



# Community Support Program

## Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

### What is the Community Support Program?

Westernport Water's Community Support Program offers sponsorship for local community groups, projects and events within our service area.

**We are committed to sponsorship around three key themes.**

#### Healthy & Hydrated:

 People

 Communities

 Planet

### What is the program's purpose

We believe it is important that the initiatives and projects we support make a sustainable impact to our region and customers, building positive change in our local communities by providing funding or support focused around the above three key themes.

### What are the objectives of the program?

Westernport Water provides sponsorship to support local events, initiatives and small projects that align with the Corporation's strategic objectives and demonstrate relevance to our products and services (water and wastewater).

We recognise the significance of our social responsibility as an essential service provider, a large local employer and as a natural resource manager.

We are committed to partnering with members of the community to identify their needs and continue to meet expectation in the short and long term.

### Who can apply?

Sponsorship will **ONLY** be provided to:

- [registered not-for-profit organisations](#) (incorporated community groups, management committees, volunteer groups, sporting clubs or schools/kinders), who have an **Australian Business Number (ABN)** or are an **incorporated body**
- projects and events located within Westernport Water's **service area**. View our [service area map on our website](#).

**Check if your group is eligible by downloading the Community Support Program Fact Sheet and Terms and Conditions (T&Cs) from our [website](#).**

### Why are you spending money on this?

This program provides a structured and creative way to assist our local community in the areas that they value most.

**We are committed to:**

- provide \$50,000 per annum in real terms in sponsorship for community-based causes. We have committed to distribute \$40,000 via our Community Support Program in 2026-27.
- undertake community engagement and education initiatives.

**Westernport Water has a regulatory obligation to contribute to Water for Victoria actions to:**

- support thriving, resilient and liveable cities and towns for our health and wellbeing
- support Aboriginal participation in water management and improve outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians
- maximise the value of agricultural production
- provide water for liveability and recreation and maximise recreational benefits for the community from our land and assets.

## What types of sponsorship can we apply for?

We have **FOUR** sponsorship packages to choose from.

Each package aims to promote drinking tap water; water conservation; sustainable environmental outcomes; or will build important community partnerships.

### Choose which package suits your needs:

#### 1. Water refill stations (fountains)

**Aim:** to financially support the purchase of permanent water refill stations (fountains) at local non-profit clubs and schools/kinders.

**Amount:** up to \$7,000

**Options include:**

- In ground fountain / bottle refill station
- Wall mounted fountain / bottle refill station.

\* If the purchase price of the fountain costs more than amount provided, the balance is payable by organisation.

\*Installation and ongoing costs **MUST** be covered by the organisation which manages the location. (This should be negotiated with the relevant local council or a committee of management prior to application.)

#### 2. Small water efficiency projects/programs

**Aim:** to financially support sustainable local projects or educational programs involving water efficiency.

**Amount:** up to \$5,000

**Project or education program examples include:**

- purchase or installation of water saving products including:
  - > water tanks
  - > water pumps
  - > water saving toilets or showers
  - > irrigation systems.
- water and wastewater literacy and education
- water conservation projects, e.g. building a school vegetable garden or sustainable indigenous garden bed for teaching purposes
- cultural heritage/Aboriginal water values.

#### 3. Sports hydration

**Aim:** to financially support local sports clubs to purchase one of the following Choose Tap branded hydration items:

**Option 1:**

**Game hydration kits**

Water bottle carriers with Choose Tap branded reusable water bottles.

A variety of options exist to meet the needs of different types of sporting clubs (e.g. soft foldable carriers, wire cage carriers, plastic carriers that can be broken down in to smaller pieces for storage, and various bottle types).

**Amount:** up to \$500

**Option 2:**

**Water cooler dispenser(s)**

A large 55L water cooler dispenser jugs for easy refills at your next game.

**Amount:** up to \$500.

#### 4. Event package

**Aim:** to financially support the running of local sustainable events, by reducing single use plastic and supporting a healthy community and lifestyle.

**The event package includes:**

- \$500 sponsorship
- hire of our Hydration Station or portable fountains
- 50 x reusable water bottles
- A sign printed and displayed on our roadside Billboard (1-2 weeks).

The event **MUST** include tap water promotion, and **MUST NOT** have single use plastic water bottles available for sale or as giveaways.

### How can I apply?

Please complete the [application form online](#).

If you are unable to access the form online, you can contact us on 1300 720 711 for assistance.

### When do applications open and close?

Thurs 14 May 2026	Applications open (both streams)
Thurs 18 June 2026	Regular applications close
2-3 weeks	Quick response notifications
Fri 24 July 2026	Outcomes advised to applicants
Wed 5 August 2026	Cheque presentation event

## How is funding provided?

There are two types of funding streams:

### 1. Quick Response applications:

**Quick Response** applications are available for events and that require a quick response as they take place in early July. We will try to respond 2-3 weeks from receipt of application.

**Let us know in your application if you require a quick response and payment.**

### 2. Regular applications

We will have **one round** of offers for **regular** applications for projects or events occurring in the 2026-27 financial year.

Unfortunately, due to the amount of sponsorship applications that Westernport Water receives each year, all applications **MUST** go through the Community Support Program.

We do not have the budget or resources available to support applications made via email or phone call outside this program throughout the year, and they will be rejected.

## What information will I need to provide in my application?

### 1. Contact details:

- Organisation name
- Organisation ABN
- Contact name
- Addresses
- Contact phone numbers
- Email addresses.

### 2. Information about the project or event:

- Why does it need to be done?
- What do you hope to achieve?
- Who will benefit?
- How will you know if the project / event has been successful?

### 3. How does your project or event align with our key themes:

- Healthy & Hydrated:
  - > People
  - > Communities
  - > Planet

### 4. How does your application associate with at least one of these topics:

- water and wastewater literacy and education
- water efficiency and conservation
- environmental wellbeing / sustainability
- health and liveability of our community
- cultural heritage/Aboriginal water values.

### 5. Budget:

- a list of all funding sources: confirmed funding, your own contribution, unconfirmed funding, and in-kind contributions
- a list of all proposed expenditure: how will the funds be spent for the project?

## Community Support Program Application questions

On our website you will find this handy document which lists all of the questions from the application form, allowing you to review them beforehand and prepare your answers before filling in the online form. We highly recommend you do this in case there are technical issues while filling in and submitting your application form.

## What's not supported?

Westernport Water will **NOT** support applications that:

- are for projects / events outside our service region
- fund proposals that do not align with the overall intent of the sponsorship objectives in our Donations and Sponsorship Policy
- have a co-sponsor supplying bottled water to the project/event
- have a co-sponsor whose values don't align with our values
- could attract adverse community criticism
- request open-ended sponsorship
- have outstanding evaluation or acquittal reports from previous applications
- aim to deliver or replace core government services
- seek cash donations for individuals or fundraising teams for charity
- seek retrospective funding or budget deficits
- fund political campaigns
- fund groups seeking support for personal interests
- fund events that discriminate adversely against any persons, organisations or group
- fund projects which conflict with Government Policy or objectives
- fund organisations supportive of or with visible links to tobacco, gaming, alcohol or drug-related issues
- do not comply with the Information *Privacy Act 2000*.

## How will applications be assessed?

After applications close, we will review all applications and make a preliminary assessment against the following:

- does it align with our commitment to support a more sustainable community?
- does it associate with the three key themes:

### Healthy & Hydrated:

- > People
- > Communities
- > Planet

- does it associate with at least one of these topics:
  - > water and wastewater literacy and education
  - > water efficiency and conservation
  - > environmental wellbeing / sustainability
  - > health and liveability of our community
  - > cultural heritage/Aboriginal water values
- does it meet the eligibility criteria and conditions in our T&Cs on our [website](#)?

All eligible applications will progress to the evaluation stage for consideration, and a recommendation will be made for approval by our Executive Team.

## How will I be notified?

Successful applicants will be announced in local newspapers (PISRA & SGST), published on our website, and contacted directly by email or phone.

We expect that all successful applicants will be notified by **Friday 24 July 2026** (or earlier if possible).

## When will successful applicants receive funding?

A **Funding Agreement Form** **MUST** be completed and returned **prior** to funding being released.

Applicants will receive a link to this form in the successful notification email. This agreement outlines the T&Cs for a successful applicant to receive their payment.

All recipients **MUST** also provide a **tax invoice** to obtain sponsorship funds.

## When does funding need to be spent?

Funding **MUST** be spent in the 2026-27 financial year before 1 May 2027.

(See *Terms and Conditions (T&Cs) for funding conditions*).

## Do we need to report back on our project?

Yes. Successful applicants **MUST** complete an **Acquittal Form** within three months of the project or activity's completion, or by 4 May 2027.

Applicants will receive a link to this form in the successful notification letter, and it is also on our website.

## Do we have to acknowledge Westernport Water sponsorship?

**Sponsorship recipients will be required to publicly acknowledge Westernport Water's sponsorship/support.**

The acknowledgement **MUST** comply with Westernport Water's Brand and Style Guide (using the correct logo etc.) and clearly indicate the support for the sponsored activity.

(See *Terms and Conditions (T&Cs) for a full list of requirements*)

## Can successful applicants from previous years apply again in 2026-27?

Yes, eligible groups may apply each year. Each application will be assessed separately each year.

Success one year does not guarantee success another year, nor does it count your application out.

## Can a group or organisation submit more than one application each year?

Yes, a group/organisation can submit more than one application each year, however, **only one** application will be approved.

Each application will be assessed separately and if more than one is deemed eligible, we will select the project or event which we decide is the best fit for that year.

Submitting more than one application will allow us to find the best combination of local projects and events we wish to support.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to speak with someone about your application, please contact the Communications and Engagement Team:

☎ 1300 720 711

✉ [communications@westernportwater.com.au](mailto:communications@westernportwater.com.au)

@ [www.westernportwater.com.au](http://www.westernportwater.com.au)



For further information about the 2026-27 Community Support Program including T&Cs and FAQs, or to apply visit our [website](#).