

FUNDING GUIDELINES

Recreational Boating Access and Dredging Program

2023–2024



Introduction

Improving the boating experience includes better and more reliable access from our boating facilities to the water.

That's why we're investing \$700,000 from the 2023–24 Better Boating Fund into the Recreational Boating Access and Dredging Program (RBADP).

The RBADP will allocate grant funding to eligible organisations for dredging projects to ensure safer navigation at publicly accessible Victorian boating facilities. This will provide better access at local waterways for boaters and improved social and economic outcomes for local communities and businesses.

Grant applications must be submitted online and will then be assessed by a Funding Advisory Panel (see page 2 for further details). Grant funding recommendations made under the RBADP will then be submitted for consideration and approval by the Minister for Outdoor Recreation.





Who can apply for grant funding?

Eligible organisations comprise 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 \$150,000 (ex GST) in total per project. An eligible organisation may submit multiple project 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 safety, navigation and waterway access at Victorian public boating facilities.

Dredging projects which are eligible for funding under the program include:

- Dredging projects that will deliver navigational benefits and improved safety and access to managed waterways for powered recreational vessels.
- Dredging projects that will improve access to public facilities, such as boat ramps, jetties and pontoons.
- Pre-dredging activities for eligible dredging projects (surveys, reports and plans) will be considered.
- Removal of minor materials, such as rubble and siltation in the immediate vicinity of a boat launching facility.

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 already been undertaken at the time the application has been submitted.
- Expected project costs have been appropriately substantiated.
- The safety outcomes and benefits to be derived from the funding have been clearly identified.
- The demonstrated need and demand for dredging at 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 any community/stakeholder engagement with the proposed project.
- Where relevant, demonstrated satisfactory performance on projects for which previous 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 existing boating funding revenue sources, such as the Victorian Government's Free Boat Launching and Parking initiative.
- Consideration will be given to applicants 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, navigation and waterway access 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;
- dredging or pre-dredging works at unmanaged waterways;
- projects that provide direct support for non-powered boating use (such as land-based fishing, kayak/rowing access);
- contingency costs;
- maintenance and other ongoing costs;
- insurances required in relation to the project; and
- capital dredging works.

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

2 May 2024	Applications Open
30 May 2024	Applications Close
Early June 2024	Assessment of applications and recommendations made by Funding Advisory Panel to the Minister for Outdoor Recreation
Mid June 2024	Applicants notified and successful projects announced
Late June 2024	Funding agreements returned
July 2024 – February 2025	*Dredging projects delivered by recipients

*Consideration on the impacts to the users of the boating facility needs to be considered in the delivery phase. 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 \$50,000 (incl GST) one (1) written quote is required. For projects over \$50,000 (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.



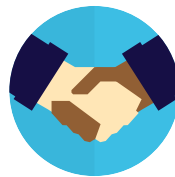
Unexpended funds

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 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) 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 (Facility) 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

