

2025-26 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Information session
Wednesday 6 August 2025



We Acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.



Agenda

- Housekeeping
- Introductions
- **Part A – 30 minutes**
 - Community Infrastructure Grants Overview
 - General Questions
- **Part B – 45 minutes**
 - Questions
 - Meet with an officer

2025-26 Changes to guidelines

- Total funds available \$1.5 million
- \$1 million Capital Program sports lighting on Council assets.
- Sports lighting Council land - no longer eligible.
- Sports lighting private – yes can still apply.
- The maximum grant amount Capital Works \$250,000.
- Maximum total project cost cannot exceed \$2.5 million.
- Applicants cannot apply for additional funding for projects already included in the City's capital works program.

2025-26 Key dates

Grants open	26 July 2025
Co-contribution exemption open	26 July 2025
Co-contribution exemption close	1 September 2025 (5:00 pm)
Grants close	29 September 2025 (5:00 pm)
Notification of outcome	25 February
Project delivery	Anticipate completing project within 12 months of signing a funding agreement

Who is eligible to apply?

- Incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- Unincorporated group with an auspice
- Registered charitable organisation
- School or learning institution (non-curriculum-based only)

and your project is for:

- Community infrastructure on City owned or managed land
- Community infrastructure on Crown land
- Community infrastructure on land your organisation owns

Co-contribution

Total project cost	City funding (2/3 total project cost)	Your contribution (\$1 for every \$2)	Your additional contribution
\$45,000	\$30,000	\$15,000	nil
\$240,000	\$160,000	\$80,000	nil
\$375,000	\$250,000 (maximum grant)	\$125,000	nil
\$400,000	\$250,000 (maximum grant)	\$125,000	\$25,000

Applying for an exemption

APPLICATIONS

- Open now
- Additional to grant application
- Estimate total project cost
- Financial statements previous **three** years

ASSESSMENT

- Financial resources
- Age of organisation
- Geographic disadvantage
- EGM revenue
- Additional factors

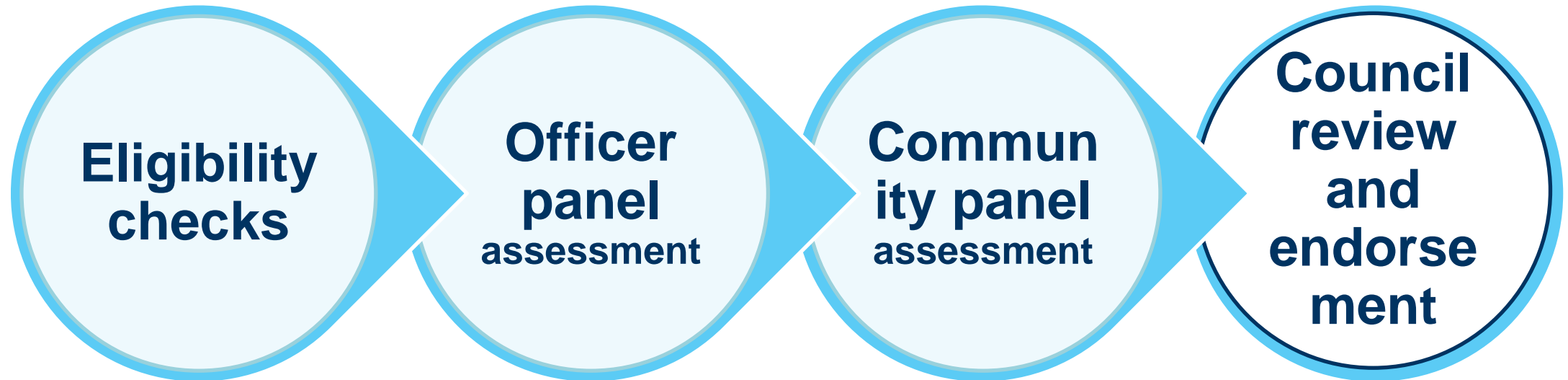
OUTCOME

- Full or partial exemption
- Include notification in grant application

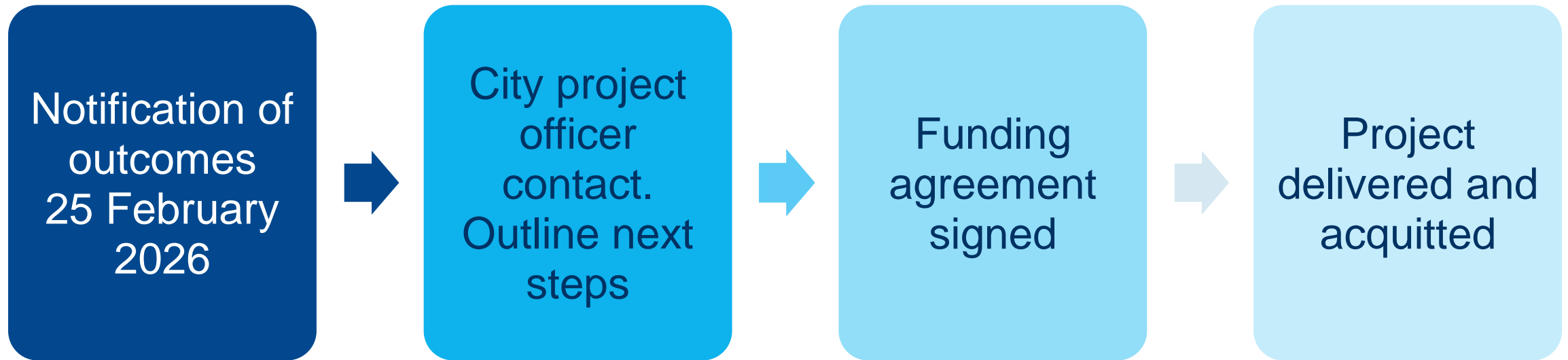
Exemption example

Total project cost	City funding (2/3 total project cost)	Your contribution (\$1 for every \$2)	Your additional contribution
\$45,000	\$40,000	\$5,000 (partial exemption)	nil
\$45,000	\$45,000	\$0 (full exemption)	nil
\$240,000	\$240,000	\$0 (full exemption)	nil
\$400,000	\$250,000 (maximum grant)	\$125,000 (no exemption maximum grant awarded)	\$25,000

How is your grant application assessed?



What happens next?



Planning grants

Costs associated with facility development planning, concept designs and detailed designs for future infrastructure projects that demonstrate strong community benefit and align with key priority areas of this program.

Maximum grant amount per applicant of \$50,000

Project Examples

- Strategic Infrastructure Planning – Facility Development Plans
- Infrastructure Design – Concept through to detailed design for future infrastructure projects
- Detailed designs (tender documentation) for projects under \$500k

Capital works grants

Assist with the cost of ready to go community infrastructure projects.

Projects must be openly accessible, strong community benefits for residents of Geelong.

Align with the key priority areas of this program.

Not applicable for the purchase of land.

Maximum grant amount per applicant - \$250,000

What will be funded?

PLANNING

- Strategic infrastructure planning: facility development plans
- Infrastructure design: concept through to detailed design

RENEWAL

- Kitchen
- Accessibility upgrades
- Change room
- Pavilion
- Court playing surfaces

UPGRADE

- Replacing turf pitches
- Digital scoreboards
- Environmental initiatives

BUILD NEW

- Community Gardens
- Cricket nets
- Behind/safety goal netting
- Multipurpose training facilities

What won't be funded?

- Projects outside the City of Greater Geelong
- Private applicants who do not own their infrastructure and land
- Capital works for project costs > \$2.5 million
- Planning for detailed design of projects > \$500,000
- Sports lighting on Council managed facilities
- Business cases, feasibility assessments, master plans on City land
- Maintenance, insurance claims
- Furniture, fittings, unfixed equipment and domestic appliances
- Projects where other funding partners have not confirmed in writing
- Projects that do not meet Australian standards
- Facilities for gaming, gambling, bars
- Projects/activities previously funded by the City
- Purchase of land
- Public art installations

Assessment criteria

**Community
Benefit
55%**

Assessed by:

- Need or gap in community infrastructure
- Enable current programs or more services
- Support healthy, inclusive and equitable outcomes

**Well-
planned
45%**

Assessed by:

- Project scope
- Applicant capacity to deliver
- Design and drawings
- Support letters
- Budget

2025-26 Priority Funding Themes

**Access For
All Abilities**
10%

How will your project empower people with a disability to be active contributors and participants in our community?

Fair Access
10%

How will your project improve the access to, and use of, community infrastructure for women and girls?

Ready to apply?

Read the Community Infrastructure Grant Guidelines.

Confirm a clear scope for your project. A design should be incorporated into a capital works application.

Seek a letter of land manager support by emailing comrec@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

Obtain the correct number of quotations and level of planning for your project.

Consider applying for co-contribution- closes 1 September 2026.

Gather letters of support from co-tenants and your association or governing body.

Include strategic or planning documentation to support your project.

Download the application form. Copy into a word document for ease of implementation.

Transfer data once complete and submit your application.



Resources

- Website: www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants
- Grant guidelines
- Co-contribution exemption guidelines
- Grant writing workshop – 20 August
- Budget template in application form
- Are you grant ready? – help sheet
- The Funding Centre – online search tool

- Questions?
- Meet with an officer



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