

Community Development Fund Fact Sheet



What is the Community Development Fund?

This Victorian Forestry Plan grant program supports the implementation of innovation opportunities identified through the Local Development Strategy program.

How does it work?

There are two funding streams:

Funding Stream One – provides funding for project management support and upskilling community members.

Dedicated funding of up to \$500,000 for each community can be used to engage project management support.

Activities to upskill community members to build business expertise and community capability can also be funded.

Funding Stream Two – supports the early implementation of actions identified in business cases developed through the Local Development Strategy program.

Each eligible community has access to up to \$2 million:

- \$500,000 is dedicated funding to begin implementing one or more innovation opportunity business cases.
- Up to \$1.5 million may be available to fund actions identified in other innovation opportunity business cases.

How to apply

Potential applicants should discuss the proposed project with a Victorian Forestry Plan Community Transition Support Officer who can provide advice on the guidelines:

- **Wellington Shire and East Gippsland LGAs** – Ruth Fitzclarence, Community Transition Support Officer, 0400 776 040
- **Yarra Ranges and Baw Baw LGAs** – Yoshi De Wilde, Community Transition Support Officer, 0499 830 051
- **Murrindindi, Benalla, Towong and Gannawarra LGAs** – Jenny Pena, Community Transition Support Officer, 0400 447 342.

Call **1800 318 182** or email victorianforestryplan@djpr.vic.gov.au.

Potential applicants will be provided a link to submit an application by the Victorian Forestry Plan Community Transition Support Officer.

Applicants will need to demonstrate how the project aligns with the Local Development Strategy outcomes and the eligible project activities.

Who can apply for it?

Eligible locations: Heyfield, Yarram, Orbost and District, Nowa Nowa, Swifts Creek, Noojee, Yarra Ranges, Benalla, Murrindindi region, Corryong, Koondrook.

Funding Stream One

Applications for funding for project management support and / or the upskilling community members will be considered from a business, community or industry group including:

- the Local Development Strategy host agency
- a community organisation overseeing the implementation of the Local Development Strategy
- a local government authority
- a business and industry cluster or network
- a chamber of commerce or business association.

Funding Stream Two

Applications for early implementation of the actions identified in the Local Development Strategy business cases will be considered from:





- private sector businesses
- business, community and industry groups including:
 - Local Development Strategy host agencies
 - the community organisation that oversees the implementation of the Local Development Strategy
 - local government authorities
 - business and industry clusters and networks
 - chambers of commerce and business associations
 - educational and research organisations.
- applications involving the provision of enabling infrastructure necessary to active projects delivering investment and jobs may be considered from:
 - utility and services providers
 - water corporations
 - local government authorities
 - incorporated not-for-profit organisations that operate as a business.

What sorts of things can it fund?

Stream One

-  **COMMUNITY WORKFORCE TRAINING**
-  **INVESTOR/ INVESTEE ADVICE**
-  **PROJECT MANAGEMENT**
-  **SUCCESSION PLANNING**
-  **BUSINESS SUPPORT**
-  **GRANT WRITING ASSISTANCE**
-  **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Stream Two

-  **APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**
-  **LOGISTICS AND SUPPLY CHAIN DEVELOPMENT**
-  **PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT**
-  **FEASIBILITY STUDIES/ BUSINESS CASES/ FUNDING SUBMISSIONS**
-  **MARKETING**
-  **NEW OR UPGRADED INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING UTILITY OR SERVICE CONNECTIONS**
-  **TECHNOLOGY, PLANT EQUIPMENT, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

When can a community apply?

Stream One – funding can be applied for at any point during the Local Development Strategy process, however it is likely that it will not be needed until the Entrepreneurial Discovery stage.

Stream Two – Entrepreneurial Discovery stage onwards.

The Local Development Strategy process

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY GRANT AWARDED	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host agency selected • Grant agreement signed and grant provided • Project management group established • Project plan, milestones and deliverables agreed grant awarded • Project manager appointed
CONTEXT ANALYSIS	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop analysis and interviews undertaken • Innovation opportunities defined and refined • Community engagement when draft context analysis released • Working groups formed
ENTREPRENEURIAL DISCOVERY	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership group established • External advice sought where needed • Project plans and pilots underway <p>Communities should be at the Entrepreneurial Discovery stage of the process when applying for Funding Stream Two.</p>
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COMPLETED	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project plans completed • Local development strategy completed • Ongoing governance arrangements are established • Potential sources of government support and private investment identified