Grants Report 2023-24

PORT ADELAIDE ENFIELD

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative insights to measure the overall impact of the City of PAE's grant offering during a chosen financial year.

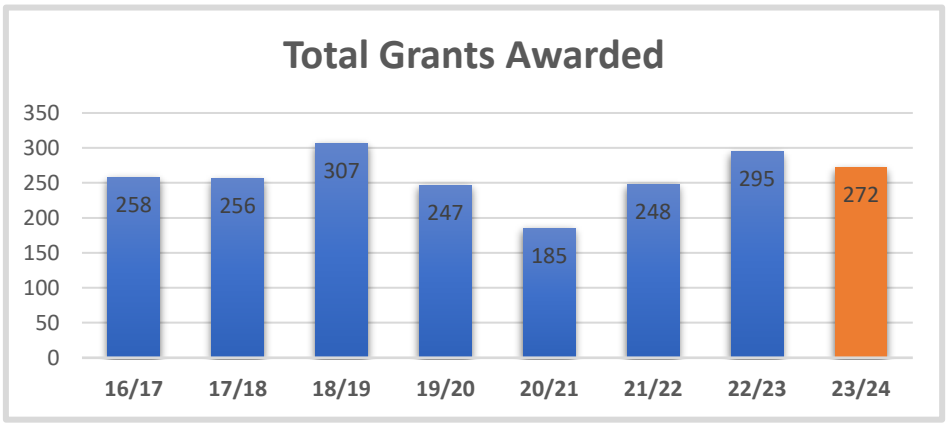
In 2023-24 the City of PAE offered a suite of 14 grant programs to support local community groups, sporting clubs, businesses, artists, residents and individuals. The total budget allocated to grants for the year was $743,737, one of the largest across the South Australian local government sector.

The 14 PAE grant programs are listed in the table below.

Community and Individual Grants	Arts, Placemaking and Events Grants	Heritage and Environment Grants
Individual Grant	Placemaking Grant	Heritage Grant
Equipment Grant	Events Grant	Green Business Incentive Scheme
Community Grant	Creative Industry Grant	Environmental Grant
Sport and Recreation Grant	Business Activation Grant	Significant and Regulated Trees Assistance Scheme
Quick Response Grant		
Lightsview Community Fund		

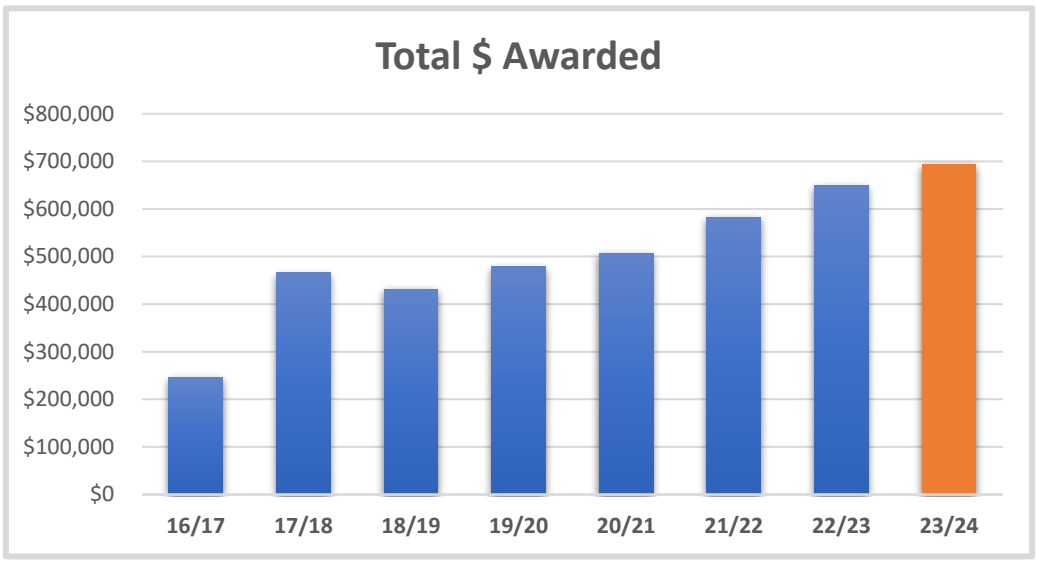
ANALYSIS

TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED



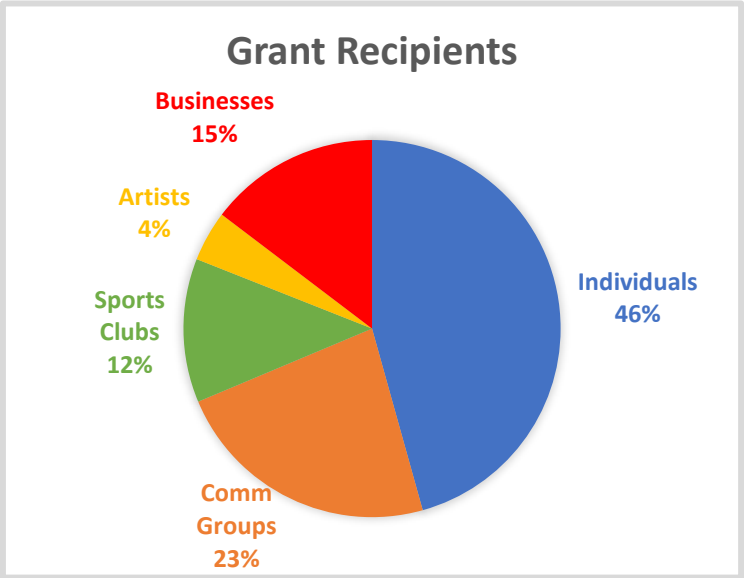
A total of 272 grants were approved and awarded. This is slightly above the average of total grants approved each year since 2016-17. It also continues the upward trend from the lowest number reached during COVID-19 where the ability to support activities, projects, events and purchases was significantly impacted.

TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED



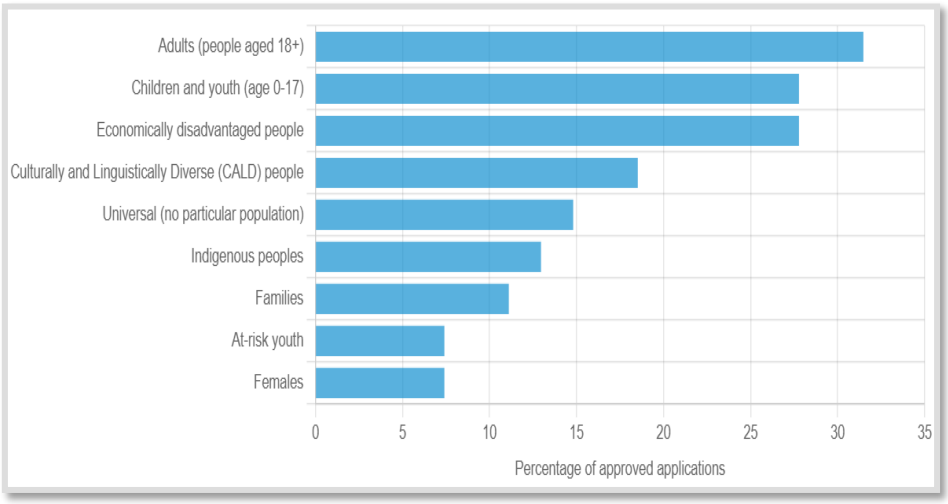
A total of $694,214 in grant funds was approved and awarded. This is consistent with both the growth in demand for grants as well as with the increased yearly overall grants budget, which has nearly doubled since 2016-17. Each dollar spent in grants has the potential to lead to a fivefold investment back into the PAE community and economy.

GRANT RECIPIENTS (BY APPLICATION COUNT)



The majority of grants were awarded to individual residents (46%). It is also worth noting that the introduction of the Creative Industry Grant program in 2023-24 has provided an avenue for artists and creatives to seek funding to develop their practice, filling a gap in the PAE grants offering.

TOP BENEFICIARIES (COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ONLY)



The breakdown of grants approved under the Community and Individual Grants category (with the exclusion of the Individual Grant program) shows that these grants have proportionally benefitted adults, children and youth, and economically disadvantaged people.

APPLICATION APPROVAL RATE (BY APPLICATION COUNT)

Of the 370 applications received, 354 were assessed, with the remaining withdrawn. Of the 354 assessed applications, 272 were approved, resulting in a 76% success rate. While a decrease from the previous year (85%), this rate is relatively high and indicates a high proportion of applicants got a positive return in applying for a City of PAE grant.

APPLICATION APPROVAL RATE (BY DOLLAR AMOUNT)

A total of $1,061,635 was requested, with $694,214 approved and awarded, resulting in a 65.4% approval rate. This indicates significant demand for PAE grant programs, particularly for the Events Grant, Community Grant, Heritage Grant, and Sport & Recreation Grant programs.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION RATE

A total of 531 grant applications were started, with 370 were completed, resulting in a 71% submission rate. This indicates that the majority of applicants did not likely have issues or barriers originating from the grant application processes. There is further opportunity to build community capacity by supporting those who have partially completed their application, and through a deeper consideration of removing barriers in accessing grant programs as part of the continuous improvement of grant making.

COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL GRANTS

Individual Grant: supports PAE residents 25 years old and under, or who hold a Health Care Card, to participate in personal development, leadership or competition opportunities. Funding supports intrastate, interstate and international opportunities. This grant program was PAE's most popular, and Council's financial support helped recipients to achieve lifelong goals, foster physical and mental wellbeing, develop pathways to high performance and excellence, grow motivation, confidence and self-belief, improve discipline, communication and social awareness, enhance personal exposure, develop problem-solving skills, learn and be inspired by others, and appreciate the value of teamwork.

Total amount awarded	$26,600
Number of recipients	98
Age	66% within the 12-17 years old age group
Background of applicants	29% health care card holder (which is indicative of living in a low-income household) 3% self identified as Aboriginal 8% self identified as living with a disability

Outcomes supported: The grant round supported residents' participating in an array of sporting tournaments, arts performances and exhibitions, theatre festivals, robotics competition, leadership programs and a global peace summit.

Community Grant: supports not-for-profit community groups and organisations with projects and initiatives that help local communities thrive by building community wellbeing, cohesion and capacity for PAE residents.

Total amount awarded	$87,418.75
Number of recipients	15

Outcomes supported: delivery of a variety of community-led initiatives from community gardens, wild harvest bush medicine, arts experiences showcasing disability stories and workshops, an

early literacy program, a Miracle League baseball program, a Community Lifesavers program, toiletries starter packs for women in custody, to support programs for refugees, NAIDOC Children's Ball celebrations, remote outback adventure programs targeting local high school students, an inclusive hospitality program, and youth engagement opportunities.

Impact: increased participation in and connection to community and social activities/services together with building a sense of belonging and wellbeing. These projects also supported reconciliation and respectful relationships, celebrating First Nations culture and history, fostering diversity and inclusion, and by gaining both formal and informal qualifications to support employability.

Equipment Grant: program supports not-for-profit community groups and organisations to purchase urgent or necessary equipment required to deliver services, activities, or supports to the PAE community.

Total amount awarded	$55,987
Number of recipients	31

Outcomes supported: purchase a variety of equipment including a defibrillator, computer/laptop, sport-related equipment, kitchen appliances, marquee, trailer, playgroup equipment, musical instruments, and PA system.

Impact: The purchases allowed these grassroots organisations to deliver efficiencies and replace outdated equipment.

Quick Response Grant: supports not-for-profit community groups and organisations with emerging or unexpected needs and opportunities that will make a positive difference to the PAE community.

Total amount awarded	$3631
Number of recipients	8

Outcomes supported: a Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country at a school's Reconciliation initiative, removing hazards and making premises safer, purchase specialist equipment to meet sudden surge in demand, purchase uniforms for students to participate in competition.

Impact: The round enabled these grassroots organisations to follow culturally appropriate protocols, create a sense of team and belonging, and prioritise safety without compromising service delivery.

Sport & Recreation Grant: program supports sporting clubs and community groups to encourage active lifestyles and to deliver sporting or recreation opportunities for the benefit of the PAE community.

Total amount awarded	$14,988
Number of recipients	16
Background of applicants	Youth participation (38%) People from low-medium income households (19%)

Outcomes supported: building volunteers' capacity through First Aid Training, coach education, establishment of new or improvement of current junior programs through purchasing of new equipment and uniforms

Lightsview Community Fund: supports Lightsview residents with the delivery of community-led activities, projects, initiatives, civic programs and events that encourage community use of public spaces and continue building the story of the Lightsview community. The City of PAE administers this fund on behalf of the Lightsview developer (CIC Northgate Pty Ltd). The grant round did not

award any funds in 2023-24 as no applications were received. A targeted promotion of the Fund might result in increased uptake in 2024-25 and beyond.

ARTS, PLACEMAKING AND EVENTS GRANTS

Placemaking Grant: supports delivery of projects in public spaces across the City to enliven and activate local places for the benefit and wellbeing of our communities and visitors.

Total amount awarded	$48,399.25
Number of recipients	8

Outcomes supported: murals, music and family experiences, Whale Dreaming and celebration of the region's unique natural environment through the arts.

Impacts: projects created partnerships and collaborations with community, artists, state government, and businesses

Creative Industry Grant: supports creative practitioners to grow their practice and deliver projects that contribute to PAE's vision for a strong, creative, impactful arts ecology.

Total amount awarded	$49,999.74
Number of recipients	10 individuals, and 2 organisations

Outcomes supported: the realisation of exhibitions, new artworks, public programming and curatorial opportunities, music videos with a Port Adelaide backdrop, new films and screenings, podcasting and explorations of our unique heritage, and mentoring in the business of being an artist.

Impact: encouraging the creation of new work or enabling creatives to undertake professional development opportunities, elevating their practice within a professional context and increasing the skillset and networks within the region.

Events Grant: supports and provides opportunities to event organisers to deliver innovative, creative and sustainable events that align with our City Vision to enhance economic, social and cultural life in PAE. These grants remain highly popular, with the full funding stream exhausted by December 2024. With Events Sponsorship and the new Commemorative Event Fund, the funding of events held by community organisers is well supported by the City of PAE.

Total amount awarded	$201,090
Number of recipients	34

Outcomes supported: diverse community-led events, from sports, festivals, arts and culture, music, food and wine, and commemorative. Hosted by a variety of community and business organisations, the grants saw events delivered across the City, with the majority of events free of charge to attend.

Impact: encouraging community-led and local placemaking – through projects, gatherings, activations and use of local places, largely through diverse community events.

Business Activation Grant: program was introduced in 2023-24 to support local businesses and venues to activate their space, in alignment with select large-scale Council events delivered across the year, to enhance the economic, social and cultural life in PAE. Activations were in addition to regular business programs/offering and priority was given to businesses activations within or adjacent to the event footprint.

Total amount awarded	$19,700
Number of recipients	20

Outcomes supported: a diverse range of activations including live music, additional tour offerings, arts and culture, food and wine and pop-up activities for business activations associated with the New Year's Eve, Dockside Festival and MELTFest events. Whilst the cancellation of the Dockside Festival in 2023 was regrettable, Council's Administration focused on ensuring that businesses and suppliers were not significantly impacted. Due to the nature of the funded activities businesses were not required to return awarded funds.

Impact: the local business community is able to participate in Council-led initiatives without significant financial risk. Whilst the funding amount is small, the grant program is supported through the work of the Creative Port Placemaking Officer and the Activation & Events Coordinator, who actively manage these important relationships.

HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

Heritage Grant: supports owners of Local Heritage Places and Representative Buildings to maintain, conserve or restore places of local heritage significance.

Total amount awarded	$60,000
Number of recipients	30
Location of applicants	The majority of funded properties were located in Alberton and Largs Bay Approximately 20% Local Heritage Places with the remainder being Representative Buildings

Outcomes supported: undertaking of works to/for timber repairs and repainting, front fence, verandah, reroofing/guttering, and brickwork repointing/repairs.

Impacts: Two thirds of these works provided a structural or conservation benefit that significantly added to the heritage value, whilst the remaining third provided a general improvement in streetscape appearance.

Continuous Improvement: Five of the successful grantees were not able to complete their conservation works within the required timeframes and were therefore unable to claim their grant. This is largely due to issues related to costs, availability of qualified heritage trades, project costs, and the ability of applicants to manage building projects. These concerns, along with others associated with delivery of this grant have been addressed with a new delivery model in place from 2024-25 favouring the maximisation of best conservation practice.

Significant and Regulated Trees Assistance Scheme: supports the retention and protection of large trees in our neighbourhoods by helping landowners with tree maintenance costs on their properties, with Council contributing up to $1,000 for pruning and tree maintenance works.

Total amount awarded	$11,566.36
Number of recipients	12

Outcomes supported: pruning and tree maintenance works

Impacts: The grant launched as a trial in 2023-24, recognising the role that significant and regulated trees play in the urban setting of suburban Adelaide. It is noted that some applications for pruning were for quite good tree specimens where the value of the grant to the amenity of the locality was considered optimal.

Continuous Improvement: Some applications were not considered compelling in terms of value to the community. With recent changes in State Government legislation affecting the definition of significant and regulated trees, Council's Administration will be applying greater scrutiny to grant applications over the next 12-month period.

Green Business Incentive Scheme: supports small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the City to invest in initiatives and purchases centred on renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport technologies, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, on-site plantings and water-efficient irrigation systems, waste management and circular economy.

Total amount awarded	$89,834
Number of recipients	14
Funded activity	Solar PV (49%), energy storage (33%), appliance electrification (10%), energy efficiency (3%), water savings (2%) and waste minimisations (2%)

Outcomes: an impressive per annum reduction of 110 tonnes of CO2e (carbon dioxide equivalent) which will be ongoing across PAE's community emission profile and increased renewables by installation of 148KW of solar PV and 74KWh of energy storage that likely would not have occurred without the incentives provided by the Scheme. The round successfully attracted a total co-investment of $177,000 from a diverse range of local SMEs including a fluid transfer component supplier, a brewery, a bakery, a chemist, a restaurant, two cafés, two mechanics, a tattoo studio, a salon, a medical clinic and a disability support service provider.

Impacts: The Scheme helped applicants to improve their environmental performance, resilience (via black-out protection), accelerate their transition to net zero and most importantly slash their operating costs through reducing electricity, water and waste making them more competitive. The initiative also encouraged business to think about next steps in their sustainability journey and allowed Council to build some strong relationships for potential future partnerships.

Environmental Grant: program supports community groups to deliver environmental projects and initiatives that will protect and enhance the sustainability and environment of the local area.

Total amount awarded	$25,000
Number of recipients	5

Outcomes: support for initiatives including solar PV installation, microplastic research, eco-appliance upgrade, community-led grassroot greening and planting.

Impacts: The round empowered community to learn, provide leadership, and take action on environmental and climate change, while simultaneously building strategic collaborations with Council and other stakeholders.

GRANTS IN FOCUS

Of the 14 grant programs offered by the City of PAE in 2023-24, three are highlighted here using case studies showcasing the outcomes achieved through each funding stream.

CASE STUDY 1 – EQUIPMENT GRANT

- Recipient – St John's Youth Services
- Purpose – purchase of musical instruments necessary to support newly welcomed young people who possess emerging musical talents and a keen interest in music exploration
- Amount awarded – $1,430
- Outcomes – the grant supported young people to/with:
  - develop and showcase their musical skills and talents
  - enhanced wellbeing
  - cultivation of essential life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and a sense of accomplishment contributing to their holistic development
  - outlet for emotional expression and a form of stress relief
  - boosted self-esteem and confidence
  - promoting social interaction, collaboration, and the establishment of enduring connections among young people



CASE STUDY 2 – PLACEMAKING GRANT

- Recipient – Sam Brooks (mural artist)
- Purpose – painting of a significant mural on the arches of the Commercial Road section of the Port Adelaide Train Station
- Amount awarded – $7,500
- Outcomes – the grant supported a renowned artist to collaborate with RailCare to revitalise and uplift the Commercial Road section of the Port Adelaide Train Station, creating vibrancy and visual interest at a highly used public space that connects Port Adelaide to the rest of South Australia through public transport networks. The lead artist:
    - worked alongside local business owners to get their input and feedback in the mural design which led to increased collaboration, shared ownership, and pride
    - sought input from local historians and is working with them to include the story of the mural in their weekly walking tours
    - mentored an artist participating in Uniting Communities' New ROADS Program, where members of the community recovering from substance addiction can build new skills and reintegrate into society. The mentee gained personal fulfilment, skills, independence and has gone on to have his own painting career from this experience
    - contributed towards positively changing the perception of the area into a more culturally enriching and significant place
    - received positive community feedback, with the work included in multiple SALA exhibitions and photographs from the area



CASE STUDY 3 – GREEN BUSINESS INCENTIVE SCHEME

- Recipient – BDK Automotive Pty Ltd
- Purpose – installation of a 10kW Solar PV System and 19kWh of energy storage
- Amount awarded – $10,000
- Outcomes – the grant supported a small to medium sized automotive business with:
  - improving sustainability business performance via a per annum 5 tonnes of greenhouse gas emission reduction (tCO_2e)
  - lifetime electricity bill savings of $79,940
  - the incentive has also allowed applicant to consider future equipment upgrades and improvements to the site over time based on above forecasted savings



CAPACITY BUILDING

The City of PAE is committed to offering appropriate and responsive grant programs that support the delivery of strategic outcomes for the benefit of the Port Adelaide Enfield community. It is also committed to assist with building the capacity of businesses and community to successfully apply for grants by providing information, resources and support to grant applicants.

As part of these ongoing efforts, Council's Administration facilitated the following grants workshops and info sessions in 2023-24:

- A Community Grants Info Session held on 27 September 2023 at Kilburn Community Centre to provide an overview of PAE grant programs as well as practical grant-writing tips and case studies. The session was attended by approximately 20 people from as many local grassroots organisations
- A Grant Writing Workshop held on 17 February 2024 at Kilburn Community Centre as part of the Welcoming Communities Program. The workshop targeted multicultural community leaders and featured a focus group exercise as part of community engagement in relation to the proposed Diversity & Inclusion Grant program. The workshop was attended by 16 CALD community leaders
- A Grant Writing Workshop was held on 3 June 2024 through the PAE Sport Network targeting local sporting clubs and recreational organisations. The session was delivered by Richard Mellon (retired volunteer with Council who has worked in the sport and recreation industry for 30+ years), in conjunction with PAE's Sport & Recreation Development Coordinator. The Australian Sports Foundation was also in attendance to present their fundraising platform and how it is a great addition to strengthen a club's grant application. The workshop was attended by representatives from 17 different sport and recreation clubs/organisations within PAE
- A PAE Engine Room Series business event titled "Circular Practices: Benefits to the Environment and your Business"' was held on 7 June 2023. The event was well received by the business community and was hosted at Milledge's Distillation on Todd Street, Port Adelaide. The session, facilitated by Dsquared Consulting, attracted approximately 20 participants on the night. A number of presentations were received from Schneider Electric, Jefferies and Becks Jewellers and the PAE Green Business Incentive Scheme was promoted
- A Grants Info Session was held on 2 August 2023 as part of the Port Adelaide Traders Association quarterly meeting. It showcased those PAE grant programs available to the business community. Approximately 10 businesses were in attendance

In addition to the above, prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact PAE's Grants Team to receive tailored support and advice before submitting an application. These one-on-one interactions are often the best opportunity for community to learn more about PAE grants and how they align with their priorities, to improve their grant-writing skills and submit quality grant applications which, in turn, would maximise their chances of a successful grant outcome.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The City of PAE's focus on continuous improvement in grant making highlight its ongoing commitment to reviewing its grant programs and processes to ensure they are aligned with the City of PAE's strategic vision as well as with community priorities and needs.

In 2023-24 a number of continuous improvement opportunities were identified and implemented including:

- Significant standardisation across grant guidelines to ensure consistency and clarity of grant-related information and design
- Significant standardisation across online grant application and acquittal forms to ensure a smoother and more user-friendly experience
- Monitoring, review and standardisation of internal grant assessment and approval processes to meet higher probity standards
- Review of a number of existing grant programs

- Coordination of grants reporting to both Council and community to showcase the overall impact of the City's grants offering (this document)
- Exploring the use of videos featuring case studies of past grant recipients to promote specific grant programs
- Using acquittals to embed opportunities for grantees to provide feedback and constructive criticism on Council's grant programs and grant making processes and to shape future decision-making in these areas. Below are extracts taken from a sample of grant acquittals:

  "We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support and partnership with the City of PAE. The grant process was smooth and found the grant application a simple process to follow. Thanks again for your continued support to the community." – Environmental Grant recipient

  "The process to apply was simple and straight forward. The application form is easy to navigate, and uploads worked fine. I felt very supported and encouraged at all stages." – Placemaking Grant recipient

  "Batteries only have an effective life of 10 years, and for a business to give up "floor space" and for a product with a short life does not make financial sense therefore the correct Green Incentive for solar batteries for a commercial business needs to increase from $5K to a level that makes sense that the capital outlay will have a positive ROI within a 5yr business lease term." – Green Business Incentive Scheme recipient

  "We found the online grant application and acquittal forms to be exceptionally user-friendly, with an interface that was intuitive and easy to navigate. The grant guidelines provided were clear and straightforward, which made preparing and submitting the application straightforward. Additionally, we were impressed by the approachability and supportiveness of the grants team; they were responsive to inquiries and offered valuable guidance when needed. The timeframes for outcome notifications were reasonable, and we appreciated receiving updates in a timely manner. Overall, we are quite satisfied with the entire process. The combination of clear guidelines, responsive staff, and user-friendly interface contributed to a positive experience." – Events Grant recipient

LOOKING AHEAD

The current social, economic, and political climate is likely to continue to put pressure on individuals, families, community organisations and businesses. This has the potential to translate to increased demand on funding providers, including the City of PAE through its grant programs. In this context, the creation of three new grant programs in 2024-25 – namely the Arts Organisation Fund, the Diversity & Inclusion Grant, and a dedicated Economic Development Grant (TBC) – will provide even more relevance and diversity to the City's grants offering.

From an operational perspective, the challenge is to do more to build community capacity in the grants space and to continue to redesign grant programs across the board to remove barriers to participation and enabling all individuals to have equitable opportunity to access and benefit from the programs. Simultaneously, at the strategic level, the upcoming review of the *Grants, Sponsorship and Other Financial Assistance Policy* presents an opportunity to draft a revised framework which will underpin the way the of City of PAE provides funding to its community in the future.