

New and Upgraded Dog Parks Program Round 2

Program Briefing – 19 August 2024



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

Welcome

1. Housekeeping
2. Session recorded
3. Today's purpose and agenda
4. Probity Adviser

Source: Eynesbury Dog Park, Eynesbury
Credit: Melton City Council



Program Overview

- As part of the 2023-24 State Budget, \$13.4 million allocated to deliver the *New and Upgraded Dog Parks Program*.
- Funding across two rounds:
 - Round 1 – \$7.685 million for new and upgraded dog parks in 19 targeted locations.
 - **Round 2 – \$5 million Statewide competitive process for new and upgraded dog parks in areas of greatest need.**
- Eligible applicants for Round 2 are invited to submit an application that meets the Program Guidelines.

Credit: David Russell Photographer



Program eligibility

- Open to **all** local councils in Victoria.
- Park or reserve **must** be publicly owned.
- The park or reserve (or area within the broader location) must be:
 - currently used as a designated off-leash area for dogs; or
 - is intended to be designated primarily for an off-leash area for dogs and will be formally designated as an off-leash area as part of delivering the project.
- Submit **one** application per council.

Source: Emerson Place Reserve Dog Park, Rowville
Credit : DEECA – David Dobroszczyk



Program aims

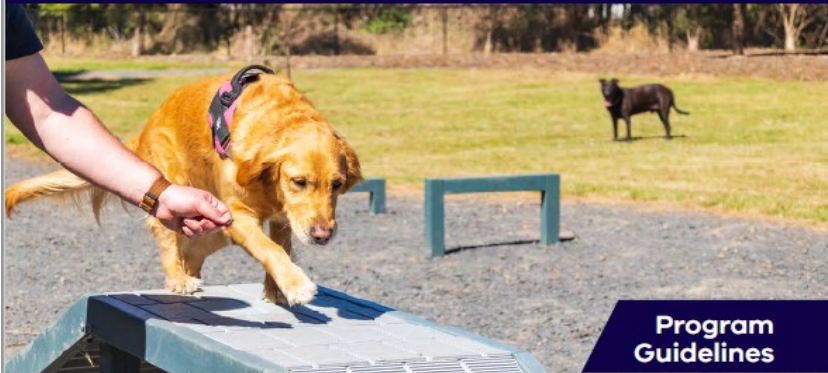
- Invest in and optimise underutilised public land for Victorians to connect with their communities and exercise their dogs.
- Invest in informal and formal off-leash areas to meet the growing demand for people to socialise and exercise their dog off-leash.
- Facilitate upgrades of existing dog off-leash areas to support contemporary needs and future longevity.
- Contribute to urban greening, cooling and shading of local neighbourhoods.
- Improve connectivity of open spaces with other points of interest and activity.
- Increase accessibility and safety of park users for all abilities and all genders.
- Support involvement of Traditional Custodians.



Source: Mount Waverley Reserve Dog Off-leash Area, Mount Waverley
Credit : DEECA – Damien Taylor

Program Guidelines and key dates

New and Upgraded Dog Parks - Round 2



What is the New and Upgraded Dog Parks Program?

The Victorian Government has committed \$13.4 million to build and upgrade dog parks across Victoria. This investment will be delivered as a combination of both:

- Grants to councils to design and deliver new and upgraded dog parks in targeted locations (Round 1 – *funding is allocated and funding round closed*); and
- Competitive grants to councils to design and deliver new and upgraded dog parks based on the needs of local communities (Round 2 – *these guidelines*).

This investment will provide funding to local councils to design and deliver new or upgraded dog parks in designated locations across Victoria. This program also supports the continued implementation of the Victorian Government's [Open Space for Everyone Strategy 2021](#).

environment.vic.gov.au/dog-parks



Round 1 provided targeted grants to local councils to deliver 6 new dog parks and 13 dog park upgrades across Victoria. A list of projects is available at www.environment.vic.gov.au/dog-parks.

Round 2 is a competitive grants process for local councils to design and deliver projects that enable people to socialise and exercise their dogs off-leash in areas of greatest need across Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Task	Key Dates
Letters sent from DEECA to eligible organisations	6 August 2024
Program guidelines provided to eligible organisations	6 August 2024
Program Briefing to eligible organisations	19 August 2024
Applications open	19 August 2024
Question & Answers Close (open.space@deeca.vic.gov.au) New and upgraded dog parks (environment.vic.gov.au)	3 October 2024 (questions by midday; answers by 5pm)
Applications close	14 October 2024 at 5pm
Application assessment and approval period	Late 2024
Applicants notified of funding decision	Early 2025
Funding agreements established and finalised	Early 2025
Projects formally commence	Early to mid-2025 onwards
Project construction completed	No later than 31 October 2026

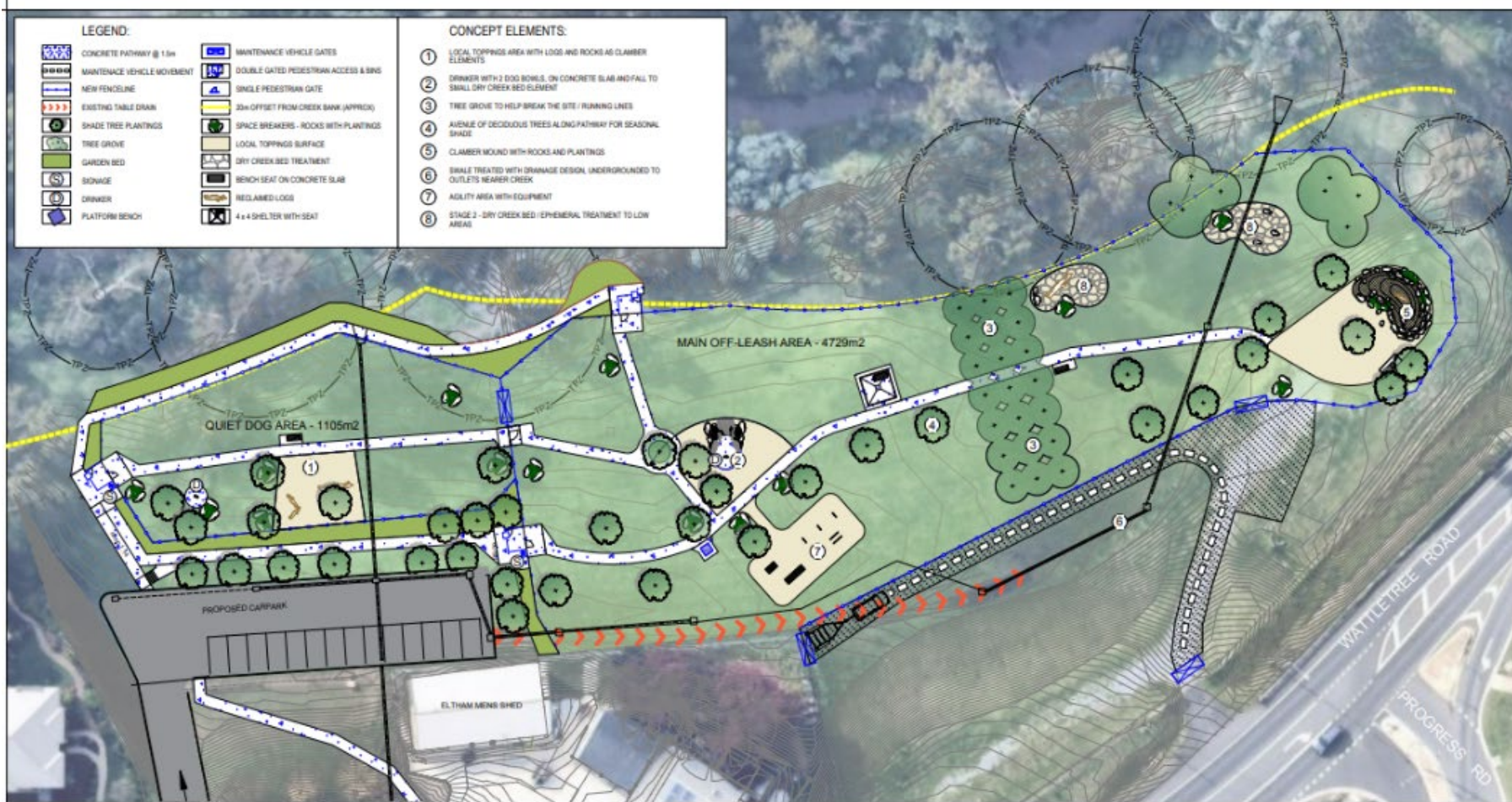
What might be funded?

- Funding will **primarily** be for purpose-built facilities for dogs and their owners to enjoy. Includes new dog parks, or upgrades, replacements, renewals and additions to existing dog off-leash areas.
- Grant funding can be used for elements such as: play features, water bowls, fencing of the off-leash area, different areas for active and quiet dogs, granitic sand areas, refurbishment of existing fencing, signage, vegetation, shelter, bins, agility equipment, paths, shade, rocks and other nature-play elements.
- Funding may also be used for supporting infrastructure that benefits dog owners and other park users.
- Any supporting infrastructure **must be located within the existing open space or within 200 metres** of the primary dog off-leash area.

Source: Eastfield Dog Park, Croydon
Credit: DEECA – Rebecca Odermatt



Examples of dog park features



Source: Eltham North Dog Park design concept
Credit: Nillumbik Shire Council

Examples of dog park features



DOG PARK
LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS - CONCEPT PLAN

What will not be funded?

The program **will not** fund:

- the purchase of land;
- the remediation of contaminated land;
- routine or ongoing maintenance activities;
- works that have already commenced;
- planning/approvals, design, community consultation and project management costs of delivering the project that exceed 20% of the total grant;
- works that do not support or are considered works that are not complementary to the primary purpose of the project delivering a new or upgraded dog park; and
- works beyond 200 metres of the primary project location.

Source: Eynesbury Dog Park, Eynesbury
Credit: Melton City Council



Program Guidelines and assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against 4 criteria. Each criteria is weighted.

1. How does the project align with the Program aims? (30%)
2. Why is this project needed? (30%)
3. How effectively and efficiently will the project be delivered? (30%)
4. Risk management (10%)



Credit: David Russell Photographer

Assessment process

As guided by our Assessment Plan developed with the Program's Probity Adviser:

1. Initial assessment of applications by a DEECA Assessment Panel.
2. Review and endorsement by Open Space Programs Steering Group.
3. Final approval and funding decision by Minister for Environment.

Source: Gordon Barnard Reserve Dog Park, Balwyn North
Credit: Marcia Riederer



Criteria 1 – How does the project align with the Program aims? (30%)

Applications must demonstrate how the project aligns with the Program's aims (p.3 of Guidelines).

Examples include how the project:

- includes new and upgraded infrastructure and design elements that will enable more people to socialise and exercise their dog off-leash;
- includes practical design elements, e.g. fencing or partial fencing if close to a road or ground surfaces that can withstand high use and increased visitation;
- contributes to the social connections, general wellbeing, safety, functionality and enjoyment of dogs and their owners in the local area;
- improves cooling, shading and greening, e.g. tree planting, landscaping, shelter;
- includes paths or other features that improve the connectivity of the location with other surrounding points of interest and activity;
- considers accessible and safe design elements to support use by park users of all abilities and all genders;
- considers potential impacts on and opportunities to involve Traditional Custodians in the project design and/or delivery.

Criteria 2 – Why is this project needed? (30%)

Applications must explain:

- why the project, in this location, is in priority need of investment;
- how the project supports contemporary community benefits and needs, and strengthens social connections;
- how the project provides for future longevity.

Examples of evidence includes:

- community demand and/or support for the project;
- visitation data demonstrating that use of the location or nearby locations for dog off-leash exercise has increased;
- demographic data demonstrating that the population within the local area has grown and/or changed and is increasing demand;
- dog registration data within the Local Government Area (LGA);
- analysis of existing conditions, e.g. asset condition advice;
- analysis of expected community benefits and improved social connections;
- alignment with Council strategies and/or plans, e.g. Open Space Strategy, Domestic Animal Management Plan, Park Masterplan.

Credit: David Russell Photographer



Criteria 3 – How effectively and efficiently will the project be delivered? (30%)

Applications must demonstrate that the project can be delivered effectively and efficiently by no later than 31 October 2026.

Examples of evidence includes:

- providing examples of sound project management and delivery on similar and recent capital works projects;
- the project budget, including cash co-contributions (if applicable); project management hours (internal/external/combination); planning, design and approvals/reports; site remediation (if applicable), and a realistic contingency;
- the project timeframes, including adequate time for planning; approvals and design, community engagement (including with Traditional Custodians) and construction;
- proposed project governance arrangements, particularly project management (including team, roles and responsibilities) and the ability to meet the administrative requirements of the grant funding agreement.

Criteria 4 – Risk Management (10%)

Applications must demonstrate that project risks have been adequately considered and can be mitigated and/or managed:

Examples of evidence includes:

- site analysis showing that the land ownership, management and site conditions are straightforward (including whether the project location is a designated dog off-leash area or intended to be as part of this project);
- a project risk analysis, including identified risks; likely impact; and proposed mitigation/management measures;
- confirmation of the approach to ongoing maintenance;
- the portion of the project budget allocated for contingencies. *Note: In accordance with best practice project management principles, a contingency budget for capital works is recommended in the budget section of the application.*

Source: Belgrave Dog Park
Credit: DEECA - Rebecca Odermatt



Available funding and co-contribution requirements

- Grants of a **maximum value of \$300,000** per project are available.
- You can apply for funding **up to \$100,000 with no co-contribution**.
- Any additional funding above this **must be matched** by a cash co-contribution at a funding ratio of 1:1 (\$1 for every additional \$1 sought).
- In-kind contributions cannot form part of the 1:1 funding co-contribution.
- Co-contributions can be from council and/or another funding source.
- Can allocate up to 20% of grant funding towards project planning and approvals, concept and detailed design, consultation and project management.

Source: Gordon Barnard Reserve Dog Park , Balwyn North
Credit: DEECA – Marcia Riederer



Project budget - example

Activity Income	\$ (excluding GST)
Grant This Program	\$200,000
Co-Contributions (Your Organisation)	\$100,000
In Kind Contributions	\$25,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$325,000

Activity Expenditure	\$ (excluding GST)
Project Construction (min 80% of grant amount)	\$220,000
Professional Planning/Advice	\$30,000
Project Management	\$20,000
Contingencies Escalations and Allowances	\$30,000
In Kind Expenses	\$25,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$325,000

Source: Don Jackson Dog Park, Cardinia
Credit: DEECA – Amanda Priest



Supporting documents

The following documents **must** be submitted with the application:

- site location map clearly showing the project location;
- photos of the site;
- clear design concept or annotated sketch outlining the proposed works;
- an internal review of the site history to assess whether there is potential for contamination to be present. This may include describing the land's past and present uses and review of council information related to the site.

If applicable:

- in-principle landowner consent or other evidence of landowner support;
- evidence of confirmation of other funding sources;
- evidence of relevant works permit/s and/or approvals;
- any information relating to community consultation undertaken at the site demonstrating the project need;
- any relevant information and supporting strategies or plans (e.g. Park Masterplan, Council Open Space Plan, Domestic Animal Management Plan, Dog Off-leash Plan, etc).

Source: Alf Pearce Reserve Fenced Dog Park (Strathmore)
Credit: David Russell Photographer



Land contamination

For the application, an internal review of the site history to assess whether there is potential for contamination to be present must be provided.

- This may include describing the land's past and present uses and review of council information related to the site.

If you successfully secure funding.....

Prior to construction start, a Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) is required to ensure no risk to human health or environment. This will:

- Confirm that the site is not contaminated; or
- If potential or confirmed contamination is identified, a management plan from a qualified, independent environmental professional to guide remediation is required.
- Land contamination remediation cannot be funded by the grant.

Source: Gordon Barnard Reserve Dog Park , Balwyn North
Credit: Marcia Riederer



Online resources for contamination due diligence

What	Where
Aerial and satellite images	Google Maps, Google Earth, Nearmap, Council GIS
Current local planning schemes and provisions	Browse planning schemes at: https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/schemes-and-amendments/browse-planning-schemes
Historic planning schemes and Environmental Audit Overlays	Search VicPlan maps: https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan/
Potentially contaminating past and present use of the site and surrounding land uses AND EPA environmental audits register	Search Victoria Unearthed: https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/victoriaunearthed
Historical aerial images	Browse: https://services.land.vic.gov.au/DELWPmaps/historical-photomaps/ or https://www.landata.vic.gov.au/tpc_menu.aspx
EPA notice sites	Search for a notice: https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/what-wedo/compliance-and-enforcement/1970-act/remedial-notice-and-directions

Funding conditions

- Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Victorian Common Funding Agreement (VCFA) with DEECA.
- Funding Agreement key financial milestones are:
 1. 25% on signing Agreement;
 2. 50% with submission of final designs and approvals;
 3. 25% on construction completion (subject to DEECA approval).
- Please do not start any construction works until the Funding Agreement has been executed.
- Construction **must be completed by 31 October 2026**.
- Must provide opportunity for an event and acknowledge Victorian Government funding.

Source: Alexandra Avenue Dog Park, Ararat
Credit: DEECA – Claire Anderson



Demonstration of the online Application Process

Energy, Environment and Climate Action

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

> GRANTS ONLINE > NEW AND UPGRADED DOG PARKS PROGRAM - ROUND 2

Rectangular Ship

INTRODUCTION
ELIGIBILITY
KEY CONTACTS
PROJECT OVERVIEW
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA 1 & 2
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA 3
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA 4
MANDATORY DOCUMENTS
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
DECLARATION
OVERALL PREVIEW



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Application GA-F47736-5832

Applications close: Monday 14 October 2024 at 5:00 pm AEDT

INTRODUCTION

User Registration

It is a requirement that you are a Grants Online registered user in order to 'Save as Draft' or 'Submit' an application form. Upon clicking 'Next Page', if you are already a Grants Online registered user you will be prompted to enter your username and password. If you are not a Grants Online registered user, you will be asked to create a username and password.

Privacy Collection Notice

The personal information on this form is collected by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for the purposes of administering your grant application and informing Members of Parliament of successful applications. The personal information in this form will be disclosed to relevant DEECA staff and may also be disclosed to Members of Parliament and their staff. Where you do not provide the information required by this form we may be unable to process your application. Personal information may also be disclosed to external experts, such as members of assessment panels, or other Government Departments for assessment, reporting, advice, comment or for discussions regarding alternative or collaborative grant funding opportunities.

For more information, please refer to DEECA's [Privacy Policy](#).

Questions during the application period

- For any questions while preparing your application, please reach out via email:

open.space@deeca.vic.gov.au

- Questions and answers will be published via program webpage weekly for equity:

[New and upgraded dog parks \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](http://environment.vic.gov.au)

- Questions no later than **midday, Thursday 3 October**.
- Individual Open Space Programs team members cannot be contacted directly about applications.
- You can continue to contact individual team members about any current DEECA-funded projects as normal.

Credit: David Russell Photographer



Questions and Answers today



Source: PA Burns Reserve Dog Park, Altona
Credit: Hobson Bay City Council

OFFICIAL



Next Steps

- Online applications link:
 - Emailed to you
 - In chat
 - Webpage
- Use the **Program Guidelines** when preparing your application.
- **Try not to wait until the deadline to submit application.**
- Thanks for your attendance and good luck!

Source: Gordon Barnard Reserve Dog Park, Balwyn North
Credit: DEECA – Marcia Riederer

