



Community Grants Program Guidelines

About the Program

The Buloke Shire Community Grants Program is a competitive funding program to support community-led projects that enhance the wellbeing, vitality and resilience of Buloke communities. The Buloke Shire Community Grants Program is made possible by the Coonooer Bridge Wind Farm Payment in Lieu of Rates.

Eligibility

You are eligible if:

- You are a not-for-profit, incorporated organisation (or are auspiced by one)
- You hold Public Liability Insurance of at least \$20 million
- Your project takes place within, or directly benefits, the Buloke Shire community

What Can Be Funded?

Projects must demonstrate community benefit and may include:

- Addressing a demonstrated community need
- Developing or improving community facilities
- Programs or equipment that increase participation
- Contributions toward external grant applications (co-funding)

What will not be funded?

The Community Grants will not fund the following:

- Applicants with outstanding acquittals
- Retrospective projects or projects already commenced
- Projects not ready to start or unable to be completed within 12 months
- Projects considered the responsibility of another authority (for example water authorities and health and welfare agencies)
- Organisations with sufficient funds to complete the project independently
- Projects that do not meet funding ratio requirements
- Projects that are the responsibility of government or other agencies
- Funding gaps from other authorities
- Services already funded by other levels of government
- Administrative expenses (wages, rent, insurance, utilities)
- Ongoing maintenance (e.g. mowing)
- Duplicate services (unless unmet need is demonstrated)
- Curriculum-based school or kindergarten activities
- Open space projects on public land without landowner consent
- Political or religious promotion
- Organisations with primarily political purposes
- Religious worship or sectarian activities
- Individuals

Important: Council may decline applications relating to land or facilities under its control.



Funding Details

Grant Amount

- Up to \$5,000 (incl. GST)

Funding Ratio

- Council contributes \$2 for every \$1 contributed by the applicant
- Up to 50% of the applicant contribution can be in-kind

Exception

- No funding ratio applies to applications of \$2,000 or less

Defining Contributions

- Volunteer labour: \$25/hour
- Specialist skills: up to \$50/hour
- Materials and equipment: market or hire value

Council Grant	Your Contribution		Project Total	Eligible?	Details
	Cash	In-kind			
\$5,000	\$2,500	\$0	\$7,500	Yes	Funding ratio met. No in-kind contribution
\$5,000	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$7,500	Yes	Funding ratio met. In-kind contribution does not exceed 50%
\$5,000	\$750	\$1,750	\$7,500	No	Funding ratio not met. In-kind contribution exceeds 50%

Application Requirements

Your application must include:

- Public Liability Insurance certificate (minimum \$20 million)
- Quotes for all project components
- Details of in-kind contributions
- Recent bank statement (within 3 months)

General Conditions

- One application per organisation per financial year
- Applications must be submitted via SmartyGrants
- Valid quotes required for items over \$500
- Incomplete applications will not be considered
- Oversubscribed rounds may roll into the next round

Additional requirements (if applicable):

- Land manager approval
- Planning/building permits and associated costs included

Funding conditions:

- Successful applicants must enter a funding agreement
- Funds must be used as approved
- Unspent funds must be returned



- Projects must be acquitted as per funding terms

Assessment Criteria

Applications are assessed based on:

- Demonstrated community need
- Increased participation opportunities
- Broad or multi-use community benefit
- Alignment with relevant plans or strategies
- Financial capacity to deliver the project
- Sustainability outcomes

Additional considerations

- Accessibility and inclusion
- Public safety risks
- Efficient use of resources

Key Dates

Applications are accepted throughout the year and assessed during two application rounds:

Round 1

Opens: 1 August

Closes: 12 September

Notifications: By 30 October

Round 2

Opens: 1 February

Closes: 14 March

Notifications: By 30 April

Acquittal: Due within 2 months of project completion

How to Apply

1. Prepare required documents
2. Obtain necessary quotes
3. Confirm eligibility and contributions
4. Submit online via SmartyGrants: <https://buloke.smartygrants.com.au/>

Need Help?

For further information, contact:

Community Development Team

Email: grants@buloke.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 520 520