
Expression of Interest Guidelines

NAIDOC Week 2025



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Acknowledgement of Country

Georges River Council acknowledges the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Owners of all land, water and sky in the Georges River area. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

Accessibility and Support

Applicants are welcome to contact the Community Capacity Building Officer – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Portfolio to guide them through the process of applying to ensure that all applicants have a good understanding of the Expression of Interest (EOI) and an equitable opportunity in applying.

If you require this information in a format that is accessible to you (such as Auslan, large print), please contact Heidi Bradburn, Community Capacity Building Officer – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Portfolio, between 10.00am and 4.00pm Monday – Thursday, on (02) 9330 9354 or hbradburn@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au

Overview

Hand in hand with the community, Georges River Council's vision is to support, celebrate and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities living, working and learning in the Georges River area. In our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy 2025 – 2030, we commit to partnering and collaborating with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to host Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community events including annual NAIDOC Week activities (Action 1.4.3).

[NAIDOC Week](#) celebrations are held across Australia in early July each year to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In 2025, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC Week during 6 – 13 July. To mark and honour this important milestone, Georges River Council is actively seeking suitably qualified businesses, organisations and sole traders to run community-driven events and initiatives during NAIDOC Week in the Georges River area.

This year's NAIDOC Week theme is '[The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy](#)'. It focuses on celebrating not only the achievements of the past but the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, the vision of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and the legacy of their ancestors.

NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. Council is proud to support community-driven events and initiatives in the Georges River area to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2025.

Statement of Business Ethics

Council is committed to conducting business in a sound and ethical manner. Responding Organisations and individuals **must** read and familiarise themselves with [Council's Statement of Business Ethics](#) provided on Council's website.

Interested organisations are encouraged to review the following documents prior to applying:

- [Georges River Council Community Strategic Plan](#)
- [Georges River Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy](#)
- [Create Georges River \(Cultural Strategy\)](#)

Project Scope

Who

Expressions of interest will be accepted from:

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) that service the Georges River area
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander businesses that service the Georges River area (including sole traders)
- Organisations that are based in or service the Georges River area running events or initiatives designed and led by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander staff
- Organisations that are based in or service the Georges River area applying in partnership with an ACCO or an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander business (including sole traders)

If you are submitting your expression of interest in partnership with an ACCO or an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander business, you **must** provide a letter of support from the partner ACCO or business.

Council also encourages all interested organisations to provide letters of support to demonstrate endorsement of other organisations and people who believe in the work you do, and to demonstrate your capacity to deliver the proposed initiative.

What

We're inviting community members and groups to submit ideas for initiatives that will benefit the Georges River community.

In your application, you'll need to include:

- What your initiative is about
- Where and when it will take place
- The impact it will have on the community

You'll also need to provide a simple budget and let us know how you'd like Council to support your initiative. This could include things like:

- Event costs (eg traffic management, toilets, waste)
- Park or venue hire
- Fees for facilitators or performer

A total funding pool of \$15,500 is available and may be shared between several successful applications.

All submissions will be assessed by a panel made up of Council staff and members of Council's Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee.

Where

To be eligible for funding, events and initiatives for NAIDOC Week must take place in the Georges River local government area.

When

Initiatives must take place during NAIDOC Week, 6 – 13 July 2025. Such initiatives may begin before and/or finish after NAIDOC Week 2025.

Project Schedule

Expressions of Interest closes	11:59pm, Sunday 27 April
Shortlisting and assessment	April
Successful applicants notified	Early May
Initiative must take place during NAIDOC Week	Sunday 6 - Sunday 13 July

Expression of Interest and Selection Process

Stage 1

Interested organisations/partnerships are invited to [submit an expression of interest via Smartygrants](#).

Stage 2

Council workers will assess and shortlist expressions of interest for consideration by the Selection Panel.

Stage 3

The Selection Panel, including Council officers and members of Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, will assess submissions against the selection criteria and select successful submissions.

Selection criteria

Expressions of Interest in Stage 1 and Stage 2 will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Eligibility** – Initiative takes place during NAIDOC Week in the Georges River LGA and is led by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisation or staff
- **Concept** – Initiative is well-defined
- **Alignment** - Initiative aligns with the 2025 NAIDOC Week theme, 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy'
- **Impact** – Initiative clearly benefits the Georges River community
- **Capacity** – Submission demonstrates technical feasibility and ability to successfully realise the initiative
- **Finances** – Submission includes clear and realistic budget with value for money

Insurance

Interested organisations that hold Public Liability Insurance are requested to provide their certificate of currency.

Stage 4

Successful organisations/partnerships will be notified and required to agree to an acceptance form stating obligations including:

- Acknowledging Council in promotional material
- Providing all requested information and completing all initiatives in a timely manner, in accordance with any timelines or deliverable dates associated with the expression of interest.
- Reporting to Council following their initiative to let us know how it went.
- Returning any unexpended funds.
- Acting in accordance with [Council's Statement of Business Ethics](#) at all times.

Stage 5

Successful organisations/partnerships deliver their initiatives.

Stage 6

Reporting and return of any unexpended funds.

Further information

Please contact Heidi Bradburn, Community Capacity Building Officer – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Portfolio, between 10.00am and 4.00pm Monday – Thursday, on (02) 9330 9354 or hbradburn@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au for further information.