

## Assign **Out of Scope** in Precinct Support Scheme funding to support two Council projects

**Purpose:** To seek the Minister's approval to assign grant funding this financial year to two projects under the Precinct Support Scheme.

**Analysis:** The Precinct Support Scheme (PSS) was established in 2014 to support precincts targeted for growth in the Sydney Metropolitan Region. So far \$59.5 million has been released to seven councils and Landcom to deliver 16 open space and local infrastructure projects.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) has received two project nominations from Lane Cove and **Out of Scope** councils. The nominations cover the St Leonards and Crows Nest precinct.

In accordance with the PSS Program Management Plan, the Department proposes these two projects are suitable for **Out of Scope** in funding. This briefing note seeks approval to allow the Department to execute two funding agreements with the two councils. There is sufficient budget within the program to fund these projects.

**Out of Scope**

**Approval Date:** 10 June 2020

**Reason for Deadline:** To enable the Department and councils to process funding agreements and issue invoices by end of financial year.

### Recommendations

1. **Approve** two projects proposed for Precinct Support Scheme grant funding in Lane Cove **Out of Scope**
2. **Note** the Deputy Secretary Greater Sydney, Place and Infrastructure can approve these grant funding agreements, as each one is within the budget limit of the instrument of delegation under the Public Finance and Audit Act 1993, dated 19 June 2017 (**Attachment A**).

### Minister approval

**Minister for Planning and Public Spaces**



**Approved**

**Date:** 15/6/20

## Key reasons

### Infrastructure to support growth in planned precincts

The Precinct Support Scheme (PSS) is a local infrastructure grants program which was established in 2014 to support urban renewal and sustainable growth in planned precincts.

As at April 2020, funding of \$59.5 million has been released to seven councils (Parramatta, Ryde, Campbelltown, Canada Bay, Bayside, The Hills and North Sydney) and Landcom to fund 16 local infrastructure projects in eleven precincts.

Projects have typically included park upgrades, active transport links and public realm improvements. Generally, a \$5 million allocation in PSS funding was reserved for each council in the Sydney Metropolitan Region that contained a planned or priority precinct at the time.

The Department reserved \$9 million for the three councils located in the St Leonards and Crows Nest (SLCN) Precinct including North Sydney, Lane Cove and Willoughby.

In 2019, \$3.5 million in PSS funding was provided to North Sydney Council to deliver Stage 1 Hume Street Park upgrade and it was determined each nomination for the SLCN would be considered on its own merit with an option to increase the reserved amount if deemed necessary (IRF19/1823);

### Nominations received

The Department has been working with relevant councils to identify suitable projects to be funded in planned precincts that have been rezoned or are forecast to be rezoned soon.

In March 2020, the Department received nominations from Lane Cove and Out of Scope Councils for funding under PSS. The Department has undertaken an assessment of these nominations against the 10 criteria set out in the PSS Program Management Plan (**Attachment B**). Table 1 outlines the two projects recommended for funding this financial year.

**Table 1 – Summary of project nominations**

Council	Precinct	Project name	Proposal type	Funding requested
Lane Cove	St Leonards & Crows Nest	Upgrade to Bob Campbell Oval	Public open space	\$3,623,023

Out of Scope

## Lane Cove Council's nomination will facilitate a shovel ready project and improve local open-space and the community's connection to open-space

Lane Cove Council's proposal seeks funding of \$3.62 million for:

- Upgrades to Bob Campbell Oval at Wollstonecraft including an all-weather synthetic field, accessible amenities block containing a storage room and kiosks, lighting; and
- The construction of a shared user path to connect the Oval to the St Leonards-Crows Nest Precinct.

The upgrade of Bob Campbell Oval has long been proposed by Council. Consultation to date has involved presenting the options to Councillors, sporting clubs and local community groups. Council plans on consulting the community during the preparation of the final masterplan of the oval, which is planned for the end of 2020.

The project is anticipated to begin in July 2020 and be completed by late 2021.

A location plan and assessment of the nomination is at **Attachment C**.

Out of Scope

## Project alignment with the draft St Leonards and Crows Nest Precinct 2036 Plan

In late 2018, the Department exhibited the Land Use Infrastructure and Implementation Plan for the draft St Leonards and Crows Nest Precinct (SLCN) 2036 Plan. The SLCN 2036 Plan aims to create a vibrant area that caters for the needs of people of all ages. The Precinct will have a diverse range of homes supported by open spaces, community services, cafes, restaurants and unique local retail experiences.

The proposed upgrade to Bob Campbell Oval will achieve this planning vision through the provision of an upgraded open space area that will enable more diverse recreational outcomes for existing and future residents. Following public exhibition of the draft Plan, a range of stakeholders stated the need for more open space in the precinct. Providing funding for this item could address some of this concern for Lane Cove Council LGA (and the wider catchment).

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

## Supporting analysis

### Financial impact

To date \$59.5 million of the PSS budget has been disbursed. There is sufficient budget within the program to fund these projects this financial year.

### Consultation

The program is administered by the Department with oversight provided by the Department's Green and Public Spaces Executive Steering Committee.

Out of Scope

## Background

The PSS is a local infrastructure grants program which was established in 2014 to support urban renewal and sustainable growth in planned precincts.

Councils are approached by the Department to submit nominations consistent with the anticipated pipeline of precinct rezonings. Project delivery is regulated through funding agreements that requires each council to achieve value for money via regular project reporting to DPIE.

Funding is not provided for projects that are already funded under current council programs unless the PSS funding would allow some expansion of a project or it expedites a medium to long term project.

Where a project has support from a council, the community and the Department, and it complies with the key assessment criteria, it will be recommended for endorsement and approval by the Deputy Secretary, Greater Sydney Place and Infrastructure.

## Attachments

Attachment	Title
A	Financial delegation effective 1 July 2019
B	Precinct Support Scheme Assessment Criteria
C	Assessment report - Upgrade to Bob Campbell Oval
D	Out of Scope

## Departmental approval and contact

<b>Approver</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date approved</b>
Martin Reason	Executive Director, Infrastructure and Place	19 May 2020
<b>Final Approver</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date approved</b>
Brett Whitworth	Deputy Secretary, Greater Sydney Place and Infrastructure	1 June 2020
Signature		
<b>Contact Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Phone number</b>
Hanna Shalhaf	Director, Infrastructure Grants and Delivery	0438 015 935