

Frequently Asked Questions

Community Strengthening Grants

Quick Response Grants

What can the grants be used for?

The Strathbogie Shire Community Grants program encourages community organisations and community groups to apply for funding through the Community Strengthening or Quick Response grants for inclusive community led projects delivered in Strathbogie Shire. These grants will support projects that align with the 2021-2025 Council Plan and bring people together to connect, collaborate, celebrate, upskill, share resources, and put ideas into action. Outcomes of funded projects may include, for example, social connection, health, wellbeing, safety, community arts, positive cultural or environmental outcomes, economic development, and increased visitor economy.

Community Strengthening grants of up to \$10,000 will support larger more strategic projects while Quick Response grants of up to \$1,000 will support smaller projects addressing community identified needs as they arise.

What can't the grants be used for?

- ✗ Projects that have already received Council funding or been approved for another grant from Council in the same financial year
- ✗ Projects delivered outside of the Strathbogie Shire municipality
- ✗ Retrospective funding for projects that have already occurred or have commenced
- ✗ Projects that don't align with our Community Values
- ✗ Projects for political purposes and/or promotion
- ✗ Projects that celebrate January 26th
- ✗ Projects that are the responsibility of other agencies (e.g. charities, government agencies)
- ✗ Costs of attending conferences or sporting events; travel or accommodation
- ✗ Fundraising costs or prizes
- ✗ Catering costs
- ✗ Operational costs e.g. rent, utilities, insurance
- ✗ Staff wages (this does not include payment of contractors or services to deliver the project) or payment to a service provider under the same ABN as the applicant
- ✗ Projects that are defined as facility maintenance on community and Council owned buildings; *small appliances are acceptable for Community Strengthening & Quick Response Grants*
- ✗ Projects that will result in a Council asset that has not received prior approval from Council

Who can apply for these grants?

Community groups that are incorporated, have an ABN, and have at least \$20mil Public Liability insurance.

What happens if we are not incorporated, don't have an ABN or Public Liability insurance?

If your group is not incorporated you will need to find an incorporated community group, organisation or club with an ABN and Public Liability Insurance who would be willing to endorse your project. This is called 'auspice'. The auspice organisation takes responsibility (legal & financial) for the grant. They sign the funding agreement, receive, and distribute the grant funds, make sure the project is completed and submit the end of funding reports.

Who can't apply for these grants?

You cannot apply for any Council grants if you are:

- ✗ An individual
- ✗ Emergency services
- ✗ Educational institutions
- ✗ Religious organisations or institutions
- ✗ Political organisations
- ✗ Commercial, profit-making organisations
- ✗ State or federal government agencies
- ✗ An elected member or employee of Strathbogie Shire Council. Elected members or employees of Strathbogie Shire Council cannot be involved in the development of an application and are not eligible to sign or be listed on any grant
- ✗ Groups who have an overdue acquittal from a previous funding application
- ✗ Groups who have already received or been approved for funding from the same funding category this financial year
- ✗ An auspice organisation that has provided auspice to another Community Grant application in the same grant category this financial year

How much funding can I apply for?

You can apply for up to \$10,000 for a Community Strengthening Grant with 3:1 matching so you will have to provide \$1 for every \$3 provided by Council towards the cost of the project. This can be cash or in-kind

You can apply for up to \$1,000 for a Quick Response Grant, you don't need a matching amount from your group for this grant.

What's an 'in-kind' contribution?

"In-kind" contributions are cash contributions and contributions by volunteers and suppliers in terms of time, goods or professional services donated to the project. They should be clearly identified in your project budget.

You can calculate the value of in-kind time for services as:

- General committee/community member contribution (e.g. planning, coordination, etc) at \$40 per hour
- Specialist or expert contribution (e.g. tradesperson, professional services) at \$80 per hour

The value of in-kind support should be included in your budget in both income and expenditure.

Council can also provide in-kind contributions to your project e.g. equipment, venue hire. All requests for Council in-kind contributions must be approved and included in your budget. The value of Council's in-kind contribution must be calculated into the total amount you are requesting from Council not exceeding the grant maximum. For example, if you are requesting the maximum of \$10,000 for a Community Strengthening Grant and request a \$2,000 in-kind contribution, Council's contribution would be in-kind to the value of \$2,000 and grant funds (cash) to the value of \$8,000.

What do I need for my application?

Before you start your application you will need:

- To contact the Community Development Officer on 5795 0000 or by email info@strathbogie.vic.gov before you commence your application.
- Copy of your group's or your auspice organisation's Public Liability Insurance Certificate of Currency
- Copy of your group's or your auspice organisation's most recent bank statement
- To consider what permits and landowner permissions you may require for your project

When are applications due?

Applications for the **Community Strengthening Grant** open on 26 June 2023 and close at midnight on 7 August 2023.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Applications for the **Quick Response Grant** are open on 1st July until 31 May 2024 or until funds are expended.

How do I apply?

Applications are to be completed online at: <https://strathbogie.smartygrants.com.au/>

How are applications assessed?

Applications will be assessed by a panel of at least three Council Officers from various departments and areas of expertise relating to your application.

When will applicants find out if they are successful?

Applications for the **Community Strengthening Grant** will be assessed in **August** and applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application after the **September** Council meeting.

Applications for **Quick Response Grants** will be assessed on submission and applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within four weeks.

How will we receive the funds?

If your application is successful, you will be required to provide an invoice and sign a funding agreement with Council. On receipt, the approved funds will be paid directly into your groups or your auspice organisations bank account.

Who can I contact for further information?

Applicants can contact Jean McKinnon (03) 5795 0000 or by email info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au or visit our website www.strathbogie.vic.gov for further information on this grant opportunity.