



SUMMARY OF FUNDING PROGRAMS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Regional Infrastructure Development Fund

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND (RIDF)	3
ARTS AND CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE (RIDF)	3
AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE (RIDF)	4
BIOFUELS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (RIDF)	4
INTERMODAL FREIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (RIDF)	5
LOCAL DAIRY INDUSTRY ROADS PROGRAM (RIDF)	5
LOCAL PORTS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (RIDF)	6
LOCAL ROADS DAIRY FARM GATE ACCESS SCHEME (RIDF)	6
LOCAL ROADS TO MARKET (RIDF)	7
ON FARM ENERGY GRANTS (RIDF)	7
PROVINCIAL PATHWAYS (RIDF)	8
RURAL SHOWGROUNDS PROGRAM (RIDF)	8
SMALL TOWNS DEVELOPMENT FUND (STDF) (RIDF)	9
STOCK OVER/UNDERPASSES ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM (RIDF)	9
WATER FOR INDUSTRY (RIDF)	10

Provincial Victoria Growth Fund

BUY LOCALLY	11
COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES PROGRAM	11
COMMUNITY REGIONAL INDUSTRY SKILLS PROGRAM	12
NETWORKS TO SUCCESS	13
PLANNING FOR CHANGE	13
PLANNING FOR GROWTH	14
PROMOTING TO THE DOMESTIC CONSUMER	14
PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS (PEP)	15
PROVINCIAL LEADERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PLDP)	15
PROVINCIAL VICTORIA EVENTS PROGRAM	16

Other Funding

FARMERS MARKETS	16
-----------------	----

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND (RIDF)

Program Manager

Lana Woods

Phone No.

9651 9351

Description

The RIDF supports infrastructure projects that improve the competitive capacity of regional Victoria and enhance economic development through investment, job creation and the promotion of export opportunities.

Funding Available

Funding varies depending on the nature of the program and on leveraging funding from other sources.

Eligibility

Applications will be considered from Councils, State Government, regional infrastructure providers, regional organisations, business groups, educational institutions and the private sector located in regional Victoria.

Applications are considered against published guidelines.

ARTS AND CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE (RIDF)

Program Manager

Diana Tremigliozi

Phone No.

9651 9079

Description

The Government is providing \$20 million to build regional arts facilities capable of supporting a full spectrum of arts programs, similar in style and range to city centres.

Funding Available

Grants will be considered for major new works as well as for smaller projects to upgrade or improve existing facilities. Grants are only available for capital works.

Funding levels will vary depending on the scope and significance of the project and a substantial commitment will be expected from the applicant.

Eligibility

The program is directed to the 48 Local Government Authorities as defined in the Regional Development Victoria Act 2002 and in accordance with the legislation establishing the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund.

AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE (RIDF)

Program Manager

Craig Barrass

Phone No.

9651 9071

Description

Fund to help boost regional tourism by providing infrastructure upgrades to regional airports across Victoria.

Funding Available

Funding is available for projects of a capital nature which meet the specified eligibility criteria and which add to the economic / socio-economic asset base of a region, municipality or local area.

Eligibility

Eligible projects may include:

- * Upgrades or extensions to runways
- * Levelling and/or strengthening of aprons
- * Building or improving passenger terminal facilities
- * Upgrading or relocating navigational aids and refuelling areas
- * Providing additional infrastructure such as car parking, drainage or landscaping.

BIOFUELS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (RIDF)

Program Manager

Glenn Drover

Phone No.

9651 8124

Description

The Biofuels Infrastructure Program provides grants to assist the development of the technology and infrastructure necessary for the production of Biofuels.

Funding Available

Funding levels will vary depending on the scope and significance of the project and the level of leveraged private sector and local funding.

Eligibility

Applications will be considered from Councils, State Government, regional infrastructure providers, regional organisations, business groups, educational institutions and the private sector located in regional Victoria.

Applications are considered against published guidelines.

INTERMODAL FREIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (RIDF)

Program Manager

Craig Barrass

Phone No.

9651 9071

Description

The Intermodal Freight Infrastructure Program will provide funding to facilitate the development of intermodal hubs at key locations in regional Victoria to improve the performance of the supply chain between regional export industries and ports and to complement developments occurring in the growth of urban intermodal facilities.

This initiative will help facilitate the Government's objective of achieving a 30% share of freight to ports moving by rail. Road to road intermodal facilities may also be considered if there are demonstrable efficiency gains and other public benefits.

The Intermodal Freight Infrastructure Program will provide contributions towards the costs of developing or enhancing intermodal freight facilities in partnership with other organisations, including regional councils, the private sector and the Commonwealth Government. Funding will be for infrastructure development only. Operating subsidies are not available under this program.

Funding Available

Funding is available for infrastructure development only.

Eligibility

Priority will be given to projects which:

- * Increase freight carriage by rail;
- * Deliver significant regional and state-wide benefits to industries;
- * Provide certainty in planning and land-use issues;
- * Demonstrate strong pre-existing demand for warehousing and freight-forwarding operations from potential tenants; and
- * Maximise funding opportunities from other sources.

LOCAL DAIRY INDUSTRY ROADS PROGRAM (RIDF)

Program Manager

Craig Barrass

Phone No.

9651 9071

Description

The Local Dairy Road Program will provide grants to councils in regional Victoria to upgrade key local road dairy routes to a standard suitable for the safe and efficient movement of B-Double dairy tankers.

Funding Available

Grants are available on a maximum 50/50 basis to local governments to undertake eligible road improvement works on key local road dairy routes.

Eligibility

Applicants must complete an application form and comply with all eligibility and assessment criteria including:

- * Clear evidence that the road is a key dairy route
- * Provision of written support for the project by local dairy processors
- * Agreement to gazette or permit all roads that receive funding as B-Double access roads
- * Provision of at least matching funding.

LOCAL PORTS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (RIDF)

Program Manager

Diana Tremigliozzi

Phone No.

9651 9079

Description

The Local Ports Program will provide funding for new investment by local ports to upgrade, enhance and replace infrastructure, enabling them to remain important economic and community assets.

Funding Available

Capital funding is available for projects that maintain and upgrade port assets to enhance access and safety, improve the delivery of services to local communities and ensure local ports play a strong role in provincial Victoria's commercial fishing and tourism industries.

Eligibility

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) will work with Local Port Managers to develop a list of priorities for Local Ports Funding.

DSE will coordinate applications to the RIDF which will outline the broad economic benefits of local ports infrastructure and outline the details of each individual project to be funded.

Local port funding will be consistent with existing RIDF funding criteria.

LOCAL ROADS DAIRY FARM GATE ACCESS SCHEME (RIDF)

Program Manager

Craig Barrass

Phone No.

9651 9071

Description

The Local Road Dairy Farm Gate Access Scheme provides grants to dairy farmers to improve their farm gate access to a standard suitable for safe and efficient B-Double dairy tanker access.

Funding Available

Grants of up to \$2,000 are available to dairy farmers to improve their farm gate access.

Eligibility

This Program, managed by VicRoads, opened in April 2006 and grant applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until 31 December 2007. Special Program Guidelines and Application Forms are available from VicRoads.

LOCAL ROADS TO MARKET (RIDF)

Program Manager

Craig Barrass

Phone No.

9651 9071

Description

Expansion of the Local Dairy Roads Program to include selected agricultural and horticultural producers who currently do not have B-double access to their properties in order to better link farms with local processing, for example in the timber, grain and fruit/processed food sectors.

Funding Available

Grants of up to 50 percent of the total project cost will be considered

Eligibility

Eligible projects will include:

- * Improving a local road to a standard suitable for safe and efficient B-double movements.
- * Improving local road intersections; including the intersection of a local road with an arterial (VicRoads) road.

ON FARM ENERGY GRANTS (RIDF)

Program Manager

Glenn Drover

Phone No.

9651 8124

Description

The On-Farm Energy Grants Program provides funding to support Victoria's regional agricultural industries, particularly dairy, by assisting farmers with power infrastructure upgrades to secure a more reliable energy supply. The Program will have a particular focus on the upgrade of electricity distribution supplies, particularly SWER lines (Single Wire Earth Return).

Funding Available

Funding levels will vary depending on the scope and significance of the project and the level of leveraged private sector and local funding.

Eligibility

Applications will be considered from Councils, State Government, regional infrastructure providers, regional organisations, business groups, educational institutions and the private sector located in regional Victoria.

Applications are considered against published guidelines.

PROVINCIAL PATHWAYS (RIDF)

Program Manager

Di Barrie

Phone No.

9651 9906

Description

The Victorian Government is providing \$7.6 million in funding assistance over four years for the development of pathways/trail networks to generate economic, social and recreational benefits.

Funding Available

Funding is available for infrastructure works to develop rail trails, pathways and walking track projects that demonstrate the potential to deliver on the Government's stated objectives for provincial Victoria by:

- * Stimulating tourism and other economic activity by attracting more people, jobs and investment to regional Victoria
- * Delivering the right balance of skills and industry needed to drive future growth
- * Promoting sustainable development and better land management.

Eligibility

Priority will be given to projects which:

- * Demonstrate demand and viability
- * Are accessible to a large number of users
- * Demonstrate scenic, historical and conservation values
- * Have support from local community and local government
- * Have significant tourism potential; and/or enhance and compliment existing tourism infrastructure
- * Demonstrate sound project management
- * Are ready to implement
- * Leverage funding from other sources
- * Have appropriate management arrangements in place for project delivery, ongoing management and maintenance of the asset

RURAL SHOWGROUNDS PROGRAM (RIDF)

Program Manager

Di Barrie

Phone No.

9651 9906

Description

The Rural Showgrounds Program aims to boost economic development in the regions through the attraction of new events and the enhancement of current agricultural shows including improvements to arenas, pavilions, sheds and other buildings.

Funding Available

\$4 million over four financial years, commencing July 2007.
Funding based on RIDF criteria of leveraging funding from other sources.

Eligibility

Eligible projects will include:

- * Upgrades to arenas, pavilions, sheds and other buildings
- * Building or improving general facilities
- * Providing additional infrastructure such as car parking, drainage or landscaping.

SMALL TOWNS DEVELOPMENT FUND (STDF) (RIDF)

Program Manager

Sandra Talty

Phone No.

9651 9301

Description

The STDF supports infrastructure projects that assist communities in small towns create new opportunities for socio-economic growth and development.

Funding Available

Community Projects Up to \$250,000 2:1
Industrial Estates Up to \$250,000 1:1

Eligibility

Applications will only be accepted from local councils.

Funding submissions will be evaluated against assessment criteria on a case-by-case basis, subject to availability of funding.

Towns with a population of up to 10,000 will remain the major focus of this fund.

STOCK OVER/UNDERPASSES ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM (RIDF)

Program Manager

Craig Barrass

Phone No.

9651 9071

Description

The Stock Over/Underpasses Road Safety (SOURS) Program is assisting Victorian farmers to separate their stock from public roads. Stock over/underpasses improve road and workplace safety, increase farm efficiency and facilitate growth of farms, providing a return to farmers and the broader community

Funding Available

\$20,000 For an underpass costing up to \$60,000 1:1
\$33,000 For an underpass costing over \$60,000 1:2

Eligibility

Grants are available to farmers who regularly cross stock over public roads.

Priority is based on:

- * Frequency of stock crossings
- * Frequency of traffic
- * Herd size
- * Other factors that may influence safety including line of sight, school bus routes, tourist routes and road condition

All applications must have approval from the relevant road or rail authority. Special Program Guidelines and Application Forms are available from the Victorian Farmers Federation.

WATER FOR INDUSTRY (RIDF)

Program Manager

Jim Demetrious

Phone No.

9651 8075

Description

The Victorian Government has committed \$10 million for a new Water for Industry initiative. The new funding recognises industry is a significant user of water in regional communities.

This initiative will help secure the continued operation of key industries and the availability of this valuable resource for regional communities and will work in partnership with industry and water authorities to reduce water consumption and increase reuse opportunities.

The \$10 million Water for Industry program will be available to industry, water authorities and councils in regional Victoria that can demonstrate innovative water projects that increase security and availability of water supply.

Priority will be given to projects that provide sustainable benefits to the local economy and community. This will include water recycling projects that reduce industry's call on town water supply.

Funding Available

Funding levels will vary depending on the scope and significance of the project and the level of leveraged private sector and local funding.

Eligibility

Major industrial water users, regional water authorities and Councils.

BUY LOCALLY

Program Manager

Megan Cotton

Phone No.

9651 9170

Description

The Buy Locally initiative seeks to support provincial municipal councils and business groups in promoting the "buy locally" message in order to influence the purchasing decisions of individuals, businesses and other Victorian organisations.

Consistent with capturing new opportunities, this Program seeks to support activities that encourage greater levels of import replacement in regional Victoria and reduce local expenditure leakage in regional Victoria by:

1. Encouraging regionally located businesses and organisations to source and purchase products from within their local communities and regions; and
2. Encouraging co-operation amongst regional businesses to undertake marketing activities that will encourage local purchasing of their products.

Funding Available

Up to \$10,000 3:1

Eligibility

Grants will be determined on a case by case basis. However, proposals that are eligible for funding will generally be allocated a higher priority if they:

- * Clearly demonstrate how they will encourage regionally located businesses, organisations and/or individuals, to source and purchase products from within their local communities and regions, and/or encourage co-operation amongst regional businesses to undertake activities that will encourage local purchasing of their products;
- * Maximise funding support from a range of sources;
- * Are ready to be implemented;
- * Demonstrate collaboration across a number of organisations and/or local boundaries;
- * Clearly identify the proposed outcomes and how they will be measured; and
- * Demonstrate support from the relevant municipal council.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES PROGRAM

Program Manager

Megan Cotton

Phone No.

9651 9170

Description

The Community Enterprises initiative will support the ongoing economic and social development of rural and regional communities by assisting community groups to establish economically sustainable community enterprises.

Funding Available

Up to \$25,000 1:1

Eligibility

Grants will be provided to smaller communities to establish or re-establish services which are unlikely to be provided in a commercial context. Provision of a grant does not imply ongoing financial support from the Victorian Government.

COMMUNITY REGIONAL INDUSTRY SKILLS PROGRAM

Program Manager

Geoff Milgate

Phone No.

9651 9480

Description

The Community Regional Industry Skills Program (CRISP) is intended to contribute to the generation of industry development, new jobs, increased skills and improved services for rural and regional communities.

Funding Available

The level of assistance will depend on available funding and will also be influenced by the level of business/community support and the outcomes expected.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- * Articulate the skills need identified and the current impact
- * Provide full details (including costs) of the project
- * Detail the benefits to a company or regional location
- * Have a demonstrated track record of support for employees training and general organisational development

CRISP I

Limited funding available for:

- * Interface councils
- * Companies

CRISP II

Projects should also demonstrate one or more of the following benefits:

- * Attraction of new investment to a region
- * Assistance in the retention or expansion of existing businesses
- * Improving the business practices of firms
- * Positively impacting on a local business community
- * Assisting workforce participation of mature age workers

The 3 new focus areas of CRISP II are

- * Building business skills
- * Support for communities to fill skills gaps
- * Targeting mature age workers

CRISP III

- * Bushfire areas only.
- * Funding of \$3m over 3 years 07/08 - 09/10

NETWORKS TO SUCCESS

Program Manager

Yasmin Power

Phone No.

9651 9833

Description

The aim of the initiative is to promote greater collaboration among rural and regional producers and processors, improve supply chain links and encourage cooperation through marketing, exporting, tourism and industry development activities

Funding Available

\$30,000 1:1

Eligibility

Grants will be made available to incorporated organisations, a lead company or auspiced by local government. Funding will be available on a competitive basis and will be matched on a dollar for dollar basis up to a maximum of \$30,000 for private sector groups. Regional, food, wine and tourism groups may also provide in-kind support for a project up to 25% of the total project.

PLANNING FOR CHANGE

Program Manager

Anthony Sherry

Phone No.

9651 9436

Description

To support industries and local communities in drought affected areas to collaborate to identify the longer term consequences of sustained drought and to better position them to develop and deliver solutions to local sustainability challenges and opportunities.

Funding Available

Up to \$100,000 will be provided, on a dollar-for-dollar basis

Eligibility

Councils and/or approved organisations in EC declared areas

PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Program Manager

Anthony Sherry

Phone No.

9651 9436

Description

The 'Moving Forward' Provincial Statement acknowledges that while strong population growth opens up new opportunities, it also creates challenges for communities. These challenges include managing the expectations and choices of new residents, planning for future infrastructure requirements, developing appropriate planning mechanisms to deal with more intensive land use, while protecting country lifestyles and securing adequate land for future residential and industrial growth.

Funding Available

Planning for Growth
\$100,000 1:1

Eligibility

Grants will be made available to provincial councils and/or approved organisations for a range of activities including:

- * Undertaking long-term strategic planning;
- * Acquiring technical resources and planning advice;
- * Enhancing the knowledge and skills base of Councillors and Council staff; developing long-term infrastructure plans; and
- * Meeting planning requirements and/or amending planning schemes.

Preference will be given to proposals that link Councils and regions and, if appropriate, in creating strategic plans and alliances leading to coordinated provision of infrastructure and services within and across regions.

PROMOTING TO THE DOMESTIC CONSUMER

Program Manager

Patrica Chick

Phone No.

5821 1811

Description

The "Promoting to the Domestic Consumer Initiative" will encourage the recognition and consumption of food and wine through promotional and educational activity - both within Victoria and interstate. This will lead to growth and improved economic viability of regional food businesses.

Funding Available

The level of assistance will depend on available funding and will be influenced by the level of other sources of support and the outcomes expected.

Eligibility

The types of applications which may generally be supported by this initiative include:

- * Sectoral and cross-sectoral opportunities for firms to test and develop new markets through promoting food products to both the general public and/or targeted audiences such as retail
- * Sectoral and cross sectoral opportunities for firms to expand new markets that have demonstrated potential
- * Sectoral and cross-sectoral opportunities that seek to 'educate' targeted audiences on food products. Projects on a sectoral or cross-sectoral basis along the food supply chain will be encouraged.

PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS (PEP)

Program Manager

Michael Geary

Phone No.

9651 7656

Description

Funding to Councils to enhance and promote economic development opportunities, consistent with the "Live, work and invest" message of the Provincial Victoria Campaign.

Funding Available

Economic & Marketing Program	\$10,000	1:1
Professional Development		
Traineeship	\$25,000	1:1
Scholarships	\$5,000	1:1
Industry Based	\$75,000	1:1

Eligibility

Victoria's 48 provincial councils are eligible to apply for PEP funding. Applications are considered on a case by case basis subject to availability of funds.

PROVINCIAL LEADERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PLDP)

Program Manager

Bruce Robertson

Phone No.

9651 9970

Description

The PLDP provides funding to support local initiatives that recognise and assist business and community leaders who will drive the strategies needed for economic sustainability and community development.

Funding Available

Regional Leaders Initiatives	\$100,000	1:1
Local Leaders Initiatives	\$10,000	1:1
Fellowships for Young Leaders	\$5,000	1:1

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding applicants must generally be within the municipal districts of the 48 councils as defined in the Regional Development Victoria Act 2002, and the alpine resorts within the meaning of the Alpine Resorts Act 1983.

Application will be assessed against published selection criteria.

PROVINCIAL VICTORIA EVENTS PROGRAM

Program Manager

Graeme Ludbrook

Phone No.

9651 9796

Description

The Program will assist local and regional events achieve their potential in driving socio-economic development in Provincial Victoria.

Funding Available

Key Events Up to \$40,000 and not exceeding \$60,000 over 2 years or the life of the event 1:1
Local Events Up to \$10,000 and not exceeding \$15,000 over 2 years of the life of the event 1:1

Eligibility

Victoria's 48 provincial councils, and incorporated community groups and business groups are eligible to apply for event funding.

Regional Events must be endorsed by the relevant local council and listed in the council's published event calendar.

Applications will be evaluated against assessment criteria on a case by case basis, and be subject to availability of funding.

FARMERS MARKETS

Program Manager

Sandra Talty

Phone No.

9651 9301

Description

Funding will be provided to the Victoria's Farmers Markets Association and individual grants to incorporated bodies, regional and interface Councils, and Community Organisations auspiced by Councils or the VFMA to develop and Expand the Farmers Market concept.

Funding Available

Up to \$20,000 per grant

Eligibility

As defined in the guidelines.

Further information on any program - contact RDV at your local Victorian Business Centre

Ballarat	5320 5900	Bendigo	54424100	Geelong	5229 0641
Mildura	5051 2000	Shepparton	5821 1811	Traralgon	5174 9233
Wangaratta	5721 6988	Wodonga	(02) 60562166		