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**MM42/24 LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS ALLOCATION (LSCA)  
PROGRAM - Mayor, Councillor Trenton Brown****File Number: CLM/24/1/1/8 - BP24/939**

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The LSCA was established by the NSW Government following the 2023 election to provide grants to the value of \$400,000 in each of the 93 NSW electorates. The funds will be used to deliver small local projects announced as election commitments prior to the March 2023 election. LSCA grants will enhance community wellbeing and provide benefits to communities in NSW.

The total cost of the LCSA is \$37.2 million and will be funded from the Community Services and Facilities Fund. (CSFF). The LSCA program allocates up to \$400,000 per electorate for small community projects, but concerns about its probity and transparency have led opposition Minister of State Chris Rath to refer it to the Office of the Auditor-General for further scrutiny.

In the Sydney Morning Herald report "*Secret review reveals conflicts of interest in Labor's \$37 million community grants scheme*" dated 24 October 2024, the program faced accusations of using public money for political purposes, and breaching Labor's own standards for grant funding.

According to the article, the NSW Premier's Department halted two community projects, including one worth \$100,000, under the Local Small Commitments Allocation (LSCA) program due to "unacceptable" conflict of interest concerns, while 28 other projects were flagged as having "moderate probity risks" in a ministerial-commissioned review.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

- (a) Notes the Sydney Morning Herald reported on 24 October 2024 that the Local Small Commitments Allocation (LSCA) Program was riddled with "unacceptable" conflict of interest concerns.
- (b) Laments that Council was promised multiple grants under this scheme, including one flagged by the Premiers Department for probity risk due to 'strong political or other affliction' conflict types.
- (c) Regrets that the Minns Labor Government not only undermined public confidence with this scheme, but also made funding promises to the Ryde community that on one occasion saw \$400,000 of taxpayer money left undelivered for its intended purpose.

**MM42/24 (continued)**

- (d) Writes to the Premier, requesting that in next year's State Budget, his Party's broken promise be corrected to help sustain the growing need for community infrastructure and facilities in Ryde.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

Report Prepared By:

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**Mayor, Councillor**