



IT'S GREAT

2025/26 *Microgrants Program*

THE GILGANDRA REGION EVENTS
ATTRACTION AND TOURISM FUND





Objectives

- Support events that align with our Community Strategic plan and our Regions activation and revitalisation projects, including the Gilgandra Activation Blueprint.
- Encourage activation of public spaces and streets to increase foot traffic and vibrancy.
- Support safe, inclusive, and family-friendly events that enhance local community connection.
- Encourage active transport and temporary transformation of public spaces.
- Foster a vibrant events culture and infrastructure that maximises tourism, economic growth, and community vitality in the Gilgandra Region.
- Recognise the contribution events make to the social and cultural development of residents and visitors to the Gilgandra Region.
- Promote the Gilgandra Region as an attractive place to *Live > Enjoy > Grow.*

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

Gilgandra Shire Council (GSC) recognises that local events contribute to the vibrancy and energy of our town and region. The ability to deliver events is critical to drive our region's competitive advantage and economic growth. The It's GREAT Program has been established to assist with investment into events in the Gilgandra Region, with funding available for local businesses, community groups and clubs.

This program is supported by the Microgrants component of the NSW Government Open Streets Program, *Streets of Colour @ Goin' to Gil*, which aims to activate local streets and public spaces, encourage social connection, and create vibrant, safe and inclusive places.

Funding Availability

Applications will be considered through a competitive, open rolling grant model with quarterly assessment rounds. Funding is drawn from a limited pool and will remain available until the total allocation has been fully exhausted.

Applications that meet eligibility will be assessed by a panel and scored against the assessment criteria. Recommendations will be considered by Council before final approval.

Who is Eligible?

Local Business, Community Groups, and Clubs must be located within the Gilgandra LGA and a legally constituted entity (holder of an Australian Business Number or Incorporated Number).



TIMEFRAME & PROCESS

Applications open from Monday, 11 August 2025, with applications being assessed quarterly.

Note: all Rounds will close once the funding is fully exhausted.

Funding Round	Timeframe
Round One	Round One, we're assessing applications ahead of the Goin' to Gil Weekend! Applications close Monday, 1 September 2025 at 9am.
Round Two	Applications close Monday, 20 October 2025 at 9am
Round Three	Applications close Monday, 19 January 2026 at 9am
Round Four	Applications close Monday, 20 April 2026 at 9am



It is required that you contact Council's Marketing and Communications Team to discuss your project before you can make your application.

Applications must be received before the assessment Round closure date to be assessed within the Round quarter.

How To Apply

First Step: contact Council to discuss if you are thinking of applying!

1. Contact Council's Marketing and Communications Team to discuss your project.
 - Email: enjoy@gilgandra.nsw.gov.au
 - Phone: 02 6817 8800
 - Book an appointment and visit us at Council's Warren Road office.
2. Plan your project; gather quotes, complete Budget and Action Plan Templates (provided), consider insurance/permits required.
3. Complete the online application form on Council's website: www.gilgandra.nsw.gov.au



Assessment process

This is a competitive grant process. Applications received must first meet all eligibility requirements listed on the following page. Eligible applications will then be assessed based on the criteria by a panel of representatives comprising two GSC staff and one external party. The merit of eligible projects will be scored based on the assessment criteria by the panellists, and the scores will then be collated and applications ranked.

The Assessment Panel's recommendations will be presented to the Economic Development Committee for recommendation to Council at a formal Ordinary Council Meeting. A decision will be made by Council as to which applications will be funded, and the level of funding to be provided.

All applicants will be notified by phone and in writing as to the outcome of their application.



ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funding assistance under the It's GREAT Program, applications must meet all of the following criteria:

- Applicants must be a Local business, Community Group, or Club with a legally constituted entity and holder of an Australian Business Number (ABN) or Incorporated Number.
- The event must be delivered within the Gilgandra Local Government Area.
- Applicants must have all appropriate insurances, permits and licenses, or can demonstrate that all relevant paperwork is lodged with the relevant authorities.
- Public Liability Insurance covering the event to the value of \$20 million, or can demonstrate that all relevant paperwork is lodged with the relevant authorities.
- The event must comply with relevant approvals, including Local Activity Approval.
- The event must demonstrate co-contribution towards the event, either through monetary funding, in-kind support (volunteer labour, resources, or donated services), or partnership support.
- Applicants must have contacted Council before applying.
- The proposed event must be open to everyone, with exceptions considered for age restrictions for licensed events.

To be considered, applicants must apply all required documentation (insurances, permits, quotes, event Action Plan and Budget).

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Eligible events will be assessed and scored based on the following assessment criteria:

- ✓ **Meets Program Objectives:**
 - Support events that align with our Community Strategic plan and our Regions activation and revitalisation projects, including the Gilgandra Activation Blueprint.
 - Encourage activation of public spaces and streets to increase foot traffic and vibrancy.
 - Support safe, inclusive, and family-friendly events that enhance local community connection.
 - Encourage active transport and temporary transformation of public spaces.
 - Foster a vibrant events culture and infrastructure that maximises tourism, economic growth, and community vitality in the Gilgandra Region.
 - Recognise the contribution events make to the social and cultural development of residents and visitors to the Gilgandra Region.
 - Promote the Gilgandra Region as an attractive place to Live, Enjoy, Grow.
- ✓ **Budget:**
 - Detailed event Budget provided (may use template provided)
 - Level of co-contribution: monetary or in-kind
 - Practicability of event budget
 - Demonstrates the ability and priority to use Local Suppliers
- ✓ **Event Details:**
 - Event Action Plan provided (may use template provided)
 - Feasibility for delivery and completion within the timeframe
 - Previous experience running events or similar
 - Financial gain or fundraising is not the primary focus
- ✓ **Benefit to the Gilgandra Region:**
 - A high weighting will be given to events that demonstrate flow-on economic and social community benefits to the Region.
 - A high weighting will be given to events across the Goin' to Gil & Under the Gums Weekend
 - Event suitability (i.e. complements/competes with existing events)
 - The sustainability and potential growth of the event



To be considered, applicants must apply all required documentation (insurances, permits, quotes, event Action Plan and Budget).

WHAT EVENTS WILL BE FUNDED

Funding is specifically for existing or new events to be held in the Gilgandra Region, which are open to everyone to attend (exemption when age restrictions apply). These may include, but are not limited to:

- Festivals and fairs
- Sporting events
- Food and leisure events
- Community classes and workshops
- Market days
- Art and cultural exhibitions
- Theatre and film festivals
- Music festival
- Gala's, balls and community celebrations
- Temporary activations, including pop-up dining, street performances, outdoor art installations, and so on.
- Events across the Goin' to Gil and Under the Gums Weekend



Event Example

Gilgandra Film Festival

Gilgandra Film festival, established in 2023, is Gilgandra's very own short film festival, brining something new to the region!

Organised by the Gilgandra Film Festival Committee it is an open to all, ticketed, community event which encourage residents to join in the planning meeting held in the lead up to the event.

In it's second year the program included local and international films, and a special mini doc competition for local primary children.

It's GREAT Program Objective met for this event:

- ✓ Complements the Community Strategic Plan and Gilgandra Activation Blueprint
- ✓ Contributes to a vibrant events calendar in the Gilgandra Region
- ✓ Contributes to tourism and economic development
- ✓ Highlights the contribution events make to the social and cultural development of residents and visitors
- ✓ Promotes the Gilgandra Region as a place to Live > Enjoy > Grow!



What Will Be Funded

Eligible expenditure can include, but is not limited to:

- Leasing/hiring essential equipment such as chairs, trestle tables and marquees and so on
- Costs for event venue hire
- Carrying out small building alteration work to enable the event (safety features, sound attenuation, disability access)
- Professional development, including upskilling event staff
- Event production, including operations, logistics and technology providers
- Engaging artists, performers, musicians, or other creative workers, including reasonable associated costs
- Engaging a local creative, arts or cultural institution for program development and delivery
- Administration costs and insurance, or approvals, are directly related to the event
- Promotional materials and marketing activities for the event
- Security
- Road closures
- Catering
- Lighting

What Won't Be Funded

- Ongoing costs towards general operating expenses of the Business/Community Group/Club
- Costs related to buying or upgrading fixed infrastructure or equipment, unless it is a small component of the event cost
- Funding for ongoing staff or operational costs beyond the scope and timeframe of the event
- Events that require retrospective funding, i.e. events that have commenced or are completed
- The purchase of plant and equipment
- Events where membership is required to attend (e.g. club gatherings)
- Prizes or giveaway money, or items
- Events with a primary focus on fundraising
- Applications from past recipients who have not fully met previous funding or acquittal obligations through any other GSC grant programs.





Budget

A detailed budget for the event must be provided as part of the application. This budget will outline the event items and any relevant quotes in a balanced expenditure breakdown. The budget should include details on all income sources (monetary, in-kind, ticket sales and partnership) which will be used to fund the event. A budget template will be provided on the GSC website. Where possible, quotes should be supplied for budget items.

Applicant Co-Contribution

Applicants are required to demonstrate a co-contribution to their event.

Co-contributions can include:

- Monetary contribution from the applicant through the way of sponsors or partners, or ticket sales.
- In-kind support such as volunteer labour, donated goods or services, venue use and so on.

Local Suppliers

Aligning with Council's Local Purchasing Goods & Services policy, applicants are advised to give priority to local suppliers for the delivery of their event. Applications that include the use of local suppliers will be given a higher score for selection.

Funding Agreement

Successful applicants will be provided with a funding agreement which will outline the Terms and Conditions of the funding, and the funding amount.

Compliance

Successful applicants must adhere to the program Terms and Conditions and the funding agreement, and must comply with all relevant State and Local approvals.



ACQUITTAL

All successful applicants will be required to report to Council when the event is completed for final payment. The Acquittal process is an important reporting element as it enables Council to evaluate the overall success of the It's GREAT Program, for future program delivery.

Your acquittal must include:

- A summary of the event, including your feedback on the things that went well and also things that you have learnt from the event
- Details of event expenditure, together with receipts attached.
- Copies of promotional materials, photographs or video to promote the grants scheme through Council publications and website.
- Quantitative data, e.g. number of attendees, number of local suppliers used, any flow-on effect to local community economics, etc.
- Report on how the event supported activation of public space, social connection, and inclusiveness.

A group that fails to complete its acquittal documents is ineligible to apply for funding under any future rounds of the It's GREAT Program until its acquittal is completed and reviewed by Council.

*All events must be completed and acquitted
by 30 June 2027*



CONTACTS

All applications must be received through Council's website: www.gilgandra.nsw.gov.au

If you're not sure if your idea is eligible or need help preparing your application, please get in touch - we're here to help! Phone 02 6817 8800 or email enjoy@gilgandra.nsw.gov.au.

We look forward to receiving your application!



Supported by the NSW Government Open Streets Program