South East Water Community Grants program FAQs

About our Community Grants program

We’re proud to be supporting our community and environment by making important community projects and initiatives possible through our Community Grants program. The grants are funded by a promise we made in our Five-Year Customer Commitment 2018–23 to support local communities impacted by sewer spills. In 2018–19, beaches were closed in Mount Eliza, Mornington, Black Rock and Brighton due to sewer spills. We’re looking forward to working together to make our bays better and create places for our community to work, play and enjoy Melbourne’s world-famous liveability.

Who can apply for a grant?

Your group or organisation needs to operate within our service area to be eligible. Your project or initiative also needs to demonstrate an environmental, cultural, educational or recreational connection to Port Phillip Bay or Western Port. Here are some examples of the types of groups that are eligible:

- Friends groups who work to protect and enhance natural environment surrounding the beach or waterways
- Guides/scout groups who use the bay for recreational activities
- Schools who visit the bay for recreational or educational activities
- Other community and charitable groups

What we’ll pay for

Eligible community or charitable organisations can apply for grants of between $500 and $10,000 to fund:

- Capital works
- Events
- Recreational/environmental programs

Opening and closing dates

Applications for 2019 are now closed. Information about our 2020 Community Grants program will be available in July 2020 at southeastwater.com.au/grants
Assessment criteria and process

Assessment criteria

All applications are assessed against community grants terms and conditions and eligibility criteria.

We give particular consideration to each applicant’s connection to Port Phillip Bay or Western Port, the project’s benefit to the community, alignment to our vision, values and brand, and the project plan and budget included in the application.

Although applicants don’t need to be impacted by a beach closure to apply, our assessment process takes this into consideration due to the way the grants are funded.

Who judges the applications?

The 2019 assessment panel included impartial representatives from our Customer and Community Engagement team, our Environment team and our Network Delivery team.

They assessed each application on its merits against each selection criteria.

How many community grants were given out in 2019?

We received 71 applications for the 2019 round of our Community Grants program.

Through the program, we’ve awarded 11 grants to support a wide range of environmental and recreational projects that will benefit the community and ensure the long-term health of Port Phillip Bay and Western Port.

We awarded grants to the following community groups in 2019:

- Australian Volunteer Coast Guard
- Beach Patrol Australia
- Black Rock Life Saving Club
- 1st/14th Brighton Sea Scouts
- Chelsea Kindergarten
- Dolphin Research Institute
- Frankston City Council
- Kunyung Primary School
- Mordialloc Life Saving Club
- Mt Martha Lifesaving Swimming and Youth Club
- St Columba’s Catholic Parish Elwood

You can read more about the projects we funded in our Newsroom at southeastwater.com.au from Friday 15 November 2019.

How much money was awarded in 2019?

We provided over $30,000 in funding to support local community group projects in 2019.
Reporting requirements

If your application is successful, you’ll need to report back to let us know how your project went.

We’d also love to see any promotional material or pictures of how you’ve used your community grant – you can attach these to your report.

What do I need to report?

You’ll need to let us know how your project went and if you achieved what you set out to by the time your report’s due.

You also need to provide an itemised budget of how you spent your community grant in your report to let us know how you spent the money allocated to you.

When is my report due?

Reports for projects granted funding in 2019 are due by 30 June 2020.

What if I haven’t completed my project?

We know life’s unpredictable and unexpected circumstances or delays can impact the best-laid plans.

If you’re worried about completing your project on time, please email sponsorships@sew.com.au or call us on 9552 3873 to talk about what’s happened and how we can help.

Will you remind me to complete the report?

Yes, we’ll email you reminders to complete the report six and nine months after you receive your community grant.

Need help completing your report?

If you’re finding the report hard to complete, or have questions about the report and how to complete it, please email sponsorships@sew.com.au.