

FUNDING GUIDELINES

Recreational Boating Structural Maintenance Program

2022–2023



Introduction

Improving the boating experience includes having well maintained, and reliable access to public boating facilities. That's why we're investing \$2.0 million from the 2022–23 Better Boating Fund into the Recreational Boating Structural Maintenance Program (RBSMP).

The RBSMP will allocate grant funding to eligible organisations for structural maintenance projects to ensure our Victorian public boating facilities continue to remain safe for the purposes of boat launching and retrieval.

Grant applications must be submitted online to Better Boating Victoria and will then be assessed by a Funding Advisory Panel. Grant funding recommendations made under the RBSMP will then be submitted for consideration and, if successful, approval by the Minister for Outdoor Recreation.





Who can apply for grant funding?

Eligible organisations consist of local government, State government departments and agencies, committees of management and local waterway authorities.



Maximum funding amount

The grant amount awarded will not exceed \$300,000 (excluding any GST amounts) in total per project. An eligible organisation may submit multiple applications for consideration.



Funding ratio

Whilst a co-contribution (funding or in-kind) will be considered favourably, 100% grant funding will also be made available.

Funding contributions from the applicant can include project management, committed funds from other government agencies or sources, and in-kind contributions which can be substantiated.



Program aims

Grants awarded are expected to result in a demonstrable improvement in the functionality, safety and asset life of Victorian public boating facilities.

Structural maintenance projects which are eligible for funding under the RBSMP include:

- Funds to repair boat launching ramps and infrastructure which supports public boat ramps or provides for public access;
- Funding for repairs to jetties, floating pontoons, and associated infrastructure such as gangways and walkways linking the boat ramp to the jetty;
- Car trailer unit parking facilities and rigging or de-rigging areas (if the trailer parking area is to be either reconfigured or formalised, the new plans must demonstrate the overall net benefit for the amount of car trailer parks and not show a reduction in car trailer parks);
- Minor works to protection structures, such as breakwaters and rock revetments, that directly support the launching and retrieval of vessels from a public boat ramp;
- Fixed signage which directly relates to advice for users of the boating facility (load limits on boat ramps, tidal conditions of the facility, wave actions, trailer parking areas etc.);
- Maintenance of other supporting infrastructure that is directly connected to the boating facility, such as universal access aids, bollards, new lighting, shelters, boat wash down facilities, fenders, ladders, handrails etc.

How applications will be assessed

Applications for grants will be assessed against the following assessment criteria:

- The Applicant is an eligible organisation.
- All relevant planning and environmental approvals have been obtained, or are currently under application.
Note: applications without permits will be considered. However, the Applicant will need to demonstrate that an appropriate level of planning has been undertaken.
- Expected project costs have been appropriately substantiated.
- The Application clearly demonstrates how it has been prepared in accordance with the Victorian Boating Facility Design Guidelines (available at www.betterboating.vic.gov.au).
- The safety outcomes and benefits to be derived from the funding have been clearly identified.
- The demonstrated need and demand for the facility (including outlining the contribution the project will make to recreational boating in Victoria, the region and the immediate area).
- The evidence and detail of the level of project planning undertaken and status of any required approvals.
- The details of any community/stakeholder engagement with the proposed project.
- Where relevant, demonstrated satisfactory performance on projects for which funding was awarded to the Applicant under previous boating programs.
- The details of where and how the Applicant will contribute to the total project cost, if applicable. Co-contribution will be considered favourably.
- Whether the Applicant is in receipt of current boating funding revenue sources, such as the Victorian Government's Free Boat Launching and Parking initiative.
- Consideration will be given to boating assets that have been impacted by natural disaster.

Applications which meet all assessment criteria may not be recommended to the Minister for Outdoor Recreation for approval in the event other applications demonstrate increased value for money or better safety outcomes.

What will not be funded

The following projects or project elements will not be funded:

- Projects in relation to boating facilities not open to use by the general public;
- New, or major capital renewal upgrades of boating facilities;
- General day to day maintenance activities, such as the cleaning of ramps, removal of debris, rubbish collection, lighting maintenance, minor concrete crack repairs (through filling and sealing etc.);
- Projects that provide direct support for non-powered boating use (such as land-based fishing, kayak/rowing access);
- Maintenance of access roads, unless providing direct and exclusive access to the boating facility;
- Dredging projects (a separate grant program has been established for dredging projects);
- Contingency costs;
- Maintenance and other ongoing costs; and
- Insurances required in relation to the project.

Grant assessment

A Funding Advisory Panel will be convened consisting of government agencies and stakeholders. The Funding Advisory Panel will provide input into recommendations for grant allocations for consideration and, if successful, approval by the Minister for Outdoor Recreation.

Additionally, it should also be noted that previous performance in implementing grant-funded initiatives (such as through the Boating Safety and Facilities Program), will be taken into consideration when applications are assessed.

How to apply

Application forms must be completed and submitted via email to BBV.Communications@vfa.vic.gov.au.

Applications forms can be found at www.betterboating.vic.gov.au.

Program timeline

15 February 2023	Applications Open
16 March 2023	Applications Close
End March 2023	Assessment of applications and recommendations made by Funding Advisory Panel to the Minister for Outdoor Recreation
Mid April 2023	Applicants notified and successful projects announced
Early May 2023	Funding agreements returned to BBV by applicant
June 2023 – February 2024	*Projects delivered by recipients

*The impacts on the users of the boating facility needs to be considered in the delivery phase of the project. Better Boating Victoria will work with the grant recipient to develop an appropriate works schedule.



Quotations and supporting evidence

1. If your project cost is less than or equal to \$25,000 (incl GST) one (1) written quote is required. For projects over \$25,000 (incl GST), three (3) written quotes must be provided.
2. Quotations from all applicants must specify the cost exclusive of GST.
3. If more than one quote is required, each quote must be from different suppliers.
4. It is recommended that written quotes be valid for 90 days from the date of quote. Any increase in project costs must be borne by the Applicant; it will not be possible to increase the grant amount, if awarded.
5. Applicants must fully disclose any relationship to a person or organisation supplying a quotation.



Unexpended funds

If the grant recipient does not appropriately expend the funds by the date set out in the Funding Agreement, the unexpended funds must be repaid, or an application must be submitted to Better Boating Victoria for approval to expend the funds on other related public boating infrastructure enhancements managed by the recipient.



Project variation

The grant recipient must complete and submit an application for Project Variation to Better Boating Victoria and obtain its approval prior to making any change to the scope of the project.



Funding agreements

Successful Applicants will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement within 30 days of the 'project start date' nominated in the Agreement.

No funds will be paid until a Funding Agreement has been signed by both parties.

Applicants should not incur any costs relating to the Project (even if the Project has been approved by the Minister for Outdoor Recreation) until, at the earliest, receipt of a signed copy of the Funding Agreement.



Specific terms and conditions (contained in the funding agreement)

The site at which the Applicant's project is to be carried out must be, and must remain, under the control of a council, a government department, a statutory authority or a committee of management appointed by the appropriate statutory body.

The facility at which the project is to be undertaken must be available to the general public at all reasonable times.

Project works should be avoided during the peak boating season in Victoria (approximately October – March) to avoid disruption to users. You must contact Better Boating Victoria if this cannot be avoided.

An Applicant will be required to take all reasonable steps so that the Facility remains safe and open for public access.

An Applicant must obtain all relevant permits and approvals from the appropriate authorities.

An Applicant must effect and maintain appropriate insurance policies in relation to the project.

For further information, contact us at
BBV.Communications@vfa.vic.gov.au

betterboating.vic.gov.au

