**Applicant: Wickham Community Association**
**Project Title: Replace Wickham Picture Garden Projector**

**Description of organisation** - The Wickham Community Association has operated the Wickham Picture Gardens for more than 20 years and provides a range of community services and activities for Wickham residents. The outdoor cinema is used to screen movies, sporting events and community activities, including youth events delivered in partnership with the City of Karratha. Revenue generated from the Picture Gardens supports other community services delivered by the association, including operation of a community bus.

**Description of project** – The project seeks funding to replace the existing 12-year-old projector at the Wickham Picture Gardens with a new laser-based projector system. The current projector is experiencing increasing failures and costly repairs due to age and environmental impacts. The new projector would improve reliability, reduce maintenance costs and ensure the continued operation of one of Western Australia's few outdoor cinemas.

**Project Budget – Income (includes donations, volunteer labour, additional grant funding, organisations contribution)**

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| City of Karratha Large Community Grant | Not Confirmed | $50,000 |
| Wickham Community Association Contribution | Confirmed | $70,000 |
| Rio Tinto, Lotterywest and other funding sources | Not Confirmed | $25,000 |
| | **INCOME TOTAL** | **$145,000** |

**Project Budget – Expenditure**

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|---|---|
| SP4K-20 C Projector | $132,480 |
| Installation - Edge Content & Technology | $11,228 |
| **EXPENDITURE TOTAL** | **$143,708** |

**City of Karratha Funding Received Last 3 years**

| | |
|---|---|
| | **$0** |

**Key Considerations**

- The existing projector is more than 12 years old and has experienced multiple significant failures, including two Integrated Cinema Processor card failures and hard drive issues resulting in cancelled screenings.
- The Association has committed a substantial financial contribution of approximately $70,000 towards the project and is actively pursuing additional support through Rio Tinto, Lotterywest and other funding sources. The additional funding would reduce the Association's contributions and allow them to reallocate it to other community programs and events.
- Without funding support, replacement of the projector would likely be significantly delayed, increasing the risk of service interruption and ongoing costly repairs.
- The Wickham Picture Gardens is one of only a small number of outdoor cinemas operating in regional Western Australia and provides a unique community and visitor attraction.
- The applicant has demonstrated a strong financial commitment to the project and has sought external funding opportunities, effectively leveraging the City's grant funding investment. This was a key factor supporting the recommendation.
- The organisation has engaged Adam Brooker as project lead and Edge Content & Technology to supply and install the new projector.

**Community Benefit**

- Maintains an important community facility that provides regular entertainment and recreation opportunities for Wickham residents and surrounding communities.
- Supports community connection through movie screenings, sporting broadcasts, youth activities and community events.
- Provides accessible entertainment for families, young people, seniors and visitors who may not otherwise have access to cinema experiences locally.
- Supports tourism and visitation by maintaining one of the few outdoor cinemas operating outside Perth.
- Protects an established community facility that contributes to social connectedness, youth engagement and community identity in Wickham.

**Strategic Alignment**

☐ Goal 1 - We resect Aboriginal peoples' Cultural Authority and Connection to Ngurra (Country)
☒ Goal 2 - Our community is welcoming, connected, vibrant, healthy and safe
☒ Goal 3 -. Everyone is included
☒ Goal 4 - Our places and spaces are functional, attractive and reflect our unique identity

☐ Goal 5 - We respect and care for the natural environment
☐ Goal 6 - The local economy is diverse and thriving, with opportunities for all
☐ Goal 7 - Our civic leaders are innovative, listening and balanced in meeting community needs.

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|---|---|---|
| **Project Total** | $143,708 | **Aggregated Assessment Panel Score (%)** 76% |
| **Amount Requested From City of Karratha** | $50,000 | |
| **Amount Recommended** | ***$50,000*** | |

**RECOMMENDATION:**
Officers recommend funding the full requested amount of $50,000 towards the purchase of a new projector for the Wickham Picture Gardens.

The project demonstrates alignment with Council Plan Goal 2, 3 and 4 by supporting the continued operation of an established community recreation and cultural facility. The Picture Gardens provides a valued local entertainment venue, hosts community activities and supports broader community services through revenue generated by the Wickham Community Association.

The existing projector is more than 12 years old and has experienced significant operational failures, resulting in cancelled screenings and increasing maintenance costs. Replacement with a modern laser-based projector will improve reliability, reduce the risk of service interruption and support the long-term operation of the facility.

The Applicant has demonstrated significant commitment to the project through a substantial organisational contribution of $70,000 towards the project and is seeking an additional $25,000 from other funders. The proposed City contribution represents approximately 34.8% of the $143,708 expenditure budget, demonstrating a substantial financial commitment from the applicant and the potential to leverage external investment. Any additional external funding will reduce the Association's contribution to this project, allowing their committed funds to be reallocated to other community programs and events.

The recommended allocation is considered appropriate given the demonstrated need for replacement, the community benefit of maintaining the facility and the significant applicant contribution.

Without replacement of the ageing projector, the association faces ongoing repair costs, increasing reliability issues and the potential loss of an important community asset. Officers consider the organisation has strong capacity to deliver the project and that replacing the projector will safeguard a facility that contributes to social connection, recreation opportunities and tourism within Wickham and the broader City of Karratha.