



Environment Grant

2021/22 Community Development Grant

Environment Grant – up to \$5,000

The Environment Grant category supports the activities of community groups that improve the sustainability of natural environments. Activities may seek to build skills, knowledge and awareness in the community and must have a direct benefit to the natural environment.

NOTE: The Environment Grant is one of three categories of funding of the Baw Baw Shire Community Development Grant program. Please check that your project is best suited to this category and not either of the other two:

- Equipment Grant - supports the equipment needs associated with the successful operation of community groups in Baw Baw Shire. Equipment items are portable assets that are securely stored on site when not in use and does not include any item that requires installation on, or fixing to an existing structure (e.g.; defibrillator cabinetry, appliance purchase that requires installation at a future time etc). Items that require fixing on an existing structure can consider if the Minor Capital Works is a suitable grant for their project.
- Minor Capital Works Grant - supports the delivery, repair or improvement of built form fixed asset projects in/on eligible community facilities and places. The kinds of projects that this grant is suitable for include upgrade of building, paths, lighting, clubrooms, fencing, playing surfaces, shade and public space infrastructure and may include the purchase and installation of items such as cabinetry, floor coverings and electrical or gas equipment. Minor Capital Works projects do not exceed \$50,000 in value.

Funding Round

The Environment Grant accepts applications annually.

The opening and closing dates for the 2021-22 round are listed below.

Open	Tuesday 13 April 2021, 9am
Close	Monday 24 May 2021, midday

Available budget

Council's allocation for the Community Development Grants program is confirmed when the Annual Budget is adopted, usually in July. Council can make decisions on grant funding after that has occurred. As a guide, in 2020/21, the available budget was \$225,000.

Council considers applications to the entire Community Development Grants program when making its decision to award grants. Eligible Environment Grant applications are presented alongside eligible applications from the other two categories.

Application Process

A Grant Application Form is required to be submitted online via *SmartyGrants*. A link will be provided from Council's website.

Assessment of Applications

All eligible applications will be assessed against the set criteria of Need, Community Benefit, Council Plan and Budget.

Where funding of all eligible applications from the three grant categories would exceed the Community Development Grants program budget, funding will be prioritised as follows: The highest scoring / graded applications from the assessment process will be funded one at a time starting at the highest score / grade until the budget is exhausted.

Eligibility Criteria

- The Applicant is a not for profit constituted body such as an incorporated association
- The project is located or delivered within Baw Baw Shire
- The Applicant has fully acquitted previous Community Development Grant and has no outstanding grant-related debt with Baw Baw Shire Council
- The Applicant submits only one application per round
- The project or program has not received funding or a funding allocation from Baw Baw Shire Council or other external individual or organisation via a grant, sponsorship, or donation (that does not prevent co-funding arrangements where only partial funding has been obtained)
- The application is submitted by the close of the Round. Late submissions will not be considered.

Applicants that have not met Eligibility Criteria will not progress to assessment and will be advised as early as possible.

What Will Not be Funded

- Improvements to commercial properties, or delivery of commercial activities, or to commercial organisations or individuals
- Fundraising activities, competitions, prizes, and award exhibitions
- Permanent staff costs

- Catering and alcohol
- Organisational core operating costs
- Projects from Applicants that are the funding responsibility of other levels of government
- Interstate or international travel costs
- Projects that duplicate existing services and programs
- Projects with a sole religious or political purpose
- Activities, projects, programs, and events that have already taken place or commenced
- Baw Baw Shire Council owned or run activities, projects, programs, and events
- The purchase or repair of used goods or equipment

Successful Applicants

Funds Disbursement

All successful Applicants will be required to complete a Funds Disbursement form on *SmartyGrants* prior to funds being released. This includes completing the acknowledgment and declaration of the Funding Agreement and provision of completed documents to Council, including but not limited to a *tax invoice* from your organisation for the grant amount awarded a *supplier application form* and a *statement by supplier form*.

The Funding Agreement outlines the conditions associated with the provision of the Grant and details data collection and reporting requirements specific to the application.

Project Acquittal Report

The Project Acquittal Report is the final stage in the grant process. The Applicant will need to provide information and evidence relevant to the project delivery as outlined in the Funding Agreement. A Project Acquittal Report is due within one month of a project's completion.

Other Community Development Grant related information is available on our website:

- Equipment Grant
- Minor Capital Works Grant
- Budget Planning Fact Sheet
- Auspice Fact Sheet
- Council Plan 2017 -2021

Contact us

We're here to help! For more information please contact the Strategic and Community Planning team on 1300 229 229 or by email at grants@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Applicants are advised to contact Strategic and Community Planning to ensure that an application is being prepared for the correct grant category.