

The Drought Relief for Country Sports Program 2007



Local swimming pools and sports grounds are vital to the social fabric, strength and well-being of many Victorian communities. This is particularly so in communities which are geographically isolated or facing setbacks or challenges.

Partly funded through savings achieved in the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games budget, drought affected communities across Victoria will benefit from a relief package for sports grounds and swimming pools.

The program is part of the State Government's work to strengthen communities throughout Victoria, and to help local councils and communities in country areas respond to the immediate and long term water needs of their country sports grounds and swimming pools.

Sharing the challenges is an important approach in managing the effects of our ongoing drought. This new assistance package is supporting the hardest hit communities as we face a drought shaping up to be the worst on record.

The program will help communities maintain their sports grounds and municipal swimming pools to cope with continuing dry conditions. These important actions are funded under the Victorian Government's *Our Water Our Future* plan and the *Drought Response Taskforce* to secure our water future together.

By helping communities invest in water-efficient assets for local sport facilities, we are making a difference now and in the future as we all face the challenge of climate change and population growth.

Handwritten signature of James Merlino in blue ink.

JAMES MERLINO MP
Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs

Handwritten signature of John Thwaites in blue ink.

JOHN THWAITES
Minister for Water

The Drought Relief for Country Sports Program 2007

What is the Drought Relief for Country Sports Program?

The Drought Relief for Country Sports Program provides grants to help rural communities develop sustainable approaches to water management to allow greater use of swimming pool and sports ground facilities. Funding will help councils implement water efficiency measures to improve the condition of their swimming pools or sports grounds affected by acute water shortages.

There are two categories of funding covering swimming pools and sports grounds.

Victorian Government funding towards the total project costs (excluding GST) will be based on \$2 for every \$1 contributed by eligible councils and their local communities.

Councils can submit up to four applications under both the swimming pool category and the sports ground category. These may consist of:

- Swimming pool category
 - Two applications for funding up to \$30,000
 - Two applications for funding up to \$15,000
- Sports ground category
 - Two applications for funding up to \$25,000
 - Two applications for funding up to \$10,000

Sports ground projects must benefit (but are not limited to) at least one of the following sports:

- Swimming
- Croquet
- Australian Rules football
- Lawn bowls
- Cricket
- Tennis
- Hockey
- Soccer

If the council submits more than one project they must identify a priority order for their applications. Each project must have its own application form.

Councils must also submit quotes detailing the cost of their proposed project as part of their application.

Why is the Victorian Government funding these grants?

The Department for Victorian Communities provides a focus for the Government's activities around strengthening communities and increasing community participation. Sport and recreation plays an important role in actively involving people in community life.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment launched *Our Water Our Future*, an action plan to secure Victoria's water future for the next 50 years. It sets out over 100 initiatives for water conservation aimed at ensuring there is plenty of water to sustain growth over the next 50 years.

By helping to maintain sports grounds and municipal swimming pools, the Victorian Government is providing important recreation opportunities, improving sustainability, and supporting communities in need.

Who can apply?

Only councils with towns on stage 3 and stage 4 water restrictions can apply for funding. The projects must be in towns or areas on stage 3 and stage 4 water restrictions. Please note that councils with towns which introduce stage 3 or stage 4 water restrictions after 1 November 2006 are also eligible to apply.

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What type of projects might be funded?

Preference will be given to projects which:

- are supported by a municipal Sustainable Water Use Plan;
- demonstrate benefits to the facility, its users and the broader community; or
- demonstrate benefits to a number of venues or sports.

There are two stages for application assessment. The first stage will consider projects addressing immediate needs, while the second stage will consider projects covering long term, sustainable measures.

Examples of immediate projects may include:

- carting water from an alternative water source to open a swimming pool which may otherwise be closed; and
- providing recycled water to sports fields.

Examples of sustainable projects may include:

- upgrades to swimming pools which reduce water needed;
- repairing pool leaks and cracks;
- purchasing pool blankets to reduce evaporation;
- replacing turf surfaces with hard or synthetic surfaces;
- water run-off harvesting and storage initiatives; and
- developing fields with drought resistant turf species.

What will not be funded?

The Drought Relief for Country Sports Program will not fund:

- requests for retrospective funding, where projects have started or are completed prior to receiving funding approval;
- purchasing land;
- requests for ongoing operational costs such as electricity, utilities, salary subsidies, or the purchase of vehicles;
- projects needing ongoing funding or support other than the initial grant;
- facilities where little or no public access is available; and
- repair of facilities damaged by vandalism, fire or other natural disasters where the damage should be covered by insurance.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed using the questions **Why?** (10%), **How?** (20%), **Who?** (20%), and **What will it achieve?** (50%) from the attached form.

Why?	<p>What is the severity and duration of dry conditions, and water availability in this area?</p> <p>Why do you want to do this project?</p> <p>Why do you think it will work?</p>
How?	<p>Summarise your project plan and the methods you will use to complete your project. How is this plan the best way to do the project?</p> <p>To what extent is this project related to your council's Sustainable Water Use Plan?</p>
Who?	<p>Who will manage the project?</p> <p>Who else is involved and who else has endorsed the project? (i.e. sport's peak body or local water authority)</p> <p>Has the application included consultation with other facility users?</p>
What will it achieve?	<p>What impact will the project have on the use of the facility?</p> <p>What are the expected water savings both in the short and long term?</p> <p>What degree of commitment does the project show towards long term water management measures?</p>

If your application requires immediate funding, it should be received by 1 December 2006 and will only be considered if it addresses an immediate need and prevents a swimming pool or sports ground closing over summer due to water shortages.

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What are the funding conditions?

The following conditions will apply to projects receiving a grant:

- The grant recipient must enter into a funding agreement with the Department for Victorian Communities which sets out the conditions and reporting requirements.
- The project must be completed between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2007. Any unspent funds must be returned to the Department for Victorian Communities.
- Funds must be spent on the project as described in the application. Any changes must be submitted to the Department for Victorian Communities for approval before implementation.
- The completed work must be available for inspection by Victorian Government officers as requested.
- Funding may be provided towards in-kind costs such as labour and materials, provided such costs are not more than 25 per cent of the total project costs. A *Voluntary Labour and In-kind Support Information Sheet* must be completed and returned with the application form. This sheet is available from www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au

What is the application process?

Applications for projects identified by councils as an immediate need and received by **1 December 2006** will be considered during the first assessment phase. All other applications must be received by **21 February 2007** and will be considered during the second assessment phase.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications received will be acknowledged in writing.

Applications may be submitted in a number of ways, including any attachments:

- by email to grantapplications@dvc.vic.gov.au
- by fax to 03 9208 3680
- by mail to:
Grants Unit
Department for Victorian Communities
GPO Box 2392, Melbourne VIC 3001

More information

If you wish to discuss your application with a Department for Victorian Communities Officer, please call our Grants Information Line on 1300 366 356 (cost of a local call) on any weekday between 8.30am and 10.00pm (except public holidays).

Application form Drought Relief for Country Sports Program 2007

Section 1A Applicant details

Name of council

Authorised person: Title

First name

Last name

Position

Postal address

Town/suburb

Postcode

Telephone

Fax

Email

Council website

Please provide an ABN

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Section 1B Project officer contact details

Name

Position

Postal address

Town/suburb

Postcode

Telephone

Fax

Mobile

Email

Section 2 Project overview

Please indicate the category for this application (tick one)

Swimming pool

or

Sports ground

If your council is submitting more than one application under the Drought Relief for Country Sports Program please rate this project against your other applications.

Priority one

Priority three

Priority two

Priority four

Project name:

What are you going to do? *Please provide a detailed description of your proposed project.*

Project address/location

Melway/VicRoads reference

Water restriction level at project location

Does this application meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the Drought Relief for Country Sports Program guidelines?

YES NO

What communities will benefit? Describe by people (e.g. user groups, people with a disability, women, Indigenous people, youth, culturally and linguistically diverse people and older adults) and/or place (e.g. neighbourhood or town).

Project location (Local Government Area)

Suburb

Postcode

Project start date / /

Project completion date / /

Section 3 Project details that address the assessment criteria

Please indicate how your project addresses the following assessment criteria: Why? (10%), How? (20%), Who? (20%) and What will it achieve? (50%). Please refer to the Drought Relief for Country Sports Program guidelines to help answer these questions and attach additional pages if required.

Why? What is the severity and duration of dry conditions, and water availability in this area? Why do you want to do this project? Why do you think it will work?

How? Summarise your project plan and the methods you will use to complete your project. How is this plan the best way to do the project? To what extent is this project related to your council's Sustainable Water Use Plan?

Who? Who will manage the project? Who else is involved and who else has endorsed the project? (i.e. sports peak bodies or local water authority) Has the application included consultation with other facility users?

What will it achieve? What impact will the project have on the use of the facility? What are the expected water savings both in the short and long term? What degree of commitment does the project show towards long term water management measures?

Section 4 Program budget

Please provide details of the income and expenditure for your project (excluding GST) noting that total income should equal total expenditure.

INCOME	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
Amount requested from this program		Professional planning/advice	
Local Government		Project coordination	
In-kind support		Materials and infrastructure	
Other (please specify)		Other (please specify)	
TOTAL INCOME	\$	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$

Declaration

I state that the information in this application and attachments is to the best of my knowledge true and correct. I will notify DVC of any changes to this information and any circumstances that may affect this application. I acknowledge that DVC may refer this application to external experts or other Government Departments for assessment, reporting, advice, comment or for discussions regarding alternative or collaborative grant funding opportunities. I understand that DVC is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and that if a Freedom of Information request is made, DVC will consult with the applicant before any decision is made to release the application or supporting documentation. I understand that this is an application only and may not necessarily result in funding approval.

Signature*

Date

Printed name

Position

* To be signed by a person with delegated authority to apply, i.e. Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer.

Attachments

Please ensure that you have attached:

Quotes for costs associated with the project

A completed voluntary labour and in-kind support information sheet