



The Windsor Paddlesports Club Grant saved after hanging by a thread!

## Description



Due to inaction by Council, a \$801,218 grant to build a clubhouse in Macquarie Park (on the river [opposite the Terrace in Windsor](#)) for Paddlesports and Dragon boating was hanging by a thread. In July 2020, [Robyn Preston MP](#) announced a [generous grant](#) on behalf of the Coalition Government through the NSW Sports Council. It took years of applications made by [Windsor Paddlesports Club Inc.](#) to secure a grant for a flood-resilient building that would provide watercraft storage, change room facilities, amenities and a kitchen. The grant was made in conjunction with partner groups like the [Pink Finns Charity](#) and the [Pendragons Dragon Boat Club](#) (who need to travel to Penrith or even Lithgow to scratch their itch). Imagine how it would adorn our river to have dragon boating visible from the Terrace!



*A concept drawing of the proposed Windsor Paddlesports clubhouse*

The DA was lodged and duly passed. Both Labor Mayor Barry Calvert and Liberal Mayor Patrick Conolly appeared for photo opportunities to extol the benefits of the new facility. Necessary steps to progress the project were to grant landowner consent (Council + Crown Lands' responsibility) and for the works to 'commence' – crucial for ensuring the deadline of the DA would not lapse.

## Windsor Paddlesports Club Inc. have received a grant from the NSW Government for a new clubhouse



By Finn Coleman

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The Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Barry Calvert has congratulated the Windsor Paddlesports Club Inc. on receiving a new \$801,218 grant through the NSW Government's Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund.

This is the third year that the club have applied for the grant and they are excited about the news that will enable the construction of a multi-purpose paddlesports facility at Macquarie Park in Windsor.



📷 Awarded: Hawkesbury City Mayor Barry Calvert congratulates Windsor Paddlesports Club Inc. on their grant. Picture: Supplied.

*Hawkesbury Labor Mayor Barry Calvert appears for a photo-op*

The club held a groundbreaking ceremony in May 2022 where our State MP did not mince words, congratulating them for getting “shovels in the ground” at the “commencement of construction”. In reality, Council forbade the club from doing anything more than survey and peg out the site. They were told to wait for the ‘Plan of Management’ of the Park, [which arrived in the Chamber at our August meeting](#).

 **Robyn Preston MP**  
3 May 2022 · 🌐

**'OARSOME' NEWS FOR WINDSOR PADDLESPORTS CLUB**

Finally shovels in the ground for Windsor Paddlesports Club with the plan of management completed and surveyors on site at the commencement of construction of this great new facility.

The NSW Government has contributed \$801,218 for the construction of a new clubhouse with watercraft storage, change room facilities, amenities and a kitchen. Just as a jockey gets back up on his horse when he has a fall, let's get back into our kayaks as the flood waters recede and embrace this mighty Hawkesbury River.

I was joined by [Patrick Conolly - Mayor of Hawkesbury](#), Neil Crabb, President of Windsor Paddlesports Club, club members and kayaking enthusiasts as we turned the sod on this much anticipated project.

[The Hawkesbury Gazette](#)  
[Hawkesbury Post](#)  
[Pulse FM Radio](#)  
[Hawkesbury District Independent Magazine](#)  
[Windsor Paddlesports Club Inc.](#)  
[Hawkesbury City Council](#)  
[Nepean Rowing Club](#)  
[The Hawkesbury Gazette](#)  
[Stuart Ayres](#)  
[PCYC Hawkesbury](#)  
[Sackville Ski Gardens](#)  
[Upper Hawkesbury Power Boat Club](#)

 

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*Hawkesbury Liberal Payor Patrick Conolly appears for a photo-op*

Worse, it appeared Council wanted to argue about whether ‘commencement’ had truly occurred, when the DA was set to expire the day after the meeting, Wednesday 9th August. The clock has been run out. The grant is due to expire in a matter of weeks, and my fear was that the new State Labor Government are looking for excuses to squash grants issued by their predecessors.

When I raised this concern in the Chamber at the meeting, it was pleasing that no one in the chamber wanted this to fall over. Everyone saw the risks of having to lodge a brand new DA or to give the State Government any excuse to withdraw the funding. Representatives from the club told us last night that despite repeated requests and obvious urgency, ‘landowner consent’ from Crown Lands / Council has still not been given. So in this instance, Council has failed the community. Watch the video linked above and hear how disappointed the club is at their dealings with Council.

This debacle is a symptom of a wider problem we’ve seen before: Worthy community groups secure grant funding from the State or Federal government, but need to engage Council for planning permission, or landowners consent, and then Council lets them down. Just look at the mess an earlier grant for a new [Hawkesbury Men’s Shed](#) devolved into. [That funding was lost.](#)

As it stands, the project was shown to be at significant risk, and the club was being pressed to provide legal advice at their own expense to justify that commencement has indeed occurred, which was the only thing that will keep the project alive

**UPDATE:**

A week later, the following advice was received by the Paddlesports club from Council:

Having considered the advice, and upon reviewing the additional material or evidence supplementing the advice, I confirm Council is satisfied that “*building, engineering or constructions work*” relating to DA0272/15, lawfully physically commenced prior to 9 August 2023.

Noting the above, I confirm that Council is satisfied that DA0272/15 has not lapsed.

*Welcome news!*

I am also informed that (belatedly) the Council has confirmed the necessary “landowner consent” from Crown Lands.

The grant is not out of the woods yet, as there remains the question of whether the facility can be built within the grant monies pledged.

I will continue to advocate for a good outcome for the community.

**Category**

1. Uncategorized

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councill