# New and Upgraded Dog Parks – Round 2 Question and Answer Fact Sheet

16 August 2024 to 9 September 2024





**This document will be updated regularly and disseminated every Thursday via the New and Upgraded Dog Parks webpage until the close of the Question-and-Answer period on 3 October 2024 at 12noon. Any questions received after this time may not be able to be answered by DEECA before the application closing date of 14 October 2024.**

| Date  | Question  | DEECA Response  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 16/08/2024 | Can you please confirm if funding for shade sails at dog parks can be applied for under the Round 2 grants program? | Yes. Please also refer to the Program Guidelines section of “What might be funded” (see examples) and “What will not be funded”. Council will need to provide supporting rationale for this in the criteria answer(s) in the online application, including ensuring the proposed works are not located beyond 200 metres of the primary project location. |
| 19/08/2024 | Is there a possibility to do smaller projects but at a few sites? | No, applications must be confined to one site only. |
| 19/08/2024 | Will the funding include subsurface works like drainage and irrigation to enhance turf sustainability in dog off-leash areas? | Yes. |
| 19/08/2024 | Does eligible public land include DEECA land managed by a Committee of Management (CoM)? | The Program Guidelines with the section “Who can apply” talk to the requirement to provide in-principle landowner consent or other evidence of landowner support (as applicable) if Council does not own the land. In this situation the application would be considered, however evidence of support from the CoM would be required along with 'in- principle' support from DEECA (as the landowner), noting that the grant funding will not cover site maintenance. |
| 19/08/2024 | Will lighting of dog parks be considered? | Yes, lighting upgrades at existing dog parks and new dog parks can be included in the scope as part of an application. |
| 19/08/2024 | Is there a maximum of five supporting documents, or can more be added if needed?  | You can email any additional supporting documents to grantsinfo@deeca.vic.gov.au after you submit your application, quoting your unique application grant number. This email must be received before the applications close on 14 October 2024 at 5pm. |
| 19/08/2024 | If we find 250 words is insufficient for a response to the assessment criteria, can we use the supporting documents section to provide further justification/response?  | No. Criteria responses from applicants are restricted to the 250-word limit.  |
| 19/08/2024 | The funding states it can be used for design - could you get a design for a large dog park with multiple areas, but then allocate the construction funding to implement only a part of the design i.e. as an example: Stage 1 - fencing, entrance area (gates/hardstand), signage, basic supporting infrastructure - logs, rocks, some dog equipment (tunnels, benches, etc), bins, seats, etc; Stage 2 (to be completed at a later date when further funding can be sourced) - separate areas for dogs with differing requirements (larger dogs, puppies, etc), areas with different surfaces, agility area. | An application could incorporate a project that would include both the design of a large dog park and a staged approach to construction of the project (with grant funding apportioned to only deliver one stage). The application does need to meet the mandatory requirements in terms of the amount of grant funding that can be apportioned to ‘planning and design costs’ i.e. no more than 20% of the total grant funding. The application also needs to ensure it meets any cash co-contribution requirements as described in the Program Guidelines section of “What is the available funding”. |
| 19/08/2024 | If you currently have grant funding for Round 1 can you apply again for Round 2? | Yes. All 79 Victorian Councils are eligible for the New and Upgraded Dog Parks - Round 2 funding. |
| 23/08/2024 | A question was asked by a Not-For-Profit organisation (NFP) if they could be considered for grant funding under the New and Upgraded Dog Parks – Round 2 Program. | After reviewing the New and Upgraded Dog Parks – Round 2 Program Guidelines, DEECA has determined that Not-For-Profit organisations are ineligible to apply for funding under this program. The Program Guidelines section relating to ‘Who can apply?’ explains that the program is open to all local councils in Victoria. Furthermore, the park or reserve must be publicly owned (either by local government or another public land manager). |
| 26/08/2024 | If a site/project has not been through community engagement, but this is carried out through the grant/project management process and stakeholders are not supportive of the chosen site/project, can Council look to redirect those funds to another site or does the money have to be returned to DEECA? And if the money must be returned, does this mean the entirety of grant funding or just unspent funds?  | If successful in securing grant funding, Council will be required to enter into a funding agreement with DEECA. DEECA uses the ‘Victorian Common Funding Agreement’ (VCFA) to fund local councils to deliver services and projects. More information about the VCFA is available at: <https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-common-funding-agreement>In this scenario provided, funding could not be redirected to another site and all funding that has not been expended by council, or has not been legally committed for expenditure, would be required to be returned to DEECA.  |
| 29/08/2024 | Does the State Government have any standards for dog parks? In particular I'm looking for the minimum size requirement.  | There is no minimum standard requirement to seek funding for dog parks under this program. Applicants should however consider the design of the dog park or off-leash area in accordance with Council policies, relevant strategic plans as well as community consultation. The size of the dog park (including consideration to include full or partial fencing) is at the discretion of the Council delivering the project. In addition, please refer to the New and Upgraded Dog Park – Round 2 Program Guidelines and the Assessment Criteria section, in particular Criteria 1. Round 2 Program Guidelines can be found here: [New and Upgraded Dog Parks - Round 2 Program Guidelines](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/file/0026/714095/New-and-Upgraded-Dog-Parks-Round-2-Program-Guidelines-August-2024.pdf). A recording of the New and Upgraded Dog Park – Round 2 program briefing from 19 August 2024 is also available to watch on the [program webpage](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/dog-parks) or can be found [here](https://player.vimeo.com/video/1000212998). |
| 2/09/2024 | I am putting together Council’s application for the New and Upgraded Dog Parks – Round 2 grant and was after a little clarification with our project submission. We have plans for a new off-leash dog park which is in line with a specific Precinct Master Plan, but we are also hoping to apply for upgrades (including some fencing and signage) for our existing off-leash dog park, which is supported by another Master Plan. | Applications must be confined to one site only and address the New and Upgraded Dog Parks - Round 2 Program Guidelines including the Assessment Criteria section elements. The delivery of a new dog park or dog park upgrade (including with a reference to a single proposed site location) must be completed by 31 October 2026 to be eligible. Round 2 Program Guidelines can be found here: [New and Upgraded Dog Parks - Round 2 Program Guidelines](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/file/0026/714095/New-and-Upgraded-Dog-Parks-Round-2-Program-Guidelines-August-2024.pdf). |
| 3/09/2024 | In terms of a proposed application, would DEECA require masterplans, concept designs, cost estimates and community support / engagement information to be provided as part of the application process to be considered and funding awarded.Council has identified multiple locations and was hoping to apply but are seeking what flexibility permissions would be available regarding providing information to DEECA? | In terms of supporting documents that are required please refer to the section called “What supporting documents will need to be provided” in the New and Upgraded Dog Parks – Round 2 Program Guidelines. Round 2 program guidelines can be found here:[New and Upgraded Dog Parks - Round 2 Program Guidelines](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/file/0026/714095/New-and-Upgraded-Dog-Parks-Round-2-Program-Guidelines-August-2024.pdf). A recording of the New and Upgraded Dog Park – Round 2 program briefing from 19 August 2024 is also available to watch on the [program webpage](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/dog-parks).Applications must be confined to one site only and address the New and Upgraded Dog Parks - Round 2 Program Guidelines including the Assessment Criteria section elements. The delivery of a new dog park or dog park upgrade (including with a reference to a single proposed site location) must be completed by 31 October 2026 to be eligible.  |
| 3/09/2024 | Can you tell us if there are design guidelines that you adhere to regarding dog park designs? Size, minimum provided features or waste disposal requirements etc? I have read the Open Space strategy, and it doesn't go into those details.  | The size of the dog park (including consideration to include full or partial fencing), minimum features and waste disposal requirements are at the discretion of the Council delivering the project. Please refer to the New and Upgraded Dog Park – Round 2 Program Guidelines and the Assessment Criteria section, in particular Criteria 1 for an indication of potential design features. Round 2 program guidelines can be found here:[New and Upgraded Dog Parks - Round 2 Program Guidelines](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/file/0026/714095/New-and-Upgraded-Dog-Parks-Round-2-Program-Guidelines-August-2024.pdf).  |
| 5/09/2024 | Our current off-leash dog park includes a children's playground, BBQ area and various family gathering spaces. We've received significant feedback from both dog owners and families who have suggested that fencing the playground and BBQ areas would create a safer environment, encouraging more families to socialize and enjoy outdoor activities with their dogs.With this in mind, if we were to submit a proposal to fence off these specific areas, thereby leaving the majority of the park available for off-leash use, would this be viewed favourably? | Applicants may consider as part of the project scope full or partial fencing in the delivery of the project. This may include a scope which considers fencing of surrounding park features (such as a playground) however the project scope must demonstrate that the proposed works are not located beyond 200 metres of the primary project location. Applications should also consider the design of the dog park or off-leash area in accordance with Council policies, relevant strategic plans as well as community consultation. The consideration to include full or partial fencing is at the discretion of the Council delivering the project. Council will need to provide supporting rationale for this in the criteria answer(s) in the online application and address the New and Upgraded Dog Parks - Round 2 Program Guidelines including the Assessment Criteria section elements. Please also refer to the section of the Program Guidelines “What might be funded”. Round 2 Program Guidelines can be found here: [New and Upgraded Dog Parks - Round 2 Program Guidelines](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/file/0026/714095/New-and-Upgraded-Dog-Parks-Round-2-Program-Guidelines-August-2024.pdf). |