

### 8.3 GROWING SUBURBS FUND AND SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA GRANTS 2020/21

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**Attachments:**

1. Growing Suburbs Fund
2. GSF Guidelines
3. SRV Guidelines
4. Building Blocks Grants

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#### SUMMARY

In response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Government has announced some economic stimulus packages. This report focuses on two packages:

- i) \$25M Growing Suburbs Fund 2020/21 – a six-month extension to the funding grant to contribute the timely delivery of community infrastructure in Melbourne’s ten Interface Councils, as well as six peri-urban councils which are now eligible under this 2020/21 program.
- ii) \$68M Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program – a new program to support councils to build and upgrade community sports facilities. All Victorian councils are eligible.

Both funding streams are targeting ‘shovel-ready’ projects which can be quickly delivered and stimulate local economies. Grant application timelines are extremely tight. Because of this, and following discussions with Councillors, an application has already been submitted to the Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program, as applications closed on 19 June 2020.

Applications to the Growing Suburbs Fund close on 13 July 2020. Officers have identified projects for which Council could apply. These meet the essential ‘shovel-ready’ requirements, align with Council’s strategic priorities and are likely to be competitive under the program guidelines. These projects aim to bring forward the delivery of community infrastructure needs across the Shire and deliver projects which support community connection and deliver critical social, recreational and economic benefits to residents.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** Council:

1. Supports the projects and priorities for submission to the Growing Suburbs Fund 2020/21 as outlined in Attachment 1.
2. Authorises Council officers to apply for the agreed projects and priorities to the Growing Suburbs Fund 2020/21.

## GROWING SUBURBS FUND AND SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA GRANTS 2020/21 (CONT.)

3. Note that the J J Clancy Reserve Integrated Facility project funding application was submitted to the Community Sport Infrastructure Stimulus Program, as applications closed on 19 June 2020.
4. Supports the J J Clancy Reserve Integrated Facility project application submitted for funding under the Community Sport Infrastructure Stimulus Program.

## BACKGROUND

As part of its response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Victorian Government has introduced some economic stimulus packages, including two that offer funding towards capital projects which will stimulate local economies and enhance community life. These funding programs are targeting 'shovel-ready' capital projects which can be quickly delivered, providing local jobs and support to local economies.

Because of this, the application and project delivery timelines for each program are extremely tight.

### Growing Suburbs Fund 2020/21

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has extended its Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF) by \$25M to quickly stimulate local economies and to facilitate more timely delivery of critical infrastructure in Melbourne's ten Interface Councils. The GSF 2020/21 has however been expanded to include six peri-urban councils as eligible applicants.

The maximum total grant/s funding any one council can receive is \$2.5M. The amount of local financial contribution can be negotiated. Projects must commence construction within 6 months of the signing of the funding agreement (August 2020) and be completed 12 months after commencement of construction. Councils need to demonstrate that their 2020/21 capital works program will be increased by at least the amount of any GSF 2020/21 funding. This can be done by rescoping a project/s a council has already committed to in their 2020/21 budget or by bringing forward projects not included in their adopted 2020/21 budget.

Mitchell Shire Council has a solid track record of successfully prioritising its project applications to maximise external grant funding. Council also has developed a good reputation for delivering projects funded through previous Growing Suburbs Funds and its predecessor program (Interface Growth Fund).

In 2019/20 Council successfully applied for GSF funding for Kilmore Rejuvenation, Taylors Creek Pathway and Activation of Broadford Parks and Play Spaces. The total cost of these projects is expected to be \$5,090,168, funded by GSF grants of \$4,831,600 and Council contributions totaling \$258,568. The maximum total grant/s any one council could receive under that program was \$5M.

Over the life of the GSF program Council has been successful in obtaining around \$20M of GSF funding. The GSF Guidelines are shown in Attachment 2.

GROWING SUBURBS FUND AND SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA GRANTS 2020/21 (CONT.)

### Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program

This is a new \$68M program through Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV). All Victorian councils are eligible to apply for capital projects which will quickly stimulate local economies by building and/or upgrading community sports facilities, particularly in response to increased demand. Grant applications must be seeking funding of a minimum \$1M to a maximum of \$10M. Councils can apply for up to three projects, each up to the maximum \$10M, with a minimum local financial contribution of 10% of the total project costs. Local contributions will be commensurate with the applicant's financial capacity. Projects must commence construction within six months of the funding agreement being signed (July 2020) and be finished within two years of the signing of the funding agreement (unless very large scale).

In Mitchell's case, the program assessment criteria support applications which address female friendly and more broadly accessible facilities and those which demonstrate that a project, that would otherwise could not be delivered, has been brought forward. SRV also recognises that a project delivered in a regional area will have a more significant economic impact locally than a project of the same cost in metropolitan Melbourne.

### **ISSUES AND DISCUSSION**

#### Growing Suburbs Fund 2020/21

The 2020/21 Fund is targeted at 'shovel-ready' high priority community infrastructure projects that contribute to:

- Local jobs and local economic stimulus
- Stronger, more resilient and livable interface and peri-urban communities.
- Improved ability to respond to community needs and demands.

Under the specific criteria for the 2020/21 Fund, there is no limit on the number of submissions that can be made, and it is mandatory for councils to provide a Council resolution supporting the projects submitted and the priority order for them.

There are five weighted criteria:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Why is the project required?                                | 25% |
| 2. Who will benefit and how?                                   | 25% |
| 3. What will be delivered?                                     | 20% |
| 4. How will the project be delivered?                          | 20% |
| 5. The extent of council and community support for the project | 10% |

A key aspect of the assessment of grant applications is that projects should support the State Government's priorities. It is also noted in the guidelines that applications that directly address needs resulting from population growth will be favourably considered.

The 2020/21 Fund will enable the commencement of some projects in Mitchell that have a direct benefit to communities across the following infrastructure categories:

- Community health and well-being
- Early education, and learning and training

## GROWING SUBURBS FUND AND SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA GRANTS 2020/21 (CONT.)

All projects must commence construction (includes site preparation, demolition) by February 2021 and must be completed within a year from the start of construction.

The Fund is designed to be used by Councils to stimulate local economic activity and accelerate the delivery of critical community infrastructure and complement, rather than replace, other funding sources available. A copy of the Fund's guidelines is Attachment 2.

Attachment 1 provides a summary of the projects which have been identified at this stage for submission to the Growing Suburbs Fund 2020/21 and the recommended priority order for Council's consideration. Prior to making final applications, it may be necessary to revise the projects being submitted, Council will be notified if this occurs.

These projects have been identified through reviewing existing capital works priorities matched against the grant funding guidelines and assessment criteria to assess the likely success of funding. A particular focus had to be on how 'shovel ready' a project may be and Council's ability to deliver it within the required timelines. Even the recommended projects will be challenging to deliver, given the timing of announcements of successful grants, timing of tenders, Council elections/caretaker period and the holiday period when much of the construction industry closes down.

The recommended GSF projects, in priority order are:

1. Kilmore Family and Children's Centre Upgrade and Extension – seeking \$1.5M towards an estimated \$3M project
2. Chittick Park Play Space Renewal and Upgrade, Seymour - seeking \$700,000 towards a \$800,000 project
3. Greenhill Recreation Reserve Play Space Renewal and Upgrade, Wallan - seeking \$100,000 towards a \$130,000 project

Council is also applying for a grant under the Building Blocks Capacity Building Stream Grants program for approximately \$1.5M which will be used to fund the balance of the Kilmore Family and Children's Centre Upgrade and Extension. The Building Blocks program is administered by the Victorian Schools Building Authority (VSBA). Information on the Building Block program is provided in Attachment 4.

It is recommended that Council's contributions to each project be:

1. Nil given go-funding through VSBA.
2. \$100,000
3. \$30,000

It should however be noted that until the grant from the VSBA is assessed the funding from the alternative funding stream cannot be guaranteed and remains a risk to Council, if funding is not received from the VSBA, then Council cash will be required to fund the balance of the project.

#### Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program

This program is also targeting 'shovel-ready' projects. It will fund projects which build and/or upgrade community sport facilities that:

- Provide local economic stimulus

## GROWING SUBURBS FUND AND SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA GRANTS 2020/21 (CONT.)

- Respond to increased participation demand and have broad community and sector support
- Provide improved diversity and inclusion and participation by disadvantaged and under-represented groups.

There are six criteria, no weightings are indicated.

1. Suitable local economic stimulus benefits
2. Strong sport and active recreation participation outcomes
3. Strong sport and active recreation participation outcomes for disadvantaged/under-represented communities and cohorts
4. Project scope is clear, well-designed, including Universal Design, Environmentally Sustainable Design
5. Ready to commence construction within 6 months
6. Supported by local stakeholders and key organisations that will benefit

A copy of the funding program's guidelines is Attachment 3.

Priority will be given to projects that, *inter alia*, are supported by a Council resolution, areas impacted by natural disasters and has strong population growth. A key aspect of the application assessment is that the project should support the State Government's priorities.

The program provides an opportunity for a high priority Council project to be brought forward. Council has already undertaken preparatory work for the J Clancy Reserve Integrated Facility. At the time, the \$3.11M project was one of Council's 2019/20 GSF applications. It was however unsuccessful, partly due to DELWP's reluctance to fund sport and recreation projects.

The costings for this project have since been reviewed and in the current context of delivering capital projects in regional areas.

It is a high priority for Council however significant external funding is required for its delivery. The funding parameters of this new grant program provide an opportunity to obtain significant external funding.

Following discussions with Councillors, an application for a \$3.11M project, with a local contribution of the minimum 10% was submitted for this project by the 19 June 2020 closing date.

### Timelines

Timelines for the announcements and delivery of projects are shown in the following table:

	GSF	CSIF
<b>Applications Open</b>	9 June 2020	28 May 2020
<b>Applications Close</b>	13 July 2020	19 June 2020
<b>Assessment and Decision Making</b>	July/August 2020	June/July 2020
<b>Announcements</b>	17 August 2020	Late July 2020

## GROWING SUBURBS FUND AND SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA GRANTS 2020/21 (CONT.)

<b>Funding Agreements Executed</b>	From 31 August 2020	From July 2020
<b>Construction Commencement</b>	February 2021	January 2021
<b>Construction Complete</b>	Within 12 months of Construction Commencement (GSF)	
	Within two years of execution of Funding Agreement (CSIF)	

## CONSULTATION

Because of the tight timelines on these new funding streams, detailed project-specific consultation with stakeholders has not been undertaken recently. Broader consultation has however informed priorities as part of the development of Council's service strategies and plans.

As project commencement and delivery timelines are so tight, further consultation will be undertaken with stakeholders immediately after Council has confirmed its grant funding applications. Stakeholder expectations will need careful management as the grant applications may or may not be successful.

The proposed GSF projects and priorities have been discussed with DELWP officers. The SRV project has been discussed with SRV's Manager.

## FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Under GSF funding guidelines, Councils must make a financial contribution. Discussions with DELWP officers have indicated that Mitchell's capacity to contribute will be considered. As stated previously, the Kilmore Family and Children's Centre Project will be applying for Grant funding from two sources, the GSF funding will be announced prior to the VSBA funding stream and this remains a financial risk to Council and could mean that Council could need to fund the VSBA portion.

Under the CSIP funding guidelines local contributions must be a minimum of 10% however the guidelines are clear that local contribution requirements will consider a Council's capacity to fund. A low local contribution would be expected for Mitchell.

Analysis of all Interface Councils' 2019/20 budgets has been undertaken. This will be used to demonstrate to DELWP and SRV that Mitchell Shire Council's ability to match or contribute significant funds is restricted due to its unique position of having an extremely low rates revenue and low capital resources when compared to the other Interface councils.

The comparison of all 10 Interface Council adopted 2019/20 budgets demonstrates that Mitchell's 'rates and charges' revenue was \$46,481,000, nearly a third to over five times smaller than all of the other Interface Councils (which ranged from \$66,383,000 to \$242,085,000 with an average of \$155,000,000). Correspondingly, Mitchell's total capital works budget of \$26,809,000 was the lowest of all of the Interface Councils (with others ranging from \$30,329,000 to \$139,120,000 with an average of \$87,100,000) and Mitchell's total capital works budget represented 58% of its rates and charges revenue. This percentage was the sixth highest across the Interface Councils (which ranged from 41% to 64%, with an average of 55.6% across all ten

GROWING SUBURBS FUND AND SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA GRANTS 2020/21 (CONT.)

Interface Councils. Regrettably, Council simply does not have the capital resources available to co-contribute to each of these projects.

## POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Projects identified as priorities align with the *Council Plan 2017-2021* and adopted Structure Plans and Council Strategies.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL)

The projects identified as priorities all aim to improve the social, environmental and wellbeing outcomes for the Mitchell Shire community and will reflect the objectives of the Council's *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021*, *Sustainable Resources Management Strategy*, *Play Space Strategy*, *Mitchell Open Space Strategy 2013-2023* and the *Life Stages Strategy*.

## CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

The rights protected in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* were considered in preparing this report and it's determined that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

Further consultation will be undertaken during the scoping and design of the projects to ensure that the needs of Children and Young people are understood and taken into account and that Child Safety Standards are met. In particular, the Kilmore Family and Children's' Centre update and expansion will ensure that the design is child centric.

## OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in this matter.

## CONCLUSION

The Victorian Government is investing \$68M through its new Community Sports Facility Infrastructure Program and \$25M through the extended Growing Suburbs Fund 2020/21 program to stimulate the Victorian economy following the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funded projects will do this and also address priority community infrastructure needs, support improved community connections and deliver important social, recreational and economic benefits to residents.

The availability of the funding programs provides an opportunity to stimulate the local economy and to optimise external funding towards Council's higher priority projects, thereby reducing the burden on ratepayer funds and facilitating the earlier delivery of services to meet community needs.

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# **MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Council Meeting Attachment**

### **ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**22 JUNE 2020**

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**8.3**

#### **GROWING SUBURBS FUND AND SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA GRANTS 2020/21**

**Attachment No: 1  
Growing Suburbs Fund**

Priority	Project	Town	Project Description	Value	Category
1	Kilmore Family and Children's Centre Expansion	Kilmore	<p>The expansion of the existing Marie Williams Kindergarten and Kilmore Maternal and Child Health facilities will create an integrated family and children's centre for the Kilmore community. This new centre will support the integrated delivery of early childhood and family services and provide a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive space for the community.</p> <p>The existing facilities will be integrated into a single cohesive facility, with clear links and connections between the kinder and MCH areas. Kindergarten capacity will be expanded through the addition of two new rooms and a small expansion of one of the existing rooms. This will support the introduction of funded three-year-old kindergarten in 2022 and ensure that there is sufficient kindergarten capacity into the future. In the short-term, one of the additional rooms will be available for use by the community including for playgroups and group sessions.</p>	Approx. total project value \$3M, approx. GSF grant \$1.5M	Early education, learning and training; community health and wellbeing
2	Chittick Park - Play Space Renewal and Upgrade	Seymour	<p>Chittick Park is a major multi-use reserve serving some of the most disadvantaged areas of Seymour. It is a district level park which includes the Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre, two sports ovals, a tennis complex, skate/BMX facility, Scout Hall and Band Hall. Council has recently purchased land across the road and adjoining the Seymour Library which will be used for the development of a new Community Hub. The overall design of the precinct will integrate with the nearby Chittick Park play space. The existing play space has some bespoke elements and was intended to be accessible and inclusive. Unfortunately, it does not have an integrated design and has limited play value. A significant upgrade and renewal is proposed. This will provide an accessible district level play space, the principal play space in Seymour.</p>	\$800K	Sport, recreation and leisure facilities that support multi use purposes; community health and wellbeing
3	Greenhill Recreation Reserve - Play Space Renewal and Upgrade	Wallan	<p>Greenhill Recreation Reserve is the only publicly accessible formal multi-use sports and recreation reserve catering for the growing populations of Wallan and Beveridge. It is 'home' to the Wallan Football Netball Club, Wallan Junior Football Club and the Wallan Cricket Club. It has two ovals and two netball courts, which support a high number of male and female participants in junior and senior sport. A total of 762 participants and their families use the site, 641 in winter and 121 in summer. It is a hive of family community activity and social connection throughout the year. The existing play space was installed in 2002. It is unattractive, in poor condition and has limited play value for the many children who use or visit the site.</p>	\$130K	Sport, recreation and leisure facilities that support multi use purposes; community health and wellbeing.

# **MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Council Meeting Attachment**

### **ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**22 JUNE 2020**

**8.3**

**GROWING SUBURBS FUND AND SPORT AND  
RECREATION VICTORIA GRANTS 2020/21**

**Attachment No: 2**

**GSF Guidelines**



# 2020-21 Growing Suburbs Fund

Application Guidelines

Growing Suburbs Fund  
[www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/gsf](http://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/gsf)



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## 2020-21 Growing Suburbs Fund Application Guidelines

*The 2020-21 Growing Suburbs Fund is a contribution towards meeting critical local community infrastructure needs for Melbourne's diverse and fast-growing outer suburbs. It is positioned to quickly respond to the pressures being experienced by interface and peri-urban communities by bringing forward local community facilities that will make a big difference in the day-to-day lives of outer suburban families.*

*These councils play a critical role in supporting Victoria's population growth and economy. They are diverse and home to some of the most vulnerable communities in Victoria.*

## Message from the Minister



Since 2015, the Growing Suburbs Fund has ensured growing communities get the support they need.

This investment has created a significant legacy.

The Fund has supported Councils to deliver 193 projects, generated more than 6750 jobs and leveraged more than \$665 million in investment.

Late last year I officially opened the 100th completed project – the Sunbury Global Learning Centre in Hume.

It was clear when opening that project that the GSF is about more than statistics and dollar figures – it's about building communities.

Every GSF project will mean better quality of life for Victorians who live in our diverse and fast-growing communities, strengthen connections between people and provide opportunities.

This is why we have committed an additional \$25 million over the next six months.

I am incredibly pleased that the GSF will for the first time include projects from six peri-urban as well as the ten interface Councils.

Together, the interface and peri urban councils are home to 30.4 per cent of Victoria's population – some 2.7 million people - and they face many of the same population growth and infrastructure challenges.

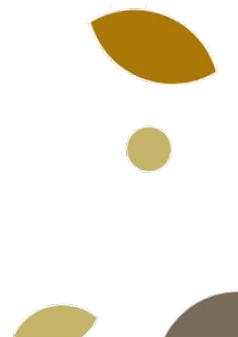
The expanded fund will prioritise "shovel-ready" projects that will have immediate economic and social impact.

I encourage you to read these guidelines, which are designed to help applicants understand the objectives, criteria and processes of the expanded 2020-21 GSF.

As a Government we look forward to seeing the projects funded through this round continue to build a legacy of jobs, opportunities and liveable communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adem Somyurek".

**The Hon. Adem Somyurek MP**  
Minister for Local Government



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## 1. Overview

The Victorian Government recognises that our interface and peri-urban councils are diverse and are home to some of Victoria's most vulnerable communities. They are located on the fringe of metropolitan Melbourne, marking the interface between the 'city' and 'country'. They also play a critical role in supporting Victoria's population growth and economy, contain productive rural land and make up 90 per cent of Melbourne's Green Wedge areas.

As a group, the interface and peri-urban councils comprise 30.4 per cent of Victoria's population. For over two decades, population growth in these areas has exceeded the State's average, and this trend is expected to continue with more than 1 million additional residents expected to be living in the interface and peri-urban areas by 2031.

The Victorian Government is investing an additional \$25 million through the 2020-21 Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF) to continue the timely delivery of critical infrastructure in Melbourne's interface and peri- urban communities.

The GSF will be delivered in coordination with other government infrastructure investments in interface and peri-urban communities. It is overseen by the Minister for Local Government and administered by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Department).

## 2. Objectives

The 2020-21 GSF will contribute to meeting critical local infrastructure needs for communities in Melbourne's changing and fast-growing outer suburbs. It is positioned to quickly respond to the pressures being experienced by interface and peri-urban communities by accelerating infrastructure projects that will make a big difference in the liveability and resilience of these communities.

Grants will be targeted towards high priority community infrastructure projects that contribute to:

- the needs of rapidly growing communities;
- local employment creation;
- improved local economic conditions in Melbourne's interface and peri-urban communities;
- improved capacity for councils to respond to changing community needs and demands; and the
- delivery of innovative models of integrated/shared community infrastructure.



### 3. Who can apply

The 2020-21 GSF is open to Melbourne's ten interface and six peri-urban councils. The ten eligible interface councils are:

Cardinia Shire Council, Casey City Council, Hume City Council, Melton City Council, Mitchell Shire Council, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, Whittlesea City Council, Wyndham City Council, and Yarra Ranges Shire Council.

The six eligible peri-urban councils are:

Bass Coast Shire Council, Baw Baw Shire Council, Golden Plains Shire Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Moorabool Shire Council and Surf Coast Shire Council.

While only interface and peri-urban councils can apply for funding, not-for-profit or private sector organisations are encouraged to partner with these councils to put forward proposals for the 2020-21 GSF.

### 4. What will be funded

The 2020-21 GSF will fund new, expanded or upgraded infrastructure projects within Melbourne's ten interface and six peri-urban councils.

The program will support projects that have a direct benefit to communities and surrounding catchment areas across the following broad infrastructure categories:

- community health and well-being
- early education, learning and training
- sport, recreation, and leisure facilities that have dedicated community space and support multi-use purposes
- environmental and climate change resilience
- placemaking, civic amenity, and community connecting

Only projects that are "shovel ready" will be funded under the 2020-21 GSF.

As part of their applications, councils will need to submit a Project Plan that outlines the timelines for the project(s) they plan to undertake and demonstrate that projects can commence construction within 6 months of the grant being announced. Funded projects must be completed with 12 months of the commencement of construction.

As a condition of funding, councils will also need to demonstrate that their proposed 2020-21 Capital Works Program will increase by at least the amount of the grant(s) received. If the project(s) to receive funding under the 2020-21 GSF are from the council's existing 2020-21 Capital Works Program, the council will need to demonstrate that other projects are being brought forward, or added to, that program to ensure that their proposed 2020-21 capital works expenditure is increased by at least the value of any funding received.

There is no limit to the number of projects a council can submit for consideration.

A council resolution providing support for the application and a priority order of projects is mandatory.

Projects that do not meet these conditions will not be considered for funding.

**The 2020-21 GSF will not fund:**

- projects that have already commenced construction (including, but not limited to demolition, site clearing, earthworks, building works and any form of early works)
- projects located on land that is yet to be acquired
- projects that are sporting pavilions without a dedicated community use space(s)
- infrastructure that is fully scoped and funded through a development contributions plan, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that GSF funds will bring forward delivery, or that the actual costs of delivering the infrastructure materially exceed the total of development contributions
- routine or ongoing maintenance activities, cosmetic works, repair of facilities damaged by vandalism, fire or other natural disasters where the damage should be covered by insurance
- recurrent operating costs, including utilities and staffing resources
- drainage, waste, resurfacing, roads and associated footpaths, and public transport infrastructure
- construction of infrastructure that does not have a direct community benefit or address an identified community need
- service connections (while these elements will form part of construction, council contributions should be used for these purposes)
- bundling of small projects into a larger project for submission.

## 5. Funding from other programs

The GSF aims to accelerate the delivery of critical community infrastructure and complement, rather than replace, other funding sources available to these communities. Projects that receive funding from multiple programs must comply with the conditions of each of the relevant programs.

Applications received for the 2020-21 GSF that are eligible for, and primarily within, the scope of other funding programs must identify the additional value and discrete component to be achieved through GSF funding.

Applications should identify any additional sources of funding sought, including State and Commonwealth government programs, as well as eligibility for contributions from developers.



## 6. Assessment process

All applications will be assessed against the assessment criteria as specified below. An application must address all assessment criteria. Claims made against each criterion must be substantiated with evidence.

The Department reserves the right not to assess an application should insufficient information be provided, including inadequate supporting documentation.

Percentage weightings are provided as a guide to the relative importance of different criterion in the assessment process. Applications must address all relevant criteria and provide relevant supporting documents as set out in Section 7.

Applications will be assessed against the following project assessment criteria:

### *Criterion 1 – Why is this project required? – 25%*

Applications will be required to demonstrate the extent to which the project addresses an identified need in the community by:

- demonstrating the connection between the project and a rapidly growing community clearly identifying the need or gap in infrastructure provision that the project will address
- demonstrating how the project aligns with and delivers against current state policy objectives
- demonstrating how the project will deliver on the purpose of the GSF and the desired outcomes
- demonstrating how the project will add to local economic activity and employment creation.

Applications that directly address needs resulting from population growth will be favourably considered.

### *Criterion 2 – Who will benefit and how? – 25%*

Applications must clearly demonstrate the extent to which the project will deliver benefits to the locality and:

- contribute to improved gender equality and the needs of diverse communities
- clearly identify the intended benefits (social, economic, and/or environmental) that the project will deliver
- demonstrate the breadth and depth of the expected benefits including who will benefit and how.

### *Criterion 3 – What will be delivered – 20%*

Applications must provide details of what the funding will be used for and:

- demonstrate that schematic site-specific plans have been developed
- demonstrate consistency with climate change, environmentally sustainable design, and universal design principles. Consideration should be given to achieving positive environmental outcomes e.g. reducing operational costs, reducing environmental impacts of construction, energy and water efficiencies
- explain how the proposed infrastructure will be managed and its benefits sustained once the infrastructure is delivered.

***Criterion 4 - How will the project be delivered - 20%***

Applications must provide details that:

- demonstrate a sound approach to delivering the project, providing realistic timeframes for delivery, and demonstrating that the project is financially viable and represents value for money
- demonstrate capacity to implement and/or source expertise to manage the delivery of the project
- outline the proposed funding contributions for the project. Projects that have significant council contributions and attract further public, not-for-profit or private sector investment are desirable and strongly encouraged.

Applications must identify how council will fund the difference if applications for other funding contributions are unsuccessful.

***Criterion 5 -The extent of council and community support for the project - 10%***

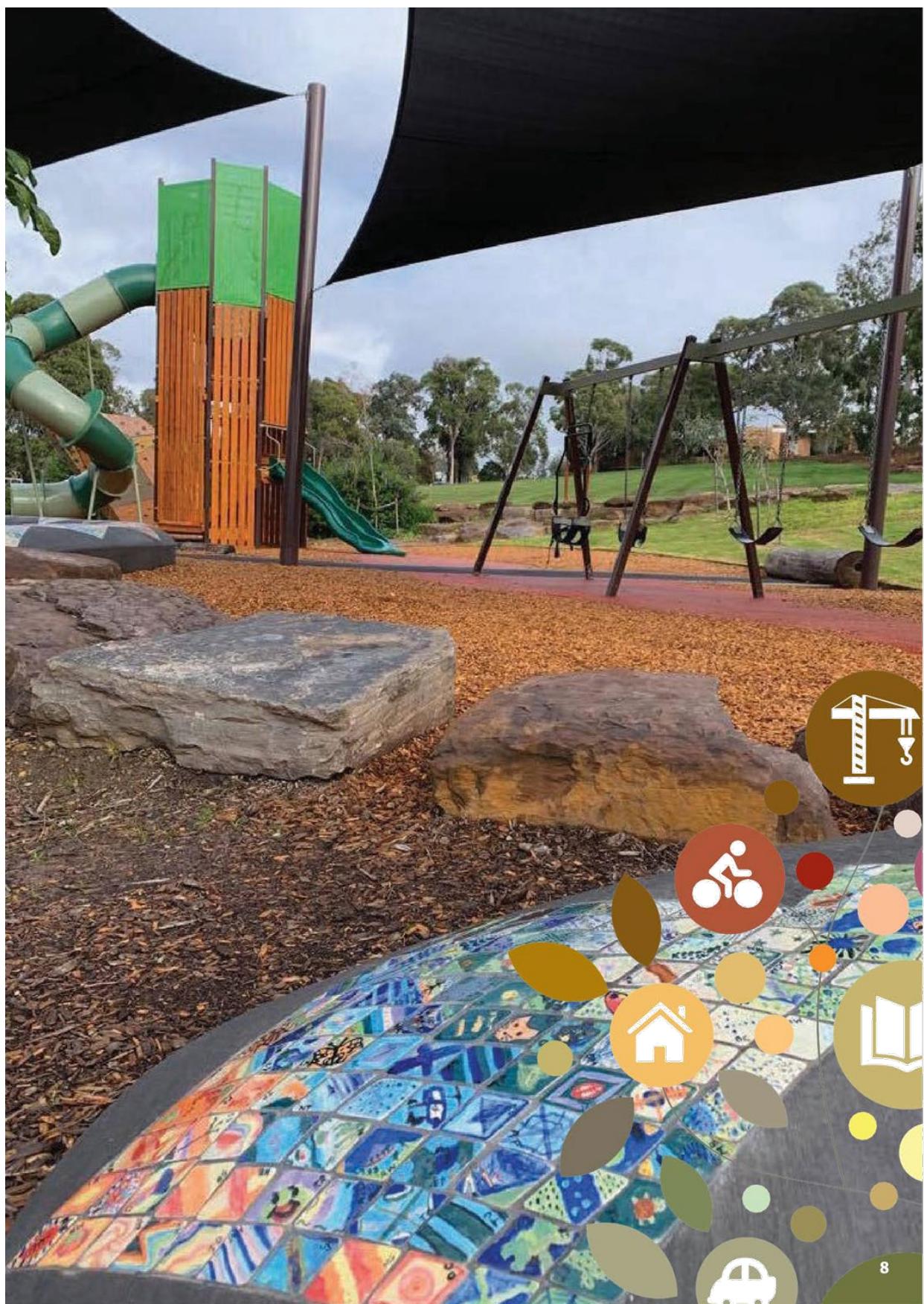
Applications must:

- demonstrate that the project is a recognised strategic council priority and is consistent with key council plans such as the current Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan, community plans or structure plans and/or policy documents
- demonstrate the level of support at the community level. This could be demonstrated by engagement activities, co-contributions or in-kind support from community members or groups
- demonstrate the increase in activities and community use of the facility the project will support.

***Program wide criteria***

A program assessment panel will consider six program-wide factors. These factors are:

- consistency with state priorities – the panel will consider how each project aligns local and State priorities
- leveraged funding - Councils are expected to contribute funding to the delivery of each project. A notional program wide funding leverage of \$1 for \$1 is in place.
- geographic distribution - no more than 10 percent of the total pool of funding will be allocated to a single council
- diversity of infrastructure/project types - the assessment will seek to ensure that funded projects represent a mix of infrastructure
- council's past performance will be taken into consideration
- the consideration of the Green Star Rating certification for design, construction and operations for sustainable buildings.



## 7. Supporting documentation

In order to be considered for funding, it is **mandatory** that applicants provide the following supporting documentation with submission of applications:

- Address the 2020-21 GSF project assessment criteria by completing each question within the online application form
- include concept or schematic plans for the project
- provide confirmation of other funding sources
- provide evidence of council resolution supporting the project
- provide a project plan.

The following documentation would be **beneficial**:

- applicable permits including Cultural Heritage Management Plans, Environmental Effects Statement etc.
- a business case, feasibility study or cost benefit analysis that may have been completed for the project
- relevant sections of council reports, plans, strategies or community consultation that demonstrates support for the project (please do not attach entire documents)
- relevant quantity surveyor (QS) reports where appropriate.

## 8. How to apply

Applications will be received through a single application round, opening on 9 June 2020 and closing on 13 July 2020. Applicants must consult the GSF team before 6 July 2020 on (03) 9948 8536 to discuss their project proposals prior to submission. Project proposals that have not been discussed will not be considered.

A brief overview of timeline for the 2020-21 GSF is summarised below:

<b>Applications Open</b>	9 June 2020
<b>Applications Close</b>	13 July 2020
<b>Assessment and Decision Making</b>	3 August 2020
<b>Announcements from</b>	17 August 2020
<b>Funding Agreements Executed</b>	31 August 2020
<b>Construction Commencement</b>	Within 6 months of the funding announcement
<b>Construction Complete</b>	Within 12 months of commencement

Department staff may make contact with applicants to seek further clarification of information submitted.

Some applicants may be requested to submit further information following initial assessment of applications by the Department.

Applications must be submitted via the link at [www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/gsf](http://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/gsf). These should be received by the Department no later than **2pm, 13 July 2020**.

If you have any queries, please contact DELWP on (03) 9948 8536 or email [GSF@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:GSF@delwp.vic.gov.au).

## 9. Funding conditions

### Funding agreement

Successful applicants must enter into a funding agreement with the Department. Funding agreements establish the parties and outline their commitments and obligations to each other, as well as setting out the general funding terms and conditions. It is recommended that applicants review the Common Funding Agreement standard terms and conditions before applying.

No funding will be released until the Department and the applicant have executed the funding agreement and the appropriate milestone evidence identified in the funding agreement has been met. This includes confirmation of construction starting within the 6-month timeframe.

The Department reserves the right to withhold payments in cases where there are concerns relating to the delivery of the project. In this instance, the Department will release funding when appropriate actions have been taken to ensure the funded project will be delivered within the agreed timeframes.

In the event that a project has not commenced construction within the 6-month timeframe, the Department reserves the right to recall any funding already released for the project.

In the event of a project being delivered for less than the budget stated in the funding agreement, applicants will be required to return unspent funds negotiated on a pro rata basis.

### Project monitoring and delivery

Funding recipients are required to comply with project monitoring and reporting requirements outlined in the funding agreement. It is the Department's preference that councils appoint a primary contact for all matters relating to reporting, monitoring and delivery. Councils are responsible for project delivery, including any project cost overruns should they occur. In cases where applications are submitted in partnership with third party organisations, it is expected that councils will take responsibility for project delivery.

Councils must also take full responsibility for the cost of ongoing operation and maintenance of any facilities through their asset management processes.

In cases where a project is delayed for an unreasonable length of time, or substantive changes to scope are made after funding has been approved, or where a project fails to be delivered, the Department reserves the right to cancel the grant and, if applicable, recoup any payment that has already been provided.

A request to vary the timing of an approved project must be discussed with the Department prior to the submission of a variation request. Any timing variation over 6 months must be accompanied by a letter from council's Chief Executive Officer approving the request.

Timing variation approvals are at the discretion of the Department and may lead to a reduction or cancellation of the grant.

Progress reports will be requested throughout the life cycle of the funding agreement. These reports are required to be submitted through the Department's online system.

A final report with financial acquittal for all project income and expenditure is required to be submitted to the Department together with:

- building compliance or occupancy certificate
- photographs of the completed facility
- invitation to the department to inspect the facility in operation
- media coverage material.

An outcomes report is also required to be submitted to Department within 12 months of construction completion. This will need to include information and data demonstrating:

- increased usability
- increased activities and programs
- visitation, including age breakdown where applicable
- new initiatives that have been implemented as a direct result of funding from the GSF
- the delivery of innovative models of integrated/shared community infrastructure (e.g. partnerships formed, service delivery model developed).

### **Local Jobs First Policy**

The Local Jobs First Policy (LJF Policy) issued under the Local Jobs First Act 2003 supports businesses and workers by ensuring that small and medium size enterprises are given a full and fair opportunity to compete for both large and small government contracts, helping to create job opportunities, including for apprentices, trainees and cadets. The LJF Policy is implemented by Victorian Government departments and agencies to help drive local industry development. The LJF Policy applies to grant projects where the value of the grant is above the threshold values of:

- \$3 million or more in metropolitan Melbourne, and
- \$1 million or more in regional Victoria.

Projects funded through the GSF will have to comply with the Local Jobs First Policy.

Further information regarding the requirements, go to  
<https://economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au/victorian-industry-participation-policy>

### **Acknowledgement**

Successful applicants are expected to acknowledge the Victorian Government's support and promotional guidelines 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.

Successful applicants may be required to provide information on activity outcomes for use in program evaluation or in the Department's communication material.

**Growing Suburbs Fund**

[www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/gsf](http://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/gsf)

# **MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Council Meeting Attachment**

### **ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**22 JUNE 2020**

**8.3**

**GROWING SUBURBS FUND AND SPORT AND  
RECREATION VICTORIA GRANTS 2020/21**

**Attachment No: 3  
SRV Guidelines**

# Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES



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## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SPORT

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) has impacted Victorians right across the State and community sport has not been immune to those impacts.**

However, as Victorians we can be proud that community sport provides a great opportunity for social inclusion and can strongly contribute to Victoria's economic recovery.

The Victorian Government recently announced the \$2.7 billion *Building Works* package, designed to support shovel-ready projects to get thousands of people back to work.

Through the support of this package I'm proud to launch the \$68 million *Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program* which will fast-track investment into critical shovel-ready community sport and recreation infrastructure projects across Victoria by investing between \$1 million and up to \$10 million in successful projects.

Community sport and recreation makes a significant contribution to Victoria's economy and that's why the Victorian Government is fast-tracking projects from new indoor sports stadiums to new sports precincts, active recreation facilities and aquatic centres. These investments will support local economies by creating economic activity and hundreds of jobs for planners, architects, engineers, project managers, buildings, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, maintenance staff, facility managers and operational personnel. Sourcing local materials will also enable many more Victorian businesses to thrive in these uncertain times.

And of course, it's not just local economies that will benefit, but community sport will benefit from thousands of new participation opportunities that will be created along with supporting home-grown talents and developing facilities to host local, regional, state and national events when it is safe to do so.

That's why we're keen to support projects that make a real difference to local communities especially initiatives that open more doors to participation for disadvantaged communities, which is what *Active Victoria* is all about. This program complements our record investment into community sports infrastructure since 2014 of over \$915 million including the *Local Sports Infrastructure Fund*, *World Game Facilities Fund* and *Community Cricket Program*.

I encourage Victorian communities to work with their Local Government Authorities and Alpine Resort Boards to submit applications for projects by Friday 19 June 2020.

I look forward to seeing new and exciting projects from the *Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program* benefitting Victorians.

THE HON ROS SPENCE MP  
Minister for Community Sport





## COMMUNITY SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS PROGRAM

### 11. Background

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has resulted in far reaching implications for the Victorian community and generating jobs and economic activity will be critical to the revival of Victoria's economy.

The \$68 million *Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program* will support Victoria's economy by working with Local Government Authorities, Alpine Resort Boards and sporting organisations to fast-track shovel-ready community sport and active infrastructure projects across Victoria.

The program is part of the Victorian Government's \$2.7 billion *Building Works* package, designed to support shovel-ready projects to get thousands of people back to work.

The program is underpinned by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions' priorities of ensuring the state's economy benefits all Victorians by creating more jobs for more people, building thriving places and regions and nurturing inclusive communities.

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting greater participation opportunities for all Victorians. There are significant groups of Victorians whose participation in sport and active recreation is well below the state average. Aboriginal Victorians, people with a disability, seniors, disengaged young people, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, women and girls, LGBTI+ people and socio-economically disadvantaged all have significantly lower levels of participation.

### 12. Outcomes of the Program

The desired outcomes of the program are to:

- Provide a stimulus to local economic activity by planning, building and operating new or redeveloped significant community sport and active recreation infrastructure
- Respond to demand for new participation opportunities by considering strategic and well-planned projects that have broad community and sector support
- Improve diversity and inclusion by increasing participation by disadvantaged and under-represented groups identified in *Active Victoria*.

### 13. Organisational Eligibility

Only Local Government Authorities (LGAs) and the Alpine Resort Boards are eligible to apply for this program.

Eligible organisations are encouraged to consider a range of opportunities including partnerships that develop projects in schools and on Crown land.

Volunteer Committees of Management on Crown land should contact their respective LGA to discuss their proposed project being considered by this program.

## 1.4. Project Eligibility

Funding may be provided for the construction and/or upgrade of significant community sport and active recreation infrastructure that is ready to commence construction within six (6) months of executing a funding agreement with the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. This may include but is not limited to:

- Multi-sports precincts that include the delivery of sports fields, sports courts and pavilions
- Regional or strategic single-sport precincts such as netball or football facilities
- New indoor multi-sport stadiums or new indoor courts
- New or redeveloped aquatic leisure centres including development of new water or dry program spaces
- New or redeveloped outdoor seasonal pools
- Active recreation spaces such as significant play spaces and shared recreation trails
- New sports fields, sports courts and surfaces that increase capacity or improve safety, including provision of sports lighting
- Pavilions including change rooms for participants that are female friendly and accessible
- Packaging of similar projects across multiple sites are permissible. For example, this may include grouping play spaces or sports lighting installations across multiple sites.
- Significant additional scope to existing projects to provide new participation opportunities. This may include new elements to a project that otherwise could not be delivered.

Along with recipients being required to commence construction within six (6) months of executing a funding agreement, projects will need to be completed within two years unless the project is of significant scale where completion within that timeframe isn't practical.

## 1.5. What will not be funded

- Applications submitted after the closing date will not be considered eligible and will not be assessed unless an extension has been requested and approved in writing by Sport and Recreation Victoria before the closing date
- Projects that have already been funded by the Victorian Government unless significant new and additional scope is identified
- Facilities where little or no public access is available
- Purchase of land
- Requests for retrospective funding, where projects have commenced construction or are completed prior to the execution of a funding agreement

- Buildings considered temporary or not permanent in nature or intended use
- Repair of facilities where the damage can be covered by insurance
- Equipment
- Requests for ongoing operational costs
- Routine or cyclical maintenance
- Projects that do not meet relevant sport or Australian standards.

Applications already being considered under the *2020-21 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, 2019-20 World Game Facilities Fund, 2019-20 Community Cricket Program* or funded through *Local Sports Grants* are not eligible, unless the application is for additional scope not included within those projects.

Further, projects that have been supported through the *Community Sports Infrastructure Loans Scheme* are not eligible for funding.

## 1.6. Funding

Eligible applicants can submit up to **three (3)** applications.

Applications for funding from this program must be between **\$1 million** and **\$10 million**.

**A 10 percent minimum local financial contribution** of the funding amount sought is required to be committed and confirmed by LGAs or Alpine Resort Boards, for each application submitted. For example, a grant request of **\$1 million** should be matched with a contribution of at least **\$100,000**.

Contributions should be commensurate with the applicant's financial capacity and support for the project. Applicants cannot utilise other State Government funding as part of the minimum financial contribution. Local contributions may include funding from LGAs or other organisations such as clubs and the Federal Government.

Projects with a mix of funding, including confirmed and appropriate financial contributions will be highly regarded.

In-kind contributions will not be considered in determining the total project cost.

Applications may seek project management and non-construction expenses of up to 7.5 percent of the total project cost (exclusive of GST) or a maximum amount of \$500,000, whichever is lower. For example, a project with a \$6 million total project cost may include up to \$450,000 in the request towards project management and non-construction expenses.

The department reserves the right to negotiate a lower than requested funding amount for submitted applications.

### 1.7. Timelines

APPLICATIONS OPEN	APPLICATIONS CLOSE	OUTCOMES ADVISED	FUNDING AGREEMENTS EXECUTED FOR SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS
28 May 2020 	19 June 2020 	Late July 2020 	July 2020 onwards 

### 1.8. Application process

Eligible applicants must submit an application and supporting documents via the Sport and Recreation Victoria website for each individual application.

<https://sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/community-sports-infrastructure-stimulus-program>

Applications must be submitted by **11.59pm, Friday 19 June 2020**.

Applications submitted after the closing date will not be considered eligible and will not be assessed unless an extension has been requested and approved in writing by Sport and Recreation Victoria before the closing date.

Applicants are required to liaise with their local Sport and Recreation Victoria representative to discuss their project idea/s prior to submission. Further questions on this program can also be directed to [communityinfrastructure@sport.vic.gov.au](mailto:communityinfrastructure@sport.vic.gov.au)



Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program // 05

### 1.9. Assessment Criteria

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
The project provides suitable local economic stimulus benefits	<p>How will the project support a post-coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery in your municipality or region including providing significant new economic activity, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• job creation during construction and operation</li> <li>• supply chain opportunities including materials and maintenance</li> <li>• other economic benefits such as hosting future events that provide a visitor economy benefit</li> </ul>
The application demonstrates strong sport and active recreation participation outcomes	<p>Describe the sport and active recreation participation issues the project addresses and the outcomes that will result from the project.</p> <p>Evidence of need and these benefits can be demonstrated through supporting documentation (eg feasibility studies, Schedule of Use or similar, letters of support)</p>
The application demonstrates strong sport and active recreation participation outcomes for disadvantaged and under-represented communities and cohorts	<p>Describe the new sport and active recreation opportunities and initiatives that improve inclusion and diversity by disadvantaged and under-represented communities and cohorts, including Aboriginal Victorians, people with a disability, seniors, disengaged young people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women and girls, LGBTIQ people and socio-economically disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>Evidence of these benefits can also be demonstrated through supporting documentation (eg Schedule of Use or similar, letters of support)</p>
The project scope is clear and is well designed and informed by Universal Design principles and Environmentally Sustainable Design considerations	<p>Provide a clear scope of works proposed to be completed as part of this project</p> <p>Outline how Universal Design principles will be implemented in project planning and how Environmentally Sustainable Design considerations are reflected in the project budget</p>
The application demonstrates the project is ready to commence construction within six (6) months	<p>Outline the planning undertaken so far to demonstrate project readiness and the steps you will take to begin the project within six (6) months, including how the project will move to the construction phase. This should be supported by a Project Management Framework, CEO letter or council resolution confirming support for the project. Projects with a council resolution will be prioritised</p>
The project is supported by local stakeholders and key organisations that will benefit from the project	<p>Describe the previous community and stakeholder consultation undertaken for the project. Provide evidence of support through consultation reports, and current/previous letters of support from stakeholders such as tenant clubs and local stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Note: letters of support from State Sporting Associations are not required</b></p>

Applications **must** be supported by the Mandatory Documents in Appendix 1.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Will result in significant new economic benefits in the form of local economic activity and job creation through construction, operation and supply chain benefits. Applications prioritising local contractors which benefit the immediate economy will be prioritised.
- Provide evidence of the ability to commence construction within six (6) months of executing a funding agreement through the provision of mandatory documentation such as schematic plans and current cost plans (not more than 12 months old).
- Support communities with high levels of socio-economic disadvantage and communities that may be unable to generate funds required for large community infrastructure projects.
- Have experienced natural disasters (such as bushfires), and communities experiencing strong population growth.
- Include a mix of other confirmed funding contributions from project beneficiaries.

### 1.10. Resources and Additional Information

Additional guidelines, tools and resources can be found on the Sport and Recreation Victoria website to support your Application.

<https://sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/community-sports-infrastructure-stimulus-program>



## CONDITIONS THAT APPLY TO APPLICATIONS AND FUNDING

### 2.1. Funding Agreements

Successful funding applicants must enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department of Jobs, Precinct and Regions within one (1) month of receiving a funding agreement for a successful project, or the funding offer may be withdrawn.

The Minister for Community Sport reserves the right to withdraw funds for projects that do not commence within six (6) months of execution of a funding agreement without recipients demonstrating due cause.

Funds must be spent on the project as described in the application and outlined in the Funding Agreement unless changes are agreed in writing through a formal variation.

Variations to the project will need to be agreed to with Sport and Recreation Victoria. Some scope changes may require the approval of the Minister for Community Sport.

LGAs and Alpine Resort Boards must inform the participating organisations where applicable, of all funding arrangements and obligations regarding the grant.

**The Local Jobs First policy** will apply to projects where the value of the grant is above the threshold values of:

- i. \$3 million or more in metropolitan Melbourne, and
- ii. \$1 million or more in regional Victoria, or

Important details on this policy can be found at Appendix 2.

Local Jobs First requirements will be built into all funding agreements where these thresholds apply.

Tenders for stimulus projects will be required to advertise for additional workers through the *Working for Victoria* platform in the first instance.

Facility tenant clubs are expected to adhere to the Fair Play Code (or related state sporting association Code of Conduct). Evidence of this adherence will be required as a funding agreement milestone.

The department reserves the right to add milestones or requirements to funding agreements that obligate the recipient to meet as a result of funding provided through this program. This may include, but not be limited to recognition, signage, participation in campaigns or activities consistent with State Government objectives or policies as outlined in *Active Victoria*.

Depending on the project this may include:

- Facility Management and Governance Plans
- Adherence to Healthy Choices Guidelines
- Demonstration of policies, practices and programs that support gender equality.

### 2.2. Acknowledging the Victorian Government's support and promoting success

Successful applicants will need to adhere to the *Sport and Recreation Victoria Infrastructure Grants Acknowledgement and Publicity Guidelines*.

## APPENDIX 1

### Mandatory Documents

#### MANDATORY DOCUMENTS INCLUDE:

Quantity survey, tender price or independent qualified expert report (not more than 12 months old)

Site specific schematic plans and aerial map showing the location of the project developed with stakeholder input including clear measurements (not applicable for modular construction projects). *Note: Concept plans, hand drawn plans, generic plans or plans from previous projects will not be accepted*

Evidence confirming any additional funding required to complete the project. Where funding from a club is indicated current bank statements demonstrating financial capacity for the contribution must be provided alongside a letter from an authorised officer of the club/organisation committing to a specific funding amount

Evidence of community engagement process and outcomes, including broader community and user groups

Letter from CEO or council resolution confirming that the project will be ready to proceed to construction within six (6) months of approval and that applicant funding is available to deliver the project. **Projects with a council resolution will be prioritised**

Project Management Framework or other detailed project plan with timelines demonstrating how the project can move from schematic designs to construction within six (6) months

#### Where relevant

Detailed area schedule for prefabricated/modular construction projects only

Lighting plans (including lux charts that are site specific for projects incorporating lighting)

Evidence of landowner consent consultation and support for non-LGA land such as Crown Land

A legally binding land-use agreement is required for any projects located on private land.

For projects on school land, a minimum of a completed Joint Use Proposal to enter into a Community Joint Use Agreement is required with letters from both regional and central offices of Department of Education and Training

#### DESIRABLE

Business or feasibility planning documents (as a way of demonstrating need)

Schedule of Use or similar document demonstrating how participation will increase for specific clubs/groups

Environmentally Sustainable Design reports

Letters of support from local organisations that indicate the project scope, funding contribution and how the group either supports or benefits from the project. *Note: letters of support from State Sporting Associations are not required*

Soil testing/Geotechnical reports where relevant

Technical and/or Access Audits (where these have been completed)

Evidence that the Aboriginal Heritage Planning Tool has been completed (where this is applicable)

## APPENDIX 2

### Local Jobs First Policy

#### 1. Overview

- (a) The Local Jobs First Policy (**LJF Policy**) issued under the *Local Jobs First Act 2003* supports businesses and workers by ensuring that small and medium size enterprises are given a full and fair opportunity to compete for both large and small government contracts, helping to create job opportunities, including for apprentices, trainees and cadets. The LJF Policy is implemented by Victorian Government departments and agencies to help drive local industry development.
- (b) The LJF Policy comprises the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (**VIPP**) and the Major Projects Skills Guarantee (**MPSG**).
  - i. VIPP seeks to ensure that small and medium-sized business are given full and fair opportunity to compete for government contracts.
  - ii. MPSG is a policy that provides job opportunities for apprentices, trainees and cadets on high value construction projects.
- (c) Local Jobs First applicable projects include but are not limited to:
  - i. purchase of goods and/or services, regardless of the method of procurement (including individual project tenders, State Purchase Contracts, supplier panels);
  - ii. construction projects (incorporating design and construction phases and all related elements), including individual projects, Public Private Partnerships, Alliance Contracts, Market Led Proposals, supplier panels and auctions; and
  - iii. grant and loan projects, including grant agreements or loan arrangements to private, non-government and local government organisations for a single or group of projects.
- (d) The LJF Policy applies to grant projects where the value of the grant is above the threshold values of:
  - i. \$3 million or more in metropolitan Melbourne, and
  - ii. \$1 million or more in regional Victoria, or

For further information, grant applicants should refer to the LJF Policy and Guidelines which can be found at [www.localjobsfirst.vic.gov.au](http://www.localjobsfirst.vic.gov.au).

#### 2. Definitions

**Agency** means Sport and Recreation Victoria within the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

**Contestable Items** means goods or services in a procurement process where there are competitive international and local suppliers. 'Competitive' means the suppliers are able to offer comparable goods or services that meet the specifications provided in this [Request for Grant Proposal / Grant Application]. Contestable items can be goods or services at any stage of a project, including maintenance.

**Department** has the meaning given in s 3(1) the *Local Jobs First Act 2003*.

**Funding Agreement** means the funding grant contract entered into between the Agency and the Grantee.

**Guidelines** means the Local Jobs First Supplier Guidelines, available at [www.localjobsfirst.vic.gov.au](http://www.localjobsfirst.vic.gov.au).

**ICN** means Industry Capability Network (Victoria) Limited of Level 11, 10 Queens Road, Melbourne VIC 3004 ACN 007 058 120.

#### 3. Consultation with Industry Capability Network (ICN) Victoria

- (a) To increase opportunities for local businesses within their project, successful grant recipients (Grantees) are required to consult with ICN regarding opportunities for local businesses, particularly with regard to Contestable Items. This is to better target the application of LJF towards areas of contestable procurement.
- (b) Successful Grantees are required to consult with ICN after the Grant Funding Agreement has been executed. Payment of monies under the Grant Funding Agreement may be based upon Grantees' compliance with the consultation requirement.
- (c) The consultation requirement involves the following steps:
  - i. The Agency will advise the Grantee that they must submit an Interaction Reference Number Form (IRN Form).
  - ii. Grantees must register with ICN online at [www.icnvic.org.au/ljf](http://www.icnvic.org.au/ljf) and go through the IRN Form submission process. The IRN Form requires Grantees to provide an indication of the nature of the grant activities to be undertaken or project being designed, and the likely services or the activity to be required.

- iii. ICN will review the Grantee's IRN Form and contact the Grantee to discuss opportunities for local industry.
- iv. Grantees must negotiate with ICN to determine how opportunities for local businesses or Contestable Items will be provided for in the project. This may involve ICN contributing to or reviewing draft designs or participating in particular project meetings.
- v. Consultation with ICN can take between 30 minutes and a few hours, depending upon the nature of the Contestable Items in the procurement activity.
- vi. Once consultation is complete, ICN will issue the Grantee with an Interaction Reference Number (IRN) and a reference letter. The reference letter will set out any agreements reached between ICN and the Grantee during consultation.
- vii. The Grantee must submit their IRN to the Agency's representative within 20 business days of the Grant Funding Agreement being executed to demonstrate to the Agency that they have consulted with ICN, and that ICN is satisfied local industry will be considered in the design of the project.



Community Sports Infrastructure Status Program // 10

These guidelines are subject to changes at the discretion of the Minister for Community Sport.

Authorised by the Victorian Government

Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

1 Spring Street Melbourne Victoria 3000

Telephone (03) 9651 9999

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Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions,  
May 2020

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To receive this publication in an accessible format, please contact the Grants Information Line on 1300 366 356, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required.

Available at Sport and Recreation Victoria's website [sport.vic.gov.au](http://sport.vic.gov.au)



# **MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Council Meeting Attachment**

### **ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**22 JUNE 2020**

**8.3**

**GROWING SUBURBS FUND AND SPORT AND  
RECREATION VICTORIA GRANTS 2020/21**

**Attachment No: 4  
Building Blocks Grants**

### **Building Blocks program**

In 2020, the Victorian Government launched the *Building Blocks* program to help deliver early childhood infrastructure across the state. The *Building Blocks* program consists of:

- kindergartens on existing school sites
- modular kindergarten facilities
- capacity building grants stream
- improvement grants stream and
- inclusion grants stream.

The Building Blocks program is administered by the Victorian Schools Building Authority (VSBA).

Building Blocks grants simplifies and replaces previous kindergarten grant schemes - the *Children's Facilities Capital Program* and the *Inclusive Kindergartens Facilities Program* – used to fund new and upgrade existing kindergartens to make them more inclusive.

Under the *Building Blocks* Grants there are three funding streams, each with a number of categories as outlined in the table below.

Building Blocks Grant Stream	Closing date	Grant category	Purpose	Funding per grant
Capacity Building Stream	31 July 2020	Expansion	Increase the licenced capacity of existing facilities that provide a funded kindergarten program for three and four-year-old children.	Up to \$600,000*
Grants for new and expanded early learning facilities that create capacity. This stream is particularly focused on		New Early Learning Facilities	New facilities that support high quality early learning programs, including funded kindergarten programs for three and four-year-olds.	Up to \$1.5m*

Building Blocks Grant Stream	Closing date	Grant category	Purpose	Funding per grant
ensuring that there is sufficient infrastructure to support the introduction of funded 3-year-old kindergarten which will commence in Mitchell Shire in 2022.		Modular kindergarten facilities	These are high quality and rapidly deployable buildings that can be commissioned to meet urgent demand for kindergarten facilities. Modular buildings are relocatable and can be delivered quickly.	\$750,000 for 33 places \$1.5m for 66 places
		Integrated Children's Centre	New community hubs, bringing together a range of professional services to deliver education, care, health and support services to children and their families.	Up to \$2 million*
Improvement Grants Stream  Grants for upgrades and minor expansions of existing facilities.  Investment in IT equipment	17 July 2020	Minor infrastructure	Small refurbishments and expansions to early learning facilities.	Up to \$50,000
		Early Learning Facility Upgrade	Renovating or refurbishing facilities to improve the quality of learning environments for kindergarten children.	Up to \$300,000
		IT	Purchasing IT equipment or televisions for administration or learning programs.	Up to \$1,500
Inclusion Grants Stream	Not yet open	Building and playgrounds	Upgrades to make kindergarten activities more accessible to children of all abilities.	

Building Blocks Grant Stream	Closing date	Grant category	Purpose	Funding per grant
Upgrades to existing facilities to create a safe and inclusive environment for all children.		Equipment	Moveable inclusive education equipment, such as mobility stools and sensory equipment for kindergarten programs.	

\* These grant funding levels are based on an indicative expansion in kindergarten capacity. Larger services or providing additional places may be eligible for additional funding beyond the specified amounts.

The Building Blocks program is a co-contribution program and applicants are expected to provide a co-contribution towards the project (except for some of the smaller Improvement grants). However, the percentage contribution is not specified and the VSBA, have indicated that applications without a co-contribution amount will be considered on a case by case basis.

#### *The Capacity Building Stream Expansion Grant Category*

Expansion grants must provide or intend to provide an increase to licenced places at existing facilities to deliver funded kindergarten programs for three and four-year-old children.

Expansion grants can be up to \$600,000 per grant (GST exclusive) with the expectation the expansion project will increase licenced places by 22. This implies a cost per licenced place of \$27,273. The maximum grant allocation may be reduced for projects seeking a smaller increase to licenced places. VSBA have indicated that a larger grant will be considered for projects seeking a larger increase to licenced places.

Expansion projects must be completed and acquitted within 12 months of the funding agreement being announced by the Minister for Education. Funding agreements must be signed by an authorised officer in the organisation no later than four weeks after receipt.

The assessment criteria for capacity building stream applications is:

- delivers a quality kindergarten program that responds to projected demand for funded kindergarten places (25%);
- the proposed project will support the integrated delivery of early childhood and related family services and / or the establishment of partnership arrangements with other services (12.5%)
- the proposed project facilitates access for children of all abilities (12.5%)

- the proposed project promotes environmental sustainability, and includes environmentally sustainable features, for example in design or construction (12.5%)
- the proposed project is co-located with a government school or supports the establishment of other connections with local schools (12.5%)
- confirmation the project is ready to commence construction (12.5%).

Early childhood facilities funded through the capacity building stream must:

- be operated by an organisation that is licenced to provide funded kindergarten services in Victoria
- offer or intend to offer a funded three and four-year-old kindergarten program for children
- operate as a kindergarten service for at least 10 years from when the project is completed.

Applications for the capacity building stream are open all year round. However, applications submitted by 31 July will be announced in November 2020.