

Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts,  
Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, Minister for Jobs and Tourism

Objective ID: A8493583

## Yabun Festival Live Broadcast support

<b>Purpose:</b>	Urgent approval of ad hoc grant guidelines and the approval of a grant of \$40,000 to Gadigal Information Service to support the live broadcast of Yabun Festival on Koori Radio.
<b>Analysis:</b>	<p>Yabun Festival, held in Victoria Park, Camperdown is held annually on 26th of January. A vital component of the event is the broadcast of the Festival and its performances live on Koori Radio. Gadigal Information Service, who operate Koori Radio, have been unsuccessful in securing funding for this broadcast from other sources and the broadcast is unlikely to occur if investment cannot be sourced.</p> <p>Gadigal Information Services has requested \$40,000 from the NSW Government, through Sound NSW, to support the cost of broadcasting the Festival.</p> <p>Investment from Sound NSW would guarantee the live broadcast can take place and contribute to the priorities of investing in First Nations culture and promoting NSW arts and cultural activities, including local festivals.</p> <p>The grant is considered a “one off ad-hoc grant” due to the timing of the request and that Gadigal Information Services is the only organisation that can deliver the activity and guidelines have been prepared to establish the grant.</p>
<b>Timeframe:</b>	<b>5 January 2024</b>
<b>Reason for Deadline:</b>	Yabun Festival takes place on 26 January 2024 and Gadigal Information Service need sufficient time to prepare for the broadcast.

## Recommendations and actions

- **Approve** the Yabun Festival ad-hoc guidelines (**Attachment A**) and associated risk analysis (**Attachment B**).
- **Approve** the grant in accordance with the guidelines, noting Create NSW’s assessment of the proposal (**Attachment C**).
- **Approve** a Grant Agreement being executed by the Chief Executive of Create NSW and Gadigal Information Service that is consistent with the requirements contained in the guidelines.
- **Note** that the grant will be published on the Grant Finder website within 45 business days of the agreement being executed.

## Summary

### Yabun Festival

- Gadigal Information Service is seeking \$40,000 of funding to deliver the broadcast of Yabun Festival live on Koori Radio on 26 January 2024.
- Without this funding, the live broadcast is unable to take place. This will significantly reduce the reach of Yabun Festival and reduce exposure for First Nations artists scheduled to perform at the live event.
- Support of the live broadcast will support skills development for music professionals, employment, the promotion of First Nations music, culture and talent, and engage audiences in First Nations music and cultural experiences.

- Gadigal Information Services has been identified as the sole potential grant applicant as it operates the festival and is the only full-time First Nations broadcaster in Sydney. Accordingly, if grant funding is provided, it would be classified as a 'one-off non-competitive ad-hoc grant' under the NSW Grants Administration Guide (the Guide).
- In accordance with the requirements of the Guide, guidelines for an ad-hoc grant have been prepared. A key requirement of the guidelines was that the grant must provide value for money and that the activity was aligned with the principles and commitments in the recently released Creative Communities policy.
- The proposal was assessed by two Create NSW staff members as meeting the two requirements of the guidelines and a copy of the Assessment is at **Attachment C**. A summary of the project received from Gadigal Information Service is at **Attachment D**.

## Supporting Analysis

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### Background

- Yabun Festival is the largest one-day gathering and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in Australia, held annually on 26th of January.
- Established by Gadigal Information Service Aboriginal Corporation in 2003, Yabun (meaning 'music to a beat' in Gadigal language) is a free event that features live music, market stalls, panel discussions and community forums on Aboriginal issues, children's activities, and traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural performances.
- The live broadcast of the event enables audiences not located in Sydney or those unable to attend in person the chance to experience and listen in to an important First Nations cultural event.
- Create NSW and Sound NSW will investigate whether Yabun Festival can be supported in a more sustainable manner for future years.
- Without this funding, the live broadcast will not go ahead, significantly reducing audience reach by restricting audiences to only those who can attend in person on the day. A change in leadership at the long-standing community broadcaster has meant that sufficient sponsorship and funding opportunities were not secured in advance of the 2024 Festival.
- The NSW Government has not provided financial support to Gadigal Information Service since 2018. In the wake of the 2023 Voice Referendum, community engagement and expectations of Yabun Festival have significantly increased, which has elevated the need for a higher quality broadcast event with a broad national reach.

### Financial or other impact

- The allocation of this ad hoc grant of \$40,000 to Gadigal Information Service will come from Sound NSW's 23/24FY operating budget.

### Strategic alignment with policies

- The provision of the grant to the Festival will contribute to initiatives from the Creative Communities policy, including to:
  - Prioritise First Nations Culture
  - Promote NSW arts and cultural venues and activities, including local festivals and events, alongside major international and national experiences.

### Communications

- The grant will be published on the Grant Finder website within 45 business days of the agreement being executed

**Internal consultations undertaken in preparing this brief**

Person consulted	Issue
David Gordon Director, Creative Economy Create NSW	Issues discussed include impact of community broadcasting on creative economy and cost benefits of investment.

**Supporting information**

**List of attachments**

- **Attachment A** – Yabun Festival Live Broadcast Ad Hoc Grant Guidelines
- **Attachment B** – Yabun Festival Live Broadcast Risk Matrix
- **Attachment C** – Create NSW Assessment
- **Attachment D** – Yabun Festival Live Broadcast Project Overview

**Approvals**

<b>Key Contact:</b>	Emily Collins, Interim Head of Sound NSW,
<b>Create NSW Final Approver:</b>	Approved 22.12.23 Annette Pitman, Chief Executive Create NSW
<b>Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade Final Approver:</b>	29/12/2023 Elizabeth Mildwater, Secretary, Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade

Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, Minister for Jobs and Tourism	Date	Approved Not Approved Noted
	8/1/24	