



# Strengthening Local Government Partnerships

## Grant Application Information

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# Safer Together

## 1. About Safer Together

Safer Together is a Victorian Government program that supports communities, government, fire and land management agencies to better connect and work together in a bushfire risk reduction context. A core priority of the Safer Together program is promoting increased collaboration with and between communities, local government authorities and agencies, while keeping communities at the centre of decision making.

Based on the principle of shared responsibility, Safer Together recognises the essential role that Victoria's local government authorities play in supporting communities to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from bushfire and other emergencies.

Funding for Safer Together has been provided in an ongoing capacity.

## 2. Key dates

Applications open	2 May 2022
Information session (register <a href="#">here</a> or contact <a href="mailto:kirsty.argento@delwp.vic.gov.au">kirsty.argento@delwp.vic.gov.au</a> )	9 May 2022
<b>Applications close</b>	<b>20 May 2022</b>
Applicants notified	w/c 30 May 2022
Funding agreements executed	Mid-June 2022
Activities completed and acquittal reports submitted	Dependant on project length

## 3. Information session

An information session for the grants is being held on Tuesday 9 May 2022 at 10am.

If you are interested in learning more about the project and hearing from previous grant recipients, please register your interest [here](#) or contact Kirsty Argento on [kirsty.argento@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:kirsty.argento@delwp.vic.gov.au).

#### 4. About the Strengthening Local Government Partnerships grants

The Strengthening Local Government Partnership grants provide funding to local councils to design community engagement projects that meet the needs of people and place within their local context.

The grants aim to strengthen partnerships within and across local government, with fire agencies and with communities. We recognise that local government is both a key partner with legislative responsibilities as well as uniquely placed to connect with local communities and networks.

#### 5. What are the project objectives?

- Enable LGAs to deliver place-based, community-centred engagement
- Provide resources, support and connections to increase capacity and capability of local government
- Foster a collaborative, multi-partner approach to bushfire risk reduction
- Facilitate sharing and learning across local governments and partners across the state

Local governments applying for funding need to adopt a community-centred approach to support bushfire and other hazard risk reduction. Working and collaborating with communities is key in bringing together diverse perspectives, knowledge, interests and priorities to address complex issues. This approach ensures community needs and place-based issues are central to project design and delivery.

#### 6. Who can apply?

Local councils working to reduce bushfire risk.

#### 7. Who cannot apply?

The following organisations and individuals cannot apply for funding:

- Individuals;
- State Government agencies;
- Private sector businesses and agencies;
- Educational institutions;
- Not for profit organisations;
- Any other group not classified as a local council.

#### 8. What might be funded?

Projects that:

- Employ a staff member to work within one or across several municipalities to implement community engagement approaches;
- Focus on strengthening partnerships and collaboration with fire agencies and/or other organisations to work with communities;
- Encourage collaboration between two or more local governments with resourcing challenges and bushfire risk;
- Increase community participation in bushfire risk reduction activities and support community decision making for risk reduction;
- Identify connections or support links between emergency management and community-based approaches;
- Support research, monitoring, evaluation and learning related to community needs, local bushfire risk reduction activities and the impacts of these activities on communities, businesses and the environment;
- Encourage or support knowledge sharing and connection across other LGAs and communities.

If you are interested in hearing about current or previous projects funded as part of the Strengthening Local Government Partnerships grants, please register [here](#) to attend an information session on Monday 9 May.

#### 9. What will not be funded?

The Strengthening Local Government Partnerships project will not fund the following activities:

- The purchase of land or capital assets;
- Routine or ongoing maintenance activities;
- Where duplicate services are in operation or planned for in a targeted community;
- Core business as usual activities;
- Recurrent operating costs, for example rent and utility costs, and/or activities establishing expectations of ongoing funding;
- Activities located outside the State of Victoria.

## 10. What are the funding details?

The grants fund local governments to work collaboratively with communities and fire agencies to address bushfire risk and community needs within their local government area.

<b>Amount</b>	Grants of up to <b>\$150,000</b> per financial year, per local government are available to successful applicants, with the possibility of additional funding upon request and justification. Grant applicants are encouraged to apply for funding amounts that are suitable for their individual project needs.
<b>Duration</b>	Funding is available for projects of up to <b>24 months</b> in duration, with potential to extend beyond this period.
<b>Project type</b>	This funding could be viewed as <b>seed funding</b> to develop new ideas, or <b>additional funding</b> for projects already funded under the Strengthening Local Government Partnerships grants project

## 11. What are the assessment criteria?

Applications will be checked for eligibility. Eligible applications will then be assessed using the criteria listed below.

- A. *Community bushfire risk reduction priorities:* Projects adopt a community-centred approach to bushfire risk reduction and strengthening community resilience – 30%
- B. *Relationships that support bushfire risk reduction:* Projects strengthen collaboration and partnerships with communities, fire and land managers or other key stakeholders in the spirit of shared responsibility – 20%
- C. *Create innovative solutions:* Projects build on previous bushfire risk reduction projects or deliver new approaches to managing bushfire risk at the local level – 20%
- D. *Demonstrated capacity of project team to deliver and evaluate the project:* Applicants must demonstrate how the project will be implemented including outlining costs, timelines, and strategies for evaluating success of the project – 20%
- E. *E: Building capability and capacity at a local level:* project must demonstrate how local government and/or community benefit in the longer term from delivery of this project - 10%

## 12. What supporting documents will need to be provided?

Supporting documents are welcomed but not required.

We may call upon the project applicant to supply specific supporting documentation during the application review process.

### Funding agreements

Successful applicants must enter into a funding agreement with DELWP. The Victorian Common Funding Agreement is used for funding agreements with not-for-profit organisations and Local Government Authorities. It is recommended that applicants review the terms and conditions before applying. Information about the Victorian Common Funding Agreement is available on <https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-common-funding-agreement>

The funded activity must not include using the funding for political campaigning or advocacy activities for political parties.

### Legislative and regulatory requirements

In delivering the activity grant recipients are required to comply with all relevant Commonwealth and state/territory legislations and regulations, including but not limited to:

- *The Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth)*
- *The Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic)*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*

### Tax implications

Applicants should consult the Australian Taxation Office or seek professional advice on any taxation implications that may arise from this grant funding.

Successful applicants without an ABN will need to provide a completed Australian Taxation Office form 'Statement by a Supplier' so that no withholding tax is required from the grant payment.

### Acknowledging the Victorian Government's support

Successful applicants are expected to acknowledge the Victorian Government's support and promotional guidelines (<https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/grants>) will form part of the funding agreement. Successful applicants must liaise with the departmental program area to coordinate any public events or announcements related to the project.

### Payments

Payments will be made as long as:

- the funding agreement has been signed by both parties;
- grant recipients provide reports as required, or otherwise demonstrate that the activity is progressing as expected;
- other terms and conditions of funding continue to be met.

### Monitoring

Grant recipients are required to comply with project monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the funding agreement. This may include regular progress reports, site inspections, completion of closure reports, transition planning and acquittal documentation.

### Privacy

Any personal information about you or a third party in your application will be collected by the department for the purposes of administering your grant application and informing Members of Parliament of successful applications. Personal information may also be disclosed to external experts, such as members of assessment panels, or other Government Departments for assessment, reporting, advice, comment or for discussions regarding alternative or collaborative grant funding opportunities. If you intend to include personal information about third parties in your application, please ensure that they are aware of the contents of this privacy statement.

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and other applicable laws.

DELWP is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. You can find the DELWP Privacy Policy online at [www.delwp.vic.gov.au/privacy](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/privacy).

Requests for access to information about you held by DELWP should be sent to the Manager Privacy, P.O. Box 500 East Melbourne 8002 or contact by emailing [Foi.unit@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:Foi.unit@delwp.vic.gov.au).

### 13. How to apply?

- Go to the grant program web page – <https://environment.vic.gov.au/grants/strengthening-local-government-partnerships>
- Click on the '[apply for a grant](#)' link under 'How to apply'

To return to a saved draft application, click on the '[return to a previously started application](#)' link.

### Attaching required documents:

Supporting documents must be in an acceptable file type, such as Word, Excel, PDF, or JPEG. The maximum file size for each file is 10MB.

You will receive an application number when you submit an application online. Please quote this number in all communications with the department relating to your application.

If you have documents to submit that cannot be attached to your online application you can email them to [grantsinfo@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:grantsinfo@delwp.vic.gov.au) quoting your application number. Attach all documents to one email, zipping the files if required.

Make sure your application is submitted by **20 May 2022 at 5pm**.

**Note:** No hard copy applications will be accepted. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

### 14. Additional information

Information about the Safer Together program is available at [www.safertogether.vic.gov.au](http://www.safertogether.vic.gov.au)

For grant application queries email: [S.Russell@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:S.Russell@cfa.vic.gov.au)

For technical queries email: [grantsinfo@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:grantsinfo@delwp.vic.gov.au)

### 15. What is the notification process?

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing after the assessment process is completed. All decisions are final and are not subject to further review. Unsuccessful applicants can ask for feedback on their application.

### 16. Checklist

Read these guidelines before applying and complete the following checklist.

Have you:

- read these guidelines carefully?
- checked if you are, or your organisation is, eligible for this grant funding?
- checked if your activity is eligible for this grant funding?
- collaborated and consulted with key partners to develop the application to ensure that your project is not duplicating any existing or planned projects?
- checked that you would be able to comply with all relevant laws and regulations in delivery of your activity?
- prepared the appropriate supporting documents?