

Strathbogie  
Shire Council

# Pitch My Project Guidelines

2023 - 2024

## About Pitch my Project

Now in its third year, Council's Pitch My Project initiative is ensuring our Budget includes the projects and plans that matter to our community.

Since its inception we have funded more than 20 community projects throughout our Shire.

As the initiative has progressed, we have made changes and improvements.

Last year we launched early to ensure the pitched projects were included in the Draft Budget.

This year we are again launching early, but we're taking community input a step further.

This year, we will ask the community to pitch their ideas, we'll go through an assessment process, then the successful applications will be put to the community to decide which make it into the Draft Budget.

At Council we're constantly improving the way we engage with our community.

By putting the decision into the hands of our community we are showing our commitment to truly meaningful community involvement.

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## 2023/24 Terms and Conditions

All ideas must be in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

- The idea must demonstrate a strong community benefit.
- The idea must directly align to a strategy of Council Plan 2021 -2025. NOTE: Ideas for physical infrastructure on Council owned or managed land or property will not be considered.
- The idea must be for a once-off community program, project or initiative that can be realised by Council between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024.
- Funding up to \$50,000 is available to implement each idea.
- Strathbogie Shire Council has allocated \$300,000 for Pitch My Project as part of the 2023/24 annual budget. Each of the six Strategic Focus Areas within the Council Plan will receive a \$50,000 pool of money.
- The ideas must be Council-led and delivered with no direct allocation of funds given to community groups, clubs, organisations or commercial business.
- The idea must be lodged by (date TBC) via Council's digital engagement platform, [www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au). Applications received after this date and time will not be considered.
- This process is different from Council's existing grants and funding programs. Applicants who have submitted ideas better suited to these programs will be advised and redirected to apply to them.
- One submission per individual, community group or sporting association is permitted.
- Where there are multiple submissions for the same idea, Council reserves the right to determine which submission will be put forward for consideration. Council will contact the individual, community group or sporting association if this occurs.
- If multiple/like submissions for the same idea are received and there is no formal community group/sporting association attached, we will group these submissions and review them as one package. You will be advised if this has occurred with your submission.
- Strathbogie Shire Council employees and Councillors or their immediate families are ineligible to submit an idea. Immediate family includes spouses, parents and children only.
- Successful applicants will be notified and provided with details about the next round in the selection process.
- As a condition of entry, you agree the name on the application can be made public and promoted on Council's communication channels.

## 2023/24: Guidelines & FAQs

Council invites residents, community groups, sporting clubs, businesses and organisations to make submissions recommending specific ideas for community programs, projects or initiatives to be funded in the 2023-24 Budget.

### How to pitch your idea

- a) Read and follow the Terms and Conditions
- b) Read the Guidelines
- c) Submit your idea on Share Strathbogie, Council's online engagement portal – [www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au)

Submissions close at (date TBC).

If you require the form in a different format or language, or have any questions in relation to the form, please contact Council's communications and engagement team on 1800 065 993.

## What happens with personal information collected as part of the application?

### Privacy Collection Statement

Strathbogie Shire Council is committed to protecting your privacy. The personal information and opinions supplied by you in a Pitch My Project submission will assist Council keeping you involved and up to date. Your personal information will not be disclosed to any external party without your consent, unless required or authorised by law. You have the right to access your personal information and make corrections. If you have any queries or wish to gain access to amend your information, please contact Council's Privacy Officer on 1800 065 993.

For further information on how your personal information is handled, visit Council's Privacy Policy at [www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au)

### For help to Pitch your idea

There are three ways to access help to make your application

- a) Read Section 6: 'Tips for your application' of this document
- b) Register to attend an online information session on (date TBC).
- c) Book a time to speak with a Council Officer by phoning 1800 065 993.

## How will ideas be assessed?

The assessment process will include:

A. Was the idea received by (date TBC)?

- i. Yes – proceed to the next question
- ii. No – the idea will not be supported, thank you for your application

B. Is the idea better suited for a grant program currently managed by Council?

- i. Yes – the idea will not be supported, please consider submitting your idea as a grant application to one of Council's grant programs.
- ii. No – proceed to the next question

C. Can the idea be Council-led and delivered with no direct allocation of funds given to community groups, clubs, organisations or commercial business?

- i. Yes – proceed to the next question.
- ii. No – the idea will not be supported, thank you for your application.

D. Is the idea a once-off community program, project or initiative that can be realised by Council between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024?

- i. Yes – proceed to the next question
- ii. No – the idea will not be supported, thank you for your application.

E. Will the idea cost \$50,000 or under to implement?

- i. Yes – proceed to the next question
- ii. No – the idea will not be supported, thank you for your application.

F. How does the idea score against the following criteria?

Criteria	Score
To what extent does the idea demonstrate a strong benefit to the community?	(up to 10)
To what extent does the idea align to a strategy of Council Plan 2021 -2025.	(up to 10)

### How will ideas be selected to proceed to stage two for the community to vote?

- Ideas that have reached assessment will receive a score out of a possible 20 points.
- Ideas that receive a score of 11 or over will proceed to the next round.
- Successful applicants will receive more information about the next round.

### How many projects will be funded?

Council has \$300,000 for Pitch My Project as part of the 2023/24 annual budget. Each of the six Strategic Focus Areas within the Council Plan will receive \$50,000.

## Tips for your application

### Demonstrating strong community need

Each application must demonstrate how the idea meets a strong community need. A simple way of thinking about this is:

- What is the problem or opportunity?
- How does it affect or impact the community?
- What difference would your idea make?

### Aligning your idea to our Council Plan

Each application must demonstrate how the idea aligns to a strategic focus area of our Council Plan 2021 - 2025. NOTE: Ideas for physical infrastructure on Council owned or managed land or property will not be considered.

Your application needs to specifically identify how your suggested project is related to the implementation of an action in the Council Plan. This is because our financial resources need to be directed to achieving the Council Plan, which in turn helps achieve the Community Vision.

The 2021-25 Council Plan is the key strategic document that governs the allocation of human and financial resources at Council and outlines the actions and strategies to be employed to achieve the Community Vision.

It was developed after nine months of engagement with the community and the first ever Strathbogie Shire Community Panel.

The Council Plan identifies strategies relating to six strategic focus areas, along with the initiatives for Council over the four-year life of this plan that will help us achieve our goals.

Please use the following link to find the actions to support your application: [2021/25 Council Plan](#).

The strategic focus areas are outlined below.

### 1. Engage. Create. Unite.

In the future we... foster and support creative responses in the community. This means:

- We are inspired by our creatives and celebrate art and culture.
- We create welcoming social spaces where people can connect.
- First Nations culture, knowledge and heritage enriches our Shire.

### 2. Live. Access. Connect.

In the future...our people are places are connected. This means:

- We all have access to important services
- We are moving through our townships on connected walking and cycling tracks
- We are focussed on activities that build economic, financial and social security.

### 3. Protect. Enhance. Adapt

In the future we... consider Climate Change in everything we do. This means:

- We are minimising harmful impacts on our natural environment
- We are reversing biodiversity decline
- We are championing best practice environmental strategies.

### 4. Inclusive. Productive. Balanced

In the future we... involve the community in decisions that affect them. This means:

- We have empowered locals to make decisions.
- We care, support and listen to each other.
- We partner with our community to achieve great things.

In the future we... have a thriving economy for everyone. This means:

- We are a smart spenders, buying local wherever possible
- We target economic development to enhance our region
- We are capitalising on our region's strengths.

In the future we... are planning to protect the special place we call home. This means:

- We have affordable housing
- We are managing growth carefully to protect the environment and meet our social infrastructure needs

- We are including responsible developer contribution strategies.

## 5. Strong. Healthy. Safe

In the future... our communities are filled with happy, healthy people. This means:

- We have protected 'the vibe' we love
- We are working together to share knowledge and get things done
- We are encouraging health and wellbeing activities in sport and recreation.

## 6. Accountable. Transparent. Responsible

Strategies to achieve these goals include:

- Achieving the highest level of good governance
- Delivering responsive and timely customer service
- Being accountable for the decision we make
- Embedding gender equality principles
- Being financially responsible, and
- Maximising public transparency

## Council's Community Grants Program

Projects that are eligible to apply for Council's Community Grants Program will not be considered through the Pitch My Project funding. Our grants program provides an opportunity for groups to undertake projects that:

- Promote community engagement and participation
- Support gender equality and social inclusion and improve accessibility
- Contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities, and
- Improve community facilities and infrastructure.

To be eligible for funding under the Community Grants Program, applicants must be:

- A not-for-profit community group, organisation or club that is incorporated, or
- an unincorporated not for profit community group, organisation or club only if they have a Community Planning Reference Group (also known as Community Action Group) or, an incorporated body that is willing to act as auspice for the application.

Read the [Community Grant Program Guidelines on our website.](#)

## Council's Sponsorship Program

Our Sponsorship Program provides funding opportunities for events that focus on priorities for Council. An annual program of events within the Shire contributes to our communities' social health, assists to raise awareness of the destination to identified markets, provides an economic benefit to local businesses and helps increase the average length of stay of visitors. We support opportunities to attract or develop an event with regional and state significance, relevant to available resources. Applications are sought for events that:

- Promote community engagement and participation.
- Support gender equality and social inclusion and improve accessibility.
- Contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities.
- Increase economic development, tourism and the visitor economy.

For more information on our [sponsorship program visit our website.](#)

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