIVES AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION~~

~~The components of the incentive available will be at the discretion of Ipswich City Council via negotiation with the applicant and relate specifically to the needs of the project and the benefit to the Ipswich Region Economy.~~

~~The following are examples of areas of incentives available for consideration:~~

- ~~• loans;~~
- ~~• rates remissions;~~
- ~~• reduction or elimination of fees and charges (charged back to the relevant program);~~
- ~~• time schedule for payment of fees and charges.~~
- ~~• joint marketing/promotion packages~~

~~Incentives are not limited to these areas and the applicant may also apply for other specific incentives relative to each project to be considered by Council.~~

~~Incentives may also be available from other sources and levels of governments and these may be considered with each application.~~

This policy applies to all employees that will assess an application in line with this policy and administer any incentives and is applicable to eligible non-residential development applications.

It does not include developments that would be captured under individual infrastructure incentive policies.

a) Concierge service

Eligible applications will receive concierge services provided by Council's Office of Economic Development.

b) Fast track development applications

Where an application has undertaken at least one pre-lodgement and can apply in line with Council's Well-Made Application Checklist the application will be prioritised by the Development Planning Branch.

An assessment manager will be assigned during the pre-lodgement stage and, where feasible, will remain the primary point of contact throughout the development assessment process.

Council is committed to acting in good faith to support timely and coordinated assessment of well-made and eligible development applications. While statutory timeframes remain in place, Council will make every effort to facilitate a responsive and collaborative approach.

c) Application fee relief

For eligible well-made applications that address all matters in the pre-lodgement meeting, Council may offset or reduce the development application fee.

d) Incentives

Council may offer a financial incentive to assist in removing the quantifiable barrier preventing the applicant from investing in the Ipswich LGA. Any financial incentive will be provided through a contract or agreement with milestones tied to the financial incentive.

e) Other

Council may explore additional incentives on a case-by-case basis to support eligible development proposals. These may include planning-related provisions, financial assistance, or in-kind support, depending on the nature and strategic value of the development. Any such incentives will be subject to consideration and approval by the relevant departments responsible for their administration.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

This policy applies to all employees that will assess an application in line with this policy and administer any incentives.

The Office of Economic Development is responsible for managing, tracking and overseeing all applications in relation to this policy.

The Development Planning Branch and Planning and Regulatory Services Department are responsible for administering incentives within their existing delegations, such as fast-tracked development applications and fees and charges incentives.

The roles and responsibilities outlined in this policy do not attempt to override existing financial delegations.

8. Key Stakeholders

The following will be consulted during the review process:

- City Design Branch
- Development Planning Branch
- City Design Branch
- Finance Branch

7.9. Eligibility

Only development that meets the following eligibility criteria will be considered for an incentive under this policy:

- prove that they will provide economic benefits to the City of Ipswich
- project is contestable with a site outside of the Ipswich LGA
- be a commercially viable venture that is not dependent on financial incentives from Council
- hold a current Australian Business Number (ABN) and be registered with the Australian Business Register (ABR)

- have no unresolved compliance issues at any level of government
- demonstrate capability and experience to deliver the proposed activity, including technical, managerial, and financial capacity
- not cause significant detriment to, or displace, existing local businesses
- not conflict with national or international obligations of Queensland or Australia.

Economic benefits must include two of the following:

1. create a minimum of 20 full-time equivalent (FTE) ongoing local jobs
2. supports the development of Regional Economic Clusters located in Ipswich LGA
3. deliver at least \$20 million in capital investment or showcase significant economic impact to Ipswich
4. strengthen local supply chains or enhance the capability of local businesses.

8.1. Roles and Responsibilities

~~This policy applies to all employees that will assess an application in line with this policy and administer any incentives.~~

~~The Office of Economic Development is responsible for managing, tracking and overseeing all applications in relation to this policy.~~

~~The Development Planning Branch and Planning and Regulatory Services Department are responsible for administering incentives within their existing delegations, such as fast-tracked development applications and fees and charges incentives.~~

~~The roles and responsibilities outlined in this policy do not attempt to override existing financial delegations.~~

9.1. Key Stakeholders

~~The following will be consulted during the review process:~~

- ~~• Development Planning Branch~~
- ~~• City Design Branch~~
- ~~• Finance Branch~~

10. Application Process

All applications for an economic development incentive must be initiated and processed through the Office of Economic Development.

Applications will be assessed based on a review of documentation, which may include but is not limited to:

- proof of financial sustainability
- evidence of financial impediment
- demonstration of capability to deliver outcomes
- economic impact modelling
- economic or socio-economic impact statement/s.

If the Office of Economic Development, in consultation with relevant internal stakeholders, determines that an application meets the eligibility criteria for the Economic Development Incentive, a report will be submitted to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) for endorsement.

ELT endorsement is not intended to override existing financial delegations.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

~~This policy will be reviewed in accordance with Council's four year review cycle or sooner if required~~

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with Council's four year review cycle or sooner if required

12. Definitions

Regional Economic Cluster - areas where economic growth will occur as defined under the *ShapingSEQ South-East Queensland Regional Plan 2023* and *Ipswich Planning Scheme 2025*.

13. Related Documents

[Assessment of Economic Development Incentive Packages Procedure](#)

14. Policy Owner

The General Manager Community, Cultural and Economic Development is the policy owner and the Economic Development Manager is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.



Economic Development Incentive Policy

 Safety and Wellbeing

 Collaboration

 Communication

 Integrity

 Efficiency

 Leadership

Version Control and Objective ID	Version No: 2	Objective ID: A3753552
Adopted at Council Ordinary Meeting on		
Due for Review		

1. Statement

Ipswich City Council (Council) supports the growth of the local economy by attracting investment aligned with the four pillars of the Economic Development Strategy 2023–2027 encouraging developments that will contribute to job growth, creating a sense of place, bringing significant capital investment, or strengthening local supply chains.

Council recognises that in order to attract investment that contributes to the strategic vision it needs to provide a competitive environment. This policy outlines the type of development Council wants to attract, and the incentives that will be provided for eligible developments.

The incentives outlined in this policy are to complement any infrastructure incentives policies. In certain instances, Council may introduce new infrastructure charges policies to attract specific types of development.

2. Purpose and Principles

This policy provides guidance on the types of privately funded projects that align with Council's strategic goals and are facing a genuine barrier to investing in the Ipswich Local Government Area (LGA).

Council's strategic goals is defined by the four pillars of the *Economic Development Strategy 2023–2027*:

- **People:** Supporting job growth in key employment areas, particularly future focused industries outlined in the *Economic Development Strategy 2023–2027*.
- **Place:** Enhancing liveability and positioning Ipswich as a destination of choice.
- **Prosperity:** Delivering significant capital investment and/or measurable economic uplift.
- **Partnerships:** Strengthening local supply chains or enhancing the capability of Ipswich-based businesses.

A project is considered to face a genuine barrier where the proponent is ready to invest but is constrained by a financial or measurable impediment that makes locating outside the Ipswich LGA more viable.

3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021–2026 Corporate Plan theme:

- Vibrant and Growing

IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL | Name of Policy

4. Regulatory Authority

Local Government Act 2009

5. Human Rights Commitment

Council has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.

6. Scope

This policy applies to all employees that will assess an application in line with this policy and administer any incentives and is applicable to eligible non-residential development applications.

It does not include developments that would be captured under individual infrastructure incentive policies.

a) Concierge service

Eligible applications will receive concierge services provided by Council's Office of Economic Development.

b) Fast track development applications

Where an application has undertaken at least one pre-lodgement and can apply in line with Council's Well-Made Application Checklist the application will be prioritised by the Development Planning Branch.

An assessment manager will be assigned during the pre-lodgement stage and, where feasible, will remain the primary point of contact throughout the development assessment process.

Council is committed to acting in good faith to support timely and coordinated assessment of well-made and eligible development applications. While statutory timeframes remain in place, Council will make every effort to facilitate a responsive and collaborative approach.

c) Application fee relief

For eligible well-made applications that address all matters in the pre-lodgement meeting, Council may offset or reduce the development application fee.

d) Incentives

Council may offer a financial incentive to assist in removing the quantifiable barrier preventing the applicant from investing in the Ipswich LGA. Any financial incentive will be provided through a contract or agreement with milestones tied to the financial incentive.

e) Other

Council may explore additional incentives on a case-by-case basis to support eligible development proposals. These may include planning-related provisions, financial assistance, or in-kind support, depending on the nature and strategic value of the development. Any

such incentives will be subject to consideration and approval by the relevant departments responsible for their administration.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

The Office of Economic Development is responsible for managing, tracking and overseeing all applications in relation to this policy.

The Development Planning Branch and Planning and Regulatory Services Department are responsible for administering incentives within their existing delegations, such as fast-tracked development applications and fees and charges incentives.

The roles and responsibilities outlined in this policy do not attempt to override existing financial delegations.

8. Key Stakeholders

The following will be consulted during the review process:

- City Design Branch
- Development Planning Branch
- Finance Branch

9. Eligibility

Only development that meets the following eligibility criteria will be considered for an incentive under this policy:

- prove that they will provide economic benefits to the City of Ipswich
- project is contestable with a site outside of the Ipswich LGA
- be a commercially viable venture that is not dependent on financial incentives from Council
- hold a current Australian Business Number (ABN) and be registered with the Australian Business Register (ABR)
- have no unresolved compliance issues at any level of government
- demonstrate capability and experience to deliver the proposed activity, including technical, managerial, and financial capacity
- not cause significant detriment to, or displace, existing local businesses
- not conflict with national or international obligations of Queensland or Australia.

Economic benefits must include two of the following:

1. create a minimum of 20 full-time equivalent (FTE) ongoing local jobs
2. supports the development of Regional Economic Clusters located in Ipswich LGA
3. deliver at least \$20 million in capital investment or showcase significant economic impact to Ipswich
4. strengthen local supply chains or enhance the capability of local businesses.

10. Application Process

All applications for an economic development incentive must be initiated and processed through the Office of Economic Development.

Applications will be assessed based on a review of documentation, which may include but is not limited to:

- proof of financial sustainability
- evidence of financial impediment
- demonstration of capability to deliver outcomes
- economic impact modelling
- economic or socio-economic impact statement/s.

If the Office of Economic Development, in consultation with relevant internal stakeholders, determines that an application meets the eligibility criteria for the Economic Development Incentive, a report will be submitted to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) for endorsement.

ELT endorsement is not intended to override existing financial delegations.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with Council's four-year review cycle or sooner if required

12. Definitions

Regional Economic Cluster - areas where economic growth will occur as defined under the *ShapingSEQ South-East Queensland Regional Plan 2023* and *Ipswich Planning Scheme 2025*.

13. Related Documents

Assessment of Economic Development Incentive Packages Procedure

14. Policy Owner

The General Manager Community, Cultural and Economic Development is the policy owner and the Economic Development Manager is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.

Doc ID No: A12169742

ITEM: 3
SUBJECT: 2025 CHRISTMAS IN IPSWICH PROGRAM PREVIEW
AUTHOR: MANAGER, MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS
DATE: 28 OCTOBER 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the 2025 Christmas in Ipswich program of events including council-produced, community and carol events as well as markets and retail activations.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report outlining the 2025 Christmas in Ipswich Program be received and the contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no discernible conflicts of interest related to the contents or recommendation of this report.

IFUTURE THEME

Vibrant and Growing

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Council's Christmas Program is a direct outcome and delivery action of the City Events Plan:

- To attract, support and produce a diverse program of annual events that engage the community, promote Ipswich as a destination, drive visitation and positively impact on business and industry.

The 2025 Christmas in Ipswich Program is about to launch; a curation of council-produced events and installations, community celebrations and carols, and local retail activations and markets held across the city during the festive season.

The 2024 program attracted around 80,000 attendances, engaging locals and visitors from across South East Queensland.

The full 2025 program of over 50 events can be viewed at www.Christmasinipswich.com.au with updates and event reminders available via Ipswich Festivals socials – a copy of the 2025 program is provided at Attachment 1.

The program is delivered with the support of local business sponsorship including:

- Nine News Queensland
- Energex
- Stockland Providence
- Narellan Pools Ipswich
- Ray White
- GJ Gardner Homes Ipswich
- Aussie Home Loans Ipswich
- Strud
- Event Cinemas Springfield
- Premier Transport
- General Public

Highlights of the 2025 program include:

St Nicholas Precinct – Friday 12 – Sunday 21 December

The iconic immersive light display with larger-than-life installations will again transform Ipswich Central into the 'St Nicholas Precinct' as the centrepiece of the city's Christmas celebrations, running nightly from 12 to 21 December. With free entry each night, the experience offers families the opportunity to gather to enjoy live entertainment, festive food and wonderful photo moments.

St Nicholas Precinct will also include a *Low Sensory Night* – Programmed as controlled sensory experience on Mon 15 December.

Letters to Santa - Tuesday 18 November – Thursday 11 December

Visit any of your local Ipswich Libraries branch or UB's Milk Bar in Brisbane Street to get your Christmas wish list direct to the North Pole. Santa will reply directly to your address.

Ipswich Libraries are also offering 17 Christmas-themed holiday activity sessions across all locations from 26 November – 19 December. These sessions include Christmas Origami and Furoshiki, Bookish Baubles and Ornaments, Christmas Busy Builders Lego, Christmas Discos, and Carols in the Library.

Lighting of the City Christmas Tree x Santa and Sirens – Thursday 27 November

Where holiday magic meets real-life heroes. This is your chance to meet Santa and friends amidst a variety of emergency service vehicles decorated in festive cheer. Extend the celebrations and help to officially light the City Christmas Tree.

Christmas Lights Competition – entries close 28 November, lights on from 1 December

Citywide Christmas Light competition where entrants can win a share in \$8000 worth of cash and prizes. ‘Listing Only’ option for entrants who would like to be included in the official Christmas Lights Trail but not the competition. Visit the Christmas in Ipswich website to plot your viewing journey on the official Christmas Lights Trail interactive map.

Christmas Light Tours - Friday 19 and Saturday 20 December

View a selection of the best displays in this year’s Christmas Lights Competition in air-conditioned comfort. Bus Tour includes commentary from our friendly guides, light supper and live entertainment. Group bookings welcome. Limited spaces available and bookings essential. Book at <https://www.discoveripswich.com.au/>

New Year’s Eve Celebrations:

Fireworks

Residents are encouraged to turn their heads towards the sky this New Year’s Eve! Fireworks will launch across the region in each division at 9.00 pm:

- Springfield Central Sporting Complex, Springfield Central
- Ironbark Park, South Ripley
- Limestone Park, Ipswich
- Rosewood Showgrounds, Rosewood

For information on the best viewing locations visit Christmasinipswich.com.au

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Not Applicable

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications related to the contents or recommendation of this report. As with all council-produced festivals and events, an Event Management Plan has been developed and implemented by the City Events Section in consultation with the Workplace Safety and Wellbeing Section.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The key activations outlined in the program will be covered by an allocation within the 2025-2026 City Events budget. Some events within the program have secured Major Community Event Sponsorship funding which is also allocated within the 2025-2026 City Events budget or Community Event Funding allocated in the 2025-2026 Community Funding and Support budget.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

This city-wide program is a collaborative effort from a committed group of local stakeholders including:

- ICC Community Services Team
- Ipswich Civic Centre
- Ipswich Libraries
- ICC Destination Development Team
- Arts Connect
- Ipswich Show Society
- Ipswich Seniors' Concert Group
- Top of Town Operators
- Rotary Clubs of Ipswich
- Nicholas Street Precinct
- Handmade Expo Markets
- Ulysses Club
- Mirvac Orion/Booval Fair/Yamanto Central/Riverlink Shopping Centre
- Soul Nook Marburg
- Rosewood and District Support Centre Inc.
- Marburg Show Society
- Local Emergency Services
- Brassall Carols in the Park Inc.
- Kruger Baptist Church/Ipswich Uniting Church/Whitehill Church of Christ/Cityhope Church/Raceview Congregational Church/Journey Church
- Greater Springfield Combined Churches (Springfield Carols)
- Gailes Community House

CONCLUSION

Christmas in Ipswich is a key festival in the annual City Events Program. It's popularity with residents and visitors from outside the region delivers on our intent to promote Ipswich as a destination, drive visitation and positively impact on business and industry.

The program demonstrates the partnership of council, community and business coming together to deliver a diverse program of events and experiences to celebrate the festive season.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS
RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORT
The Recommendation states that the report be received and the contents noted. The decision to receive and note the report does not limit human rights. Therefore, the decision is compatible with human rights.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	2025 Christmas in Ipswich Program ↓ 
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Carly Gregory

MANAGER, MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Ben Pole

GENERAL MANAGER (COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

“Together, we proudly enhance the quality of life for our community”





The poster features a red background with two white stars at the top. On the left, there is a green and white square with a red star, and below it, a pink square with the text '12-21 DEC'. The main title 'St Nicholas PRECINCT' is in white, with 'St Nicholas' in a large serif font and 'PRECINCT' in a smaller sans-serif font. Below the title, it says 'presented by' followed by the 'akg' logo and 'RayWhite'. The dates and times are listed: 'Friday 12 – Sunday 21 December', '6.30 pm – 9.30 pm', and '(Monday 15 December 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm)'. The location is 'Nicholas Street Precinct, Ipswich'. A paragraph describes the event as a 'spectacular lighting installation' and an 'experiential atmosphere of lights, colour and magical moments'. It also mentions 'new installations and experiences to enjoy, gather your family and friends, and make precious memories with photo opportunities, live entertainment and market stalls.' The entry is free, and it is described as 'the most wonderful time of the year!'. The website 'Christmasinipswich.com.au' is provided for more information. In the bottom left corner, there is a stylized illustration of a man with a beard and a top hat.

**12-21
DEC**

St Nicholas PRECINCT

presented by
akg
■ **RayWhite**

📅 Friday 12 – Sunday 21 December
🕒 6.30 pm – 9.30 pm
(Monday 15 December 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm)
📍 Nicholas Street Precinct, Ipswich

Celebrate the wonder of Christmas as the urban heart of our city dazzles with a spectacular lighting installation.

Nicholas Street Precinct presented by Ray White AKG will again transform into an experiential atmosphere of lights, colour and magical moments.

With new installations and experiences to enjoy, gather your family and friends, and make precious memories with photo opportunities, live entertainment and market stalls.

Entry is free.

It truly is the most wonderful time of the year!

Visit [Christmasinipswich.com.au](https://christmasinipswich.com.au) to see the full program.



St Nicholas PRECINCT

Low Sensory Night

 Monday 15 December
 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm
 Nicholas Street Precinct, Ipswich

A special evening at the magical Christmas lighting installation, St Nicholas Precinct, for those seeking a gentler, sensory-friendly experience. With a quieter environment and dedicated low sensory tent, this evening allows more families to experience the joy of Christmas.

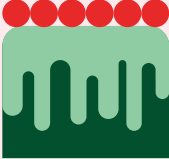
Festive Feasting

When visiting St Nicholas Precinct, why not make a night of it? Create memories over a meal at one of Ipswich's delicious restaurants before or after attending a city Christmas celebration.

Scan the QR code to find the best places to eat in Ipswich Central this festive season.



While in Top of Town, soak up the festive spirit and explore local shops full of charm and character.





The poster features a pink background with a large, stylized red and white striped letter 'S' on the right. On the left, there is a red envelope icon and a red and white striped letter 'S'. The text '18 NOV -11 DEC' is written in red on a white background. The main title 'Letters TO SANTA' is in large red and green letters. Below the title, the text 'Receive a letter from the North Pole' is in green. A list of details includes dates, opening hours, and locations. A paragraph explains how to collect and post a letter. At the bottom, there are logos for Ipswich Libraries and UB's Milk Bar.

**18 NOV
-11 DEC**

Letters TO SANTA

**Receive a letter
from the North Pole**

- 📅 Tuesday 18 November – Thursday 11 December
- 🕒 During opening hours
- 📍 All Ipswich Libraries branches or
UB's Milk Bar, 126 Brisbane Street, Ipswich

Collect and post your letter at any Ipswich Libraries branch or UB's Milk Bar Ipswich. Santa's reply will be sent directly to your address.

Get in quick to allow Santa enough time to respond between wrapping presents.

**IPSWICH
LIBRARIES**

**UB's
MILK BAR**

Lighting of the City Christmas Tree

powered by Energex

- 📅 Thursday 27 November
- 🕒 6.45 pm for 7.00 pm lighting
- 📍 d'Arcy Doyle Place, Ipswich

Join local carollers and an early visit from Santa to help officially light the City Christmas Tree!

Extend the celebrations with Santa and Sirens in Nicholas Street Precinct from 5.00 pm.

City Christmas TREE



City Christmas Tree Lights On

- 📅 Thursday 27 November –
Wednesday 7 January

Santa & SIRENS

- 📅 Thursday 27 November
- 🕒 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm
- 📍 Nicholas Street Precinct, Ipswich

Where holiday magic meets real-life heroes! This is your chance to meet Santa and friends amidst a variety of emergency service vehicles decorated in festive cheer.

Capture the moment with photos and embrace the joy of the season with a nod to those who serve and protect. You'll also be entertained

A festive poster for the Christmas Lights Competition. The background is dark green with various white and red star and snowflake graphics. On the left, a red vertical bar contains a white snowflake and the text 'ENTRIES CLOSE 28 NOV'. The main title 'Christmas Lights COMPETITION' is in large white serif font. Below it, 'presented by Narellanpools IPSWICH' is written in a smaller font. The bottom section contains three paragraphs of text in white, followed by a red bar at the very bottom with the text 'HURRY ENTRIES CLOSE 9.00 AM FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER'.

Christmas Lights COMPETITION

presented by

Narellanpools^o
IPSWICH

Dig out your Christmas lights and decorations! Entries for the City of Ipswich Christmas Lights Competition presented by Narellan Pools Ipswich are now open!

Win a share in over \$8,000 worth of cash and prizes!

All entrants will automatically be entered into the Lucky Entrant draw with five winners each receiving a \$200 venue voucher for General Public – Australia's favourite eatertainment.

Be sure to download the handy Tips and Tricks document via **Christmasinipswich.com.au** for guidance on lighting design, being a good elf and keeping safe thanks to Energex.

Entry is **FREE**, quick and easy via **Christmasinipswich.com.au**

HURRY ENTRIES CLOSE 9.00 AM FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER

BEST RESIDENTIAL

presented by STRUD

Winner: \$1,500 cash
Runner-Up: \$1,000 cash

BEST BUSINESS/ORGANISATION

presented by Event Cinemas Springfield

Winner: Private movie screening at Event Cinemas Springfield
Runner-Up: \$500 worth of gift vouchers for use at Event Cinemas Springfield

BEST STREET

presented by Stockland

Winner: \$500 cash to share + 'Best Street' council installed street sign
Runner-Up: \$250 cash to share

BEST NEW ENTRY

presented by G.J. Gardner Homes Ipswich

Winner: \$750 cash
Runner-Up: \$250 cash

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

presented by Aussie Homes Ipswich

Winner: \$1,500 gift card

People's Choice

Show support for your favourite Christmas lights display by voting in the People's Choice online from 1–9 December.

Visit displays

Keen to check out the stunning Christmas lights displays across the City of Ipswich? A full list of addresses will be available online from Monday 1 December.

A festive poster for Christmas Lights Tours. The top left features a red and green ornament icon. Below it, a green box contains the dates '19-20 DEC' in white. The main title 'Christmas Lights TOURS' is in large, stylized red and green fonts. A string of red and green lights hangs across the middle. The bottom section lists tour details and a description of the experience, all in green text. The background is light pink with white starburst graphics and a red and white striped candy cane in the bottom left corner.

**19-20
DEC**

Christmas Lights TOURS

- 📅 Friday 19 and Saturday 20 December
- 🕒 6.30 pm – 9.00 pm
- 🎫 Adults \$40 | Concession \$35
Children (up to 12 years) \$30
Family (2A+2C or 1A+3C) \$125

Discover Ipswich Christmas Lights Tours will be sure to get you into the spirit of the festive season. View a selection of the best displays from this year's City of Ipswich Christmas Lights Competition presented by Narellan Pools Ipswich in an air-conditioned coach. Enjoy a light supper with entertainment and surprise visitors during your magical Christmas adventure. Spaces are limited and bookings essential. Group bookings welcome.

Book online via **[Christmasinipswich.com.au](https://christmasinipswich.com.au)**, by phone (07) 3281 0555 or email info@discoveripswich.com.au

Christmas CAROLS

BRASSALL CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

- 📅 Friday 28 November
- 🕒 6.00 pm with entry from 5.00 pm
- 📍 Sutton Park,
61 Workshops Street, Brassall

Bringing the community together for Christmas, this spectacular stage show features local performers and live orchestra, visit from Santa, an array of delicious food and an amazing fireworks finale.

CITYHOPE CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING FESTIVAL

- 📅 Sunday 7 December
- 🕒 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm
- 📍 7 Rex Hills Drive, Ripley

Gather with family and friends to enjoy live music, festive food, kids' activities, carols and lighting of the Christmas tree to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

RACEVIEW COMMUNITY CAROLS UNDER THE BIG TREE

- 📅 Sunday 7 December
- 🕒 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm
- 📍 141 Wildey Street, Raceview

Enjoy carols under the stars beneath the big fig tree lit up like a Christmas tree. Traditional Christmas carols led by local community groups.

SPRINGFIELD CAROLS

- 📅 Saturday 13 December
- 🕒 5.00 pm, fireworks 8.30 pm
- 📍 Robelle Domain,
Education City Drive, Springfield Central

A highlight for adults and children alike and a high point of the Greater Springfield calendar. Promoting community spirit and seasonal goodwill, featuring live music

CAROLS ON THE CORNER

- 📅 Saturday 13 December
- 🕒 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm
- 📍 Cnr of Eileen Street
and Glebe Road, Booval

Help Ipswich Uniting Church ring in the Christmas season with festive cheer! Join them for an evening of fun and music including FREE family activities - jumping castle, animal farm, face painting, children's craft and sausage sizzle.

WHITEHILL CHURCH CAROLS

- 📅 Sunday 14 December
- 🕒 4.00 pm – 7.45 pm
- 📍 219 Whitehill Road, Raceview

Join us for an afternoon of singing your favourite carols and songs, exploring the true story of Christmas. Stay on for a festival of fun, including free entertainment, low-cost food options and a fireworks display.

MARBURG COMMUNITY CAROLS EVENING

- 📅 Sunday 14 December
- 🕒 5.00 pm – 9.00 pm
- 📍 Marburg Community Park,
Cnr Queen and Edmond streets, Marburg

An evening filled with face painting and free craft activities for children, market stalls, free sausage sizzle and carol singing.

KRUGER BAPTIST CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

- 📅 Sunday 14 December
- 🕒 Sausage sizzle from 5.30 pm
and carols from 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm
- 📍 Kruger Baptist Church, Cnr of Kruger
Parade and Henderson Street, Redbank

Join us for a traditional nativity sing, along

Christmas MARKETS AND UP-LATE

SOUL NOOK CHRISTMAS MARKETS

- 📅 Saturday 15 November
- 🕒 8.30 am – 2.00 pm
- 📍 Soul Nook,
89–93 Queen Street, Marburg

Our famous annual Christmas markets are back and bigger than ever! Make sure to mark your calendars and join us at Soul Nook for some jolly good fun this festive season.

TOP OF TOWN 'LIGHT UP THE NIGHT' MARKETS

- 📅 Thursday 27 November
- 🕒 5.00 pm – 8.00 pm
- 📍 Brisbane Street (from Ellenborough to Waghorn streets), Ipswich

Visit Ipswich's historic Top of Town and browse unique, handcrafted treasures with the opportunity to pick up a creative Christmas gift whilst soaking up the festive atmosphere.

SANTA'S SUGAR PLUM POP-UP

- 📅 5–26 December
- 🕒 9.00 am – 5.00 pm, Wed–Fri 9.00 pm
- 📍 ARTtime Gallery & Fine Art Supplies,
203 Brisbane Street, Ipswich

Experience the sweetest Christmas shopping in a handmade wonderland. Complete our nutcracker hunt to go in the draw to win a

IPSWICH HANDMADE EXPO CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

- 📅 Saturday 6 December
- 🕒 9.00 am – 1.00 pm
- 📍 Nicholas Street Precinct, Ipswich

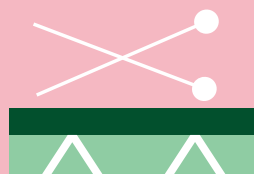
With over 100 amazing handmade stalls, delightful food trucks, live music and so much for the children to do. Christmas shopping at its best!

THRIFTS AND SIPS OF CHRISTMAS

- 📅 Saturday 6 December
- 🕒 11.30 am – 4.30 pm
- 📍 Soul Nook,
89–93 Queen Street, Marburg

Sunset lovers, second-love hunters and vintage treasure seekers — this one's for you all wrapped in a big Christmas bow.

Join us for a golden afternoon as we switch it up with our preloved markets for Christmas vibes, good tunes and great company in the charming countryside of Marburg.



ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS
TWILIGHT EVENT

- 📅 Saturday 6 December
- 🕒 4.00 pm
- 📍 Ipswich Showgrounds,
81 Warwick Road, Ipswich

Get into the festive spirit with enchanting Christmas decorations, glittering festive lights, free activities, amusement rides, fun entertainment, Christmas carols and a special visit from Santa himself! There will also be a fantastic variety of Christmas stalls.

TOP OF TOWN –
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NIGHT

- 📅 Saturday 6 December
- 🕒 5.00 pm – 8.00 pm
- 📍 Brisbane Street (from Ellenborough
to Waghorn streets), Ipswich

Top of Town stays open for a night of Christmas shopping. Come along and view festive windows and support the local small business community.

OFF THE WALL ART EXHIBITION

- 📅 12–21 December
- 🕒 10.00 am – 3.00 pm daily
- 📍 Ipswich Community Gallery,
d’Arcy Doyle Place, Ipswich

Over 40 local artists offering unique, one-of-a-kind works of art and craft – perfect for a truly special Christmas gift for someone you love.

CHRISTMAS THRIFTY THREADS
PRELOVED MARKET

- 📅 Sunday 14 December
- 🕒 7.00 am – 12.00 pm
- 📍 Ipswich Showgrounds,
81 Warwick Road, Ipswich

Clear out your 2025 closet, embrace sustainability, festive cheer and get ready for 2026. Santa might even drop by with treats for all ages!

ORION TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS MARKETS

- 📅 Tuesday 23 December
- 🕒 9.00 am – midnight
- 📍 Orion Springfield Central,
1 Main Street, Springfield Central

Join us for a special twilight market in celebration of Christmas. A day and evening full of local crafts, food and those last-minute gifts. Pets on a leash are welcome.



Christmas COMMUNITY EVENTS

SANTA'S ARRIVAL PARADE ORION SPRINGFIELD CENTRAL

- 📅 Saturday 8 November
- 🕒 9.00 am – 10.00 am
- 📍 1 Main Street, Springfield Central

Join us for our wonderful Christmas Parade – a magical free community event to officially welcome Santa and Mrs Claus to town!

SANTA'S ARRIVAL PARADE RIVERLINK SHOPPING CENTRE

- 📅 Saturday 15 November
- 🕒 10.00 am – 1.30 pm
- 📍 Downs Street and The Terrace, North Ipswich

Join us for a day full of Christmas cheer and watch Santa and his friends make their grand arrival to Riverlink Shopping Centre!

HOPE DELIVERED – A CHRISTMAS EVENT

- 📅 1–25 December
- 🕒 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
- 📍 Cnr of Eileen Street and Glebe Road, Booval

Ipswich Uniting Church transforms into a magical Christmas wonderland with Christmas lights and tree displays. On Saturday 6 December see the Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir and Ipswich Model Band.

CHRISTMAS CHEER AT BOOVAL FAIR

- 📅 Saturday 6 December
- 🕒 from 10.00 am
- 📍 Cnr Brisbane and South Station roads, Booval

MARBURG SHOW SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

- 📅 Saturday 6 December
- 🕒 4.00 pm – 8.00 pm
- 📍 Marburg Showgrounds, 45–55 Queen Street, Marburg

Experience Christmas in the country with family friendly activities and rides. Enjoy a special visit from Santa!

FRANTIC, FESTIVE FROLICS

- 📅 Wednesday 10 December
- 🕒 10.00 am and 1.00 pm
- 📍 Ipswich Civic Centre, 50 Nicholas Street, Ipswich

The Ipswich Seniors' Concert Group invite you to join them for yet another astonishing spectacle of jollification with Frantic, Festive Frolics!

FRIENDSMAS TRIVIA AT HOTEL COMMONWEALTH

- 📅 Wednesday 10 December
- 🕒 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm
- 📍 5 Union Place, Ipswich

Join us for an evening of amazing food, great drinks, games and trivia! The questions are fun – not hard – and will take you back through all the best bits.

YAMANTO CENTRAL 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

- 📅 11–24 December
- 📍 488 Warwick Road, Yamanto

Special appearances by Santa, his reindeer, The Grinch and daily giveaways for lucky Yamanto Central shoppers! Over \$5,000 in prizes to be won.

ROSEWOOD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

- 📅 Friday 12 December
- 🕒 5.00 pm – 8.00 pm
- 📍 Rosewood Showgrounds, 1 Railway Street, Rosewood

STITCH IN THE 'SWICH CHRISTMAS COMEDY SPECIAL

- 📅 Friday 12 December
- 🕒 8.00 pm
- 📍 Ipswich Civic Centre,
50 Nicholas Street, Ipswich

Another hilarious line up supported by the Sit Down Comedy Club to celebrate Christmas with a smile!

ULYSSES CLUB ANNUAL IPSWICH TOY RUN

- 📅 Sunday 14 December
- 🕒 10.30 am
- 📍 Brassall Shopping Centre
to Ipswich Showgrounds

Join or support the 30th Ipswich Toy Run to raise funds for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal and Ulysses Club Arthritis Fund.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BBQ

- 📅 Thursday 18 December
- 🕒 2.30 pm – 5.00 pm
- 📍 15 Kingsford Street, Goodna

Kick off Christmas with a community BBQ including Santa photos, treats, dunk tank, jumping castle, face painting, music and so much more.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE COMMUNITY GAILES COMMUNITY HOUSE

- 📅 Saturday 20 December
- 🕒 2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
- 📍 2 Bruce Lane, Camira

Plenty of family friendly activities including petting zoo, photo booth, sing along to Christmas carols and a visit from the jolly man himself.

More local Christmas celebrations and events at [Christmasinipswich.com.au](https://christmasinipswich.com.au)

2026 NEW YEAR'S EVE

Fireworks

Residents are encouraged to turn their heads towards the sky this New Year's Eve! Fireworks will launch across the region in Springfield Central, South Ripley, Ipswich Central and Rosewood.

For information on the best viewing locations visit [Christmasinipswich.com.au](https://christmasinipswich.com.au)

Want to know what's on near you?

Scan the QR code to view a list of



Christmas CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

8

Santa's Arrival
Parade – Orion
Springfield Central

15

Santa's Arrival
Parade – Riverlink
Shopping Centre

Soul Nook
Christmas Markets

18 NOV – 11 DEC
Letters to Santa



27

Lighting of the
City Christmas Tree
Santa and Sirens



28

Brassall Christmas
in the Park

DECEMBER

1–9

Vote for Christmas
Lights Competition
People's Choice



1–25

View Christmas
Lights Competition
Displays

Hope Delivered –
A Christmas Event

5–26

Santa's Sugar Plum
Pop-Up

6

Ipswich Handmade
Expo Christmas
Extravaganza

Thriffs and Sips
of Christmas

Enchanted
Christmas
Twilight Event

Marburg Show
Society Christmas
Carnival

For the complete up-to-date list of events
visit **Christmasinipswich.com.au**

7

Raceview
Community Carols
Under the Big Tree

Cityhope Church
Christmas Tree
Lighting Festival

10

Frantic, Festive
Frolics

FRIENDSmas
Trivia at Hotel
Commonwealth

12

Stitch in the
'Swich – Christmas
Comedy Special

Rosewood
Christmas Festival

12-21

St Nicholas
Precinct



13

Carols on the Corner
Springfield Carols

14

Whitehill Church
Carols

Marburg Community
Carols Evening

Ulysses Club Annual
Ipswich Toy Run

Christmas Thrifty
Threads Preloved
Market

15

Low Sensory
Night at St
Nicholas Precinct

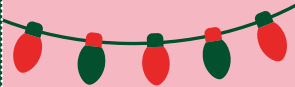


18

Community
Christmas BBQ

19-20

Christmas
Lights Tours



20

Christmas with the
Community – Gailes
Community House

23

Orion Twilight
Christmas Markets

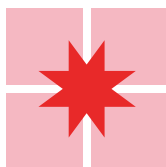
31

New Year's Eve
Fireworks



Christmas in Ipswich could not be delivered without the generous support of our partners and the commitment from many volunteers across the community.

Gratitude



Doc ID No: A12173168

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: 2024-2025 COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT CARD - ARTS AND CULTURE

AUTHOR: DIRECTOR, IPSWICH ART GALLERY

DATE: 29 OCTOBER 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the 2024-2025 Community and Cultural Services Report Card - Arts and Culture.

Attachment 1 presents the 2024-2025 Community and Cultural Services Report Card – Arts and Culture highlighting the goals, achievements and key deliverables for the 2024-2025 financial year.

It identifies the cohesive and collegiate approach undertaken by Ipswich City Council to deliver great outcomes for our community.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the 2024-2025 Community and Cultural Services Report Card – Arts and Culture be received and the contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no discernible related party conflicts of interest associated with this report and its recommendation

IFUTURE THEME

Safe, Inclusive and Creative

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to showcase the diverse and impactful work delivered by the Ipswich City Council in enhancing community wellbeing, resilience and connection through arts, culture, outreach and facility activation.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendation are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Not Applicable

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no discernible policy implications associated with this report and its recommendation.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no discernible risk management implications associated with the report or its recommendation.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Arts and Cultural activities were delivered within budget and resource allocations provided in the 2024-2025 financial year.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Much of this work is informed by Council's strategic planning and annual budget development processes – it is then further consulted with the community through advisory groups, workshops and community engagement channels.

Such consultation is evidenced by the number of initiatives either currently active, delivered or ongoing, including programs like ARTiculate, Creators of Ipswich Summit, Regional Arts Development Fund, Ipswich Community Gallery, Ipswich Art Workshop, First Nations Industry Yarns, Swich Speaks Out, Ipswich Film Festival for Youth, emerging community theatre initiatives developed through access to and use of Studio 188 and Fire Station 101 to name a few.

Additionally, advisory groups such as the Ipswich Arts Advisory Group, the Ipswich Youth Advisory Group and the Ipswich Public Art Advisory Group provide valuable feedback.

CONCLUSION

Through this work Council aims to foster and encourage a vibrant, inclusive community by promoting cultural awareness, support of local arts and community organisations, providing essential services, infrastructure and facilities in order to enhance the quality of life for our community, and in so doing provide opportunity for all.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS
RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORT
The Recommendation states that the report be received and the contents noted. The decision to receive and note the report does not limit human rights. Therefore, the decision is compatible with human rights.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	2024-2025 Community and Cultural Services Report Card - Arts and Culture ↓ 
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Claire Sourgnes

DIRECTOR, IPSWICH ART GALLERY

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Don Stewart

MANAGER, COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Ben Pole

GENERAL MANAGER (COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

“Together, we proudly enhance the quality of life for our community”

2024-2025

Community and Cultural Services Report Card

Arts and Culture

ipswich.qld.gov.au



Community and Cultural Services is a team focused on community, arts, sport, health, recreation, service support and activation, and sits within the department of Community, Cultural and Economic Development. This report card is targeted at highlighting the diverse and impactful work the team do on a daily basis across the city. Community and Cultural Services is a team dedicated to enriching the lives of our community members through a variety of programs, initiatives and support services. Our vision is to foster and encourage a vibrant, inclusive community by promoting cultural awareness, supporting local arts and community organisations, providing essential services, infrastructure and facilities in order to enhance the quality of life for our community, and in doing so provide opportunity for all.

Cultural Services encompass the Ipswich Civic Centre, Ipswich Art Gallery and Creative Industries functions. The Cultural Services team engages with a diverse array of individuals, communities, cultural and community organisations, sector organisations, specialists and government agencies. They achieve identified outcomes through a variety of strategies, capacity-building initiatives, programs and services, both directly and through partnerships at the local, state and national levels. Art and culture permeates the lives of residents daily, from the architectural landscapes of streets to the visual expressions found in paintings, posters and flyers. It animates screens and stages with drama, music, comedy and everything in between. Beyond its economic impact – generating jobs and cultural tourism – art plays a vital role in forging community identity and enhancing vibrancy, enriching lives in ways that are as invaluable as they are immeasurable.

ACTIVATING AND ENGAGING THE WHOLE OF OUR CITY

Culturally activated cities serve as dynamic hubs that bridge age and cultural barriers to create connected communities. Cultural Services partnered with SPARK Ipswich, Galvanized, Story Arts Festival, and Planes, Trains and Autos to deliver programs and activations across the Ipswich local government area (LGA).

- **3,826** creative and cultural activations delivered
- **120,687** visitors (gallery exhibitions, community pop ups, theatre, music and dance performances, etc)
- **95%** of attendees rated their experiences as **'Very Good'** or **'Excellent'**
- **22,014 people** attended Eisteddfods and Dance Competitions.



SUPPORT VOICES OF FIRST NATIONS CREATORS

- **10,016** attended First Nations cultural events
- **125** First Nations artists, art workers and creative professionals engaged and supported.

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE CREATIVE ECONOMY

- **\$1,678,380** generated from the sale of **51,837** tickets
- **162,000** of donated artworks acquired for the Ipswich Art Gallery in 2024-2025
- **38%** cultural venue visitor from outside the region
- **67%** of ticket sales at Ipswich Civic Centre, Studio 188 and Fire Station 101 generated by location community artists and arts organisations.

INCREASING ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR CREATIVE COMMUNITY

- **1,750** local artists, arts workers, groups, organisations and events supported
- Active partnerships with industry groups and local government bodies to further the capacity building opportunities for local creatives
- **\$36,999** of in-kind support provided to cultural venues and events
- **240** creative practitioners participated in the Creative Summit Ipswich.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

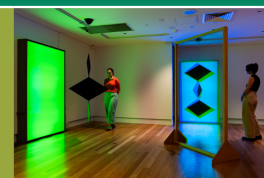


Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program (UPPP)

- Secured **\$3.837 million** from the Australian Government (Stream One)
- Funding supports **major city-centre planning and design works** to drive urban renewal and future growth.

Arts and Culture Vision

- Phase 1 gathered **community, artist and cultural leader input** through surveys, workshops and sessions
- Draft 10-Year Vision will be released for **public consultation** before council review and endorsement.



SEQ City Deal Public Art Initiative

- Ipswich allocated **\$810,000** through the SEQ City Deal Public Art Initiative
- Expressions of Interest on **Shape Your Ipswich** attracted **113 submissions** from artists and collectives.

Sharing the National Collection

- Ipswich Art Gallery hosted works from the **National Gallery of Australia**, featuring artists Mark Rothko and Agnes Martin
- Local connection showcased through pieces by **Ipswich-born ceramicist Gwyn Hanssen Pigott**, complementing the Gallery's collection.



Ipswich Civic Centre's 50th Anniversary

- Milestone year celebrated with **237 local artists, community groups and headline acts**
- Events reflected both the **history and future role** of the Ipswich Civic Centre as a cultural hub.

Ipswich Art Gallery's 25th Anniversary

- Commemorated with a **Gala event sponsored by Ipswich Arts Foundation**
- Acknowledged the gallery's evolution into one of Australia's **leading regional galleries**.



Creative Industries Engagement

- Delivered **133 events** and supported **1,500+ artists** across the region
- Tripled **RADF applications**, unlocking **double Arts Queensland funding**
- **ARTiculate workshops** empowered 668 creatives and boosted Community - Gallery applications by **300%**
- Ipswich Art Awards featured **747 artists, 900+ artworks**, generating **\$45,000+ in sales** over two years.

Advisory Groups

- **Public Art Advisory Group** provided expert input into city projects
- Renewal of the **Ipswich Art Advisory Group** strengthened cultural strategy and governance.





City of
Ipswich

Ipswich City Council
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/IpswichCityCouncil



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/IpswichCityCouncilTV

Doc ID No: A12156523

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: REPORT - ADVOCACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(03) OF 15 OCTOBER 2025

AUTHOR: MEETING COORDINATION MANAGER

DATE: 23 OCTOBER 2025

INTRODUCTION

This is the report of the Advocacy Advisory Committee No. 2025(03) of 15 October 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the recommendations of the Advocacy Advisory Committee No. 2025(03) of 15 October 2025.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Advocacy Advisory Committee Report No. 2025(03) of 15 October 2025  
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15 OCTOBER 2025

ADVOCACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(03)]

ADVOCACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(03)

15 OCTOBER 2025

REPORT

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Teresa Harding (Chairperson); Councillors Marnie Doyle (Deputy Chairperson), Pye Augustine, David Martin, Jim Madden, Jacob Madsen and Andrew Antonioli

APOLOGIES:

Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic

OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer (Sonia Cooper), Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor (Melissa Fitzgerald), Economic Development Manager (Dan Heenan), Advocacy Lead (Kate Adams), Senior Project Officer, Major Projects (Sibel Gradinscak), Manager Executive Services (Wade Wilson)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Nil

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ADVOCACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(02) OF 14 AUGUST 2025

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Advocacy Advisory Committee held on 14 August 2025 be confirmed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Councillors Jacob Madsen and David Martin arrived at the meeting at 2.32 pm.

15 OCTOBER 2025

ADVOCACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(03)]

2. BUSINESS OUTSTANDING - ROWING IN ROCKHAMPTON

This is a report concerning advocacy efforts from the Rockhampton Regional Council to attract rowing for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information provided on rowing in Rockhampton be received and noted.

DISCUSSION

The members noted and discussed the context and contributing factors leading to the attraction of rowing to Rockhampton. Members discussed the organisations that were engaged through their advocacy efforts and information on the nature of those organisations was shared.

3. NEW ADVOCACY PLAN

This is a report concerning a new Advocacy Plan for the City of Ipswich with goals to raise awareness of the Ipswich region's needs and future strategies, build ongoing partnerships with key State and Federal Ministers and officials and ultimately secure funding for identified Regionally Significant Projects and Locally Significant Projects.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Advocacy Advisory Committee review and endorse the Advocacy Plan for Committee and Council approval.

DISCUSSION

The committee discussed the draft Advocacy Plan for Ipswich and noted the future steps required. Discussion included:

- The Mayor has the lead role as City Champion and Councillors also have a role as City Champions.
- Support for the Ipswich Summit.
- Support for the Elected Representatives Working Group.
- Council's website and advocacy page – consideration to be given to branding of the Advocacy Plan.
- Preparation of state and federal budget submissions and the opening of the Queensland and Federal Government budget submission portals.

15 OCTOBER 2025

ADVOCACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(03)]

- Discussion was had on the funding allocated in the State Government Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) and in particular the funding of the: Mount Crosby Road Interchange; Bremer River Bridge; Amberley Interchange. It was noted that there is opportunity to clarify and confirm the funding allocated.
- Preparation of a one page document that outlines key messages for each project that the Mayor and Councillors could use when advocating.

ACTION

- **Advocacy Lead to commence preparation of state and federal submissions and submit an outline of these to a future Advocacy Advisory Committee Meeting.**
- **Advocacy Lead to update the draft Advocacy Plan including possible branding.**
- **Advocacy Lead to draft a one page document that outlines key messages for each project that the Mayor and Councillors could use when advocating.**
- **General Manager, Asset and Infrastructure Services to confirm funding allocated in QTRIP to the: Mount Crosby Road Interchange; Bremer River Ridge; Amberley Interchange.**

4. LEVERAGING 2032: TWO YEARS ON PROGRESS REPORT

This report provides an update on progress against the deliverables of Leveraging 2032: Our Roadmap to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and also proposes a public facing update for the committee's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Leveraging 2032: Two Years On Progress Report be received and the contents noted.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- Key achievements to highlight in the progress report including the securing of Brighton Homes Arena as a competition venue and Ipswich being a host city.
- The due diligence work underway to identify the location for the synthetic athletics track.
- Finalisation of the Team Attraction Brochure so that the brochure can be used as another tool to promote Ipswich.
- Centre of Excellence
- Refining the list of Advocacy priorities

15 OCTOBER 2025

ADVOCACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(03)]

Councillor Andrew Antoniolli left the meeting at 3.34 pm.

5. FINAL LIST OF PROPOSED VENUES FOR TEAM ATTRACTION BROCHURE

This is a report concerning the final list of proposed venues for inclusion in the City of Ipswich Team Attraction brochure for elite training particularly in the context of pre-Games training in the leadup to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

“The attachment/s to this report are confidential in accordance with section 254J(3)(g) of the Local Government Regulation 2012.”

RECOMMENDATION

That the list of venues for the Team Attraction Brochure be reviewed to proceed.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the Team Attraction Brochure including timelines, possible inclusions and the communications and engagement plan associated with the brochure.

Discussion also included the consideration of a Team Attraction Fund which could be used to attract teams to training venues in Ipswich.

6. LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS FOR APPROVAL

This is a report proposing five (5) projects be adopted as Locally Significant Projects for advocacy purposes.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. **That five (5) Locally Significant Projects be endorsed to progress to Committee and Council for approval to be added to the Locally Significant Project list.**
- B. **That two (2) other projects have been assessed and determined not to progress them as Locally Significant Projects at this time.**

DISCUSSION

The Committee noted and discussed the Locally Significant Projects.

15 OCTOBER 2025

ADVOCACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(03)]

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is proposed for 8 December 2025.

8. GENERAL DISCUSSION (within the purpose and scope of the committee)

8. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the importance of ensuring that Councillors are kept informed as to the progress of projects.

ACTION

The Advocacy Lead to prepare a one-page document summarising the commitments and provide an update as new developments occur.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS

The meeting commenced at 2.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 4.17 pm.

Doc ID No: A12186816

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: NICHOLAS STREET PRECINCT - OCTOBER 2025 NICHOLAS STREET PRECINCT
PROJECT CONTROL GROUP

AUTHOR: PRECINCT DIRECTOR

DATE: 3 NOVEMBER 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the October 2025 Nicholas Street Precinct (NSP) Project Control Group (PCG) meeting focussing on the status of the leasing program and the planning, development, delivery and ongoing management of the NSP.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the October 2025 Nicholas Street Precinct Project Control Group Report be received and the contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

Savills Australia – Program Management
Ranbury Management Group – Program Management
Colliers – Retail Leasing
Setting up Shop – Tenancy Delivery
Alkot Studio – Retail Design Manager
Studio Spillane – Retail Design Manager

IFUTURE THEME

Vibrant and Growing

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The NSP PCG supports the Economic and Cultural Development Committee in providing governance and strategic direction for the planning, development, delivery and ongoing management of the NSP. The PCG generally reports monthly to the Economic and Cultural Development Committee on the planning, development, delivery and operations of the NSP assets.

The PCG met on 29 October 2025 and the draft PCG 29 October 2025 meeting minutes are contained in Attachment 1.

The table below identifies the status of retail and commercial leasing as at 3 November 2025. Colliers appointment as retail leasing agents has now concluded. A new leasing agency has been appointed as part of the precinct management transition to a third-party operator. The changes to the table below relate to a proposed tenancy for K2 in Venue.

Deal Status	As at 3 November	Change from 29 September
Lease Documents Being Prepared	0	0
Lease Documents Issued for Execution	0	0
Leases Executed by Lessee	30	1
Leases Pending Approval by Lessor (Council)	1	0
Leases Executed by Lessor (Council)	29	0

The lease documents for K2 at Venue have been executed by the tenant and issued to council to countersign.

Final completion on the contract separable portion 6.1 concluded on 10 October 2025. The Defect liability period has been extended to 5 November for escalators 1 and 2 at the Nicholas Street Venue. All other items under SP4.1 were finalised however council continues to hold the contractor's security until the escalator works have been successfully closed out.

The remaining separable portions SP1.3 – MM1 integrated retail variation scope will conclude in November 2025 subject to all defects being completed.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

Positive community sentiment remained strong in October, supported by ongoing NSP brand promotion across social media. Total monthly views reached 927,600 across Facebook and Instagram, a 30% decrease from September 2025, reflecting reduced paid advertising and the end of the school holiday period.

The NSP Marketing Team assisted with Hello Harry's staff recruitment campaign and promoted various tenant specials and new menu launches. Marketing support extended to coordinating tenant offers, signage, and event promotion with October events including the final days of Dinosaur Discovery, Handmade Expo Market, Let's Get Spooky Halloween activation, and the Ipswich Sustainable Living Festival.

Planning also commenced for a first-anniversary celebration of the opening of the Nicholas Street Venue, scheduled for 7 and 8 November 2025. This weekend activation includes a media shoot and joint promotions with anchor tenants General Public, Hotel Commonwealth, and HOYTS. NSP Marketing produced social media campaigns and posters to support these activities.

Additionally, a collaboration with My Brisbane was planned for early November to promote the Precinct, highlighting its diverse tenant mix and new businesses to further enhance visibility and brand awareness.

October visitations reached 326,308, which is a 0.2% reduction compared to September 2025 (326,836) however, a 161% increase compared to October 2024 (124,884) contributing to a total of 2.22 million visitations for the latest 12-month period. Growth in visitations can be attributed to multiple new tenancy openings, targeted marketing campaign and more accurate recording of visitations.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

A copy of the consolidated Nicholas Street Precinct project risk register is included as confidential Attachment 2.

Challenges continue with retail leasing in the current market conditions. These conditions include the increased cost of goods, consumer caution in relation to spend and the ability for the retail and hospitality industry to absorb this over time.

Achieving legally binding agreements for lease and sub-leases with prospective precinct tenants remains a critical outcome given completion of the refurbishment works.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The table below summarises the current capital project budget and forecasts to finish. The final project cost is forecasted to be within budget.

	Project	Current Budget	Committed Contracts and Variations	Forecast Contracts and Variations	Forecast Final Cost
1	Civic Project	\$188,020,704	\$183,847,150	\$50,000	\$183,897,150
2	Commonwealth Hotel	\$16,652,052	\$16,546,922	\$105,130	\$16,652,052
3	Retail Project	\$34,407,196	\$35,766,016	\$2,764,735	\$38,530,751
4	Venue Project	\$71,935,639	\$67,694,765	\$4,240,874	\$71,935,639
	TOTAL	\$311,015,591	\$303,854,852	\$7,160,739	\$311,015,591

The civic and retail cashflow for recent months is captured in the table below:

Month	Monthly Expenditure	Project Cumulative Total
July 2025	Retail: \$142,930 Civic: \$105 Commonwealth Hotel: (\$385) Venue: \$12,015	\$154,665
August 2025	Retail: \$197,839 Civic: \$20,585 Commonwealth Hotel: \$700 Venue: \$1,623	\$220,747
September 2025	Retail: \$57,993 Civic: \$0 Commonwealth Hotel: \$0 Venue: \$51,009	\$109,002
*October 2025	Retail: \$0 Civic: \$0 Commonwealth Hotel: \$880 Venue: \$459,022	\$459,902

**Estimate*

The retail precinct's short-term commercial success remains dependent on identifying, attracting, and securing a commercially viable tenancy mix through executed leases. Medium to longer term success will require a comprehensive and ongoing activation and operational focused management strategy to support tenants and deliver a revitalised and fully activated precinct.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The contents of this report did not require any community consultation.

CONCLUSION

Recent leasing executions and openings reinforce market confidence in the Nicholas Street Precinct product and continue to strengthen the leasing campaign to secure tenants for the precinct. The completion of major works across the precinct and opening of anchor tenants positively reinforces Ipswich Central's future and Council's commitment to its success. The progressive opening of additional tenancies in the precinct and the focus of the NSP management branch will continue to increase positive leasing and property management activities and outcomes.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS
RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORT
The Recommendation states that the report be received and the contents noted. The decision to receive and note the report does not limit human rights. Therefore, the decision is compatible with human rights.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Draft PCG Minutes - 29 October 2025  
2.	CONFIDENTIAL Risk Register

James Hepburn
PRECINCT DIRECTOR

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Sonia Cooper
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

“Together, we proudly enhance the quality of life for our community”

Nicholas Street Precinct Project Control Group

MINUTES - 29 October 2025

Members:	Chief Executive Officer – Sonia Cooper (Project Sponsor and Chair, voting); General Manager, Community, Cultural and Economic Development – Ben Pole (voting); General Manager, Corporate Services – Matt Smith (voting); Precinct Director – James Hepburn (voting).	
Observers:	Acting Manager, Strategy, Governance and Performance – Haiden Taylor ; Business Support Officer, Nicole Costanzo	
Apologies:	General Manager, Planning and Regulatory Services – Brett Davey (voting);	
Attachments:	Draft Meeting Minutes – 17 September 2025 NSP Project Registers Risk, Issues, Decisions ,	
No.	OFFICER	DESCRIPTION
1.	SC	Attendance and Apologies
2.	SC	Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting - Confirmed
3.	SC	Review of open Action Items
4.	SC	Review of Decision Register
5.	SC	Review of Risk and issues register
6.	All	Items for decision - Precinct work Decision Request Forms (DRFs) (attached to development report)
7.	All	Items for discussion - Hotel Commonwealth - o Advertised site manager position noted - o Update regarding tenant discussion provided - o Engagement strategy to be agreed between NSP and tenant - Precinct management transition - o Locational presence 1 Dec 2025 - o Property management financials as of 1 Dec 2025 - o Outgoings drafted and sent to both CBRE and ICC Accountants for review - o Branch location discussed ACTION: MS to share 1 Nicholas St spatial planning with JH - Metro project update - o 7 Nov – urban design workshops commence - o 14 Nov – stakeholder engagement - o ACTION: Arrange a site visit with Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors - o Continued urban design workshops to be held with relevant stakeholders - Ellenborough project update - o Project update provided by BP
8.	All	Forward agenda items for the Economic and Cultural Development Committee - Nicholas Street Precinct - NSP Project Control Group Report - Leasing Report
9.	All	Monthly status updates - Development Update - 2025 - o DRFs to be distributed for signature – no issues raised by members

Nicholas Street Precinct Project Control Group

		- Leasing Update - October 2025 - Financial Update - October 2025 - Operations Update - October 2025 - Marketing Update - October 2025 - Property Management Update – October 2025 - o Investment management and asset strategy planning discussed - Ipswich Central Update - October 2025
10.	All	General Business - Discussion on information request received - NSP Investment Strategy
11.	SC	Next Meeting – 19 November 2025