
Thursday, 10 September 2009

\$5M GRANTS TO BOOST YARRA GLEN SPORT AND RECREATION

Member for Seymour Ben Hardman today announced the Yarra Glen area would receive \$2 million in grants to improve sporting, recreational and community facilities from Melbourne Water's Regional Benefits Grants Program.

Representing the Victorian Minister for Water at an event at Yarra Glen Football and Netball Club, Mr Hardman said there had been a strong community response to the program designed to provide long term benefits to local communities impacted by the construction of the Sugarloaf Pipeline project.

Mr Hardman said 10 projects in the Yarra Glen area were awarded grants.

One of the key projects is a \$350,000 upgrade of the pavilion and facilities at the Yarra Glen Football and Netball Club. This includes improved courts, additional spectator shelter, new meeting rooms, new canteen and kitchen and additional public toilets.

"The club hoped the upgrade would encourage growth, attract more volunteers and promote junior and more female participation," Mr Hardman said.

Other successful projects include \$232,000 for walking tracks through Yarra Glen, \$245,000 for an outdoor equestrian centre, \$250,000 to upgrade the sporting pavilion and playground at Dixons Creek and about \$450,000 to upgrade the Yarra Glen Hall.

Mr Hardman said the grants would provide more opportunities for young people living in the area.

He said an independent panel with strong regional representation had selected the projects based on criteria that stressed significant ongoing value to regional communities impacted by the pipeline.

The Committee is made up of individuals from the local community and representatives of key organisations – Regional Development Victoria, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, the shires of Murrindindi and Yarra Ranges and Melbourne Water.

"While the grants attracted a terrific response with more than \$20 million in applications, unfortunately we could not fund every project," he said.

"There are also projects that are subject to meeting specific conditions before they can proceed.

"The successful projects will, however, benefit communities throughout the region for many years to come," Mr Hardman said.

The \$5 million Regional Benefits Grants are in addition to other initiatives undertaken by the Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance that have included donating over \$30,000 to local community groups along the length of the pipeline, sponsoring community events and organising working bees. The Alliance also provided equipment, machinery and a manpower during the bushfire recovery efforts, and continues to assist community groups.

REGIONAL BENEFITS GRANTS

Regional community groups who received \$250,000+

1.	Dixons Creek Community	\$250,000	Upgrade to Dixons Creek reserve sporting pavilion and playground
2.	Glenburn Hall and Progress Association Inc.	\$250,000	Upgrade to hall facilities
3.	Shire of Yarra Ranges – Yarra Glen Hall	\$452,381	Upgrade to hall and facilities
4.	Yarra Glen Football & Netball Club and Yarra Glen Junior Football Club	\$350,000	Upgrade to pavilion and facilities
5.	Yea Football/Netball Club	\$250,000	Renovations and upgrade to netball club facilities. Installation of gymnasium equipment
6.	Yea, Let's Skate!	\$300,000	Construction of a skate park facility in Yea township to support local youth
7.	Yea Tennis Club Inc.	\$300,000	Renovation and upgrade of tennis club facilities
8.	Yea Wetlands Trust	\$500,000	Construction of an environmental education and tourism facility

Regional community groups who received between \$100,000 and \$250,000

9.	Friends of Yea Railway	\$104,000	Upgrade to public areas, including a BBQ and
10.	Shire of Yarra Ranges	\$100,000	Skate park and playground upgrades
11.	Steels Creek Community	\$200,000	Upgrade to Steels Creek Community Centre
12.	Toolangi District Community	\$150,000	Construction of CJ Dennis Centennial Walking
13.	Yarra Glen & District Township	\$232,000	Construction of walking tracks through Yarra Glen
14.	Yarra Ranges Regional	\$124,000	Melba Festival advertising and implementation
15.	Yarra Valley Dressage Club Inc.	\$245,000	Construction of an outdoor equestrian centre
16.	Yea High School Council	\$127,050	Installation of rainwater harvesting equipment
17.	Yea River Catchment Landcare Group	\$112,000	Restoration works to reserves along the Yea River
18.	Yea Shire Hall Committee of	\$224,000	Upgrade works to hall

Regional community groups who received between \$25,000 and \$100,000

19. Friends of Yea Cemetery	\$89,000	Installation of a gazebo and watering system within the
20. Homewood Community	\$40,000	Upgrade to hall facilities
21. Yarra Glen Girl Guides	\$38,788	Upgrade of hall and facilities
22. Yea Community Services	\$80,000	Upgrade to the 'Mens Shed'
23. Yea Racecourse Recreation Reserve Committee of	\$38,155	Upgrade to watering systems
24. Yea Bowls Inc.	\$36,000	Upgrade to shelter facilities and installation of water
25. 3717 Watch Inc.	\$75,000	Construction of a community playground and BBQ

Regional community groups who received less than \$25,000

26. Australian Platypus	\$2420	Platypus count monitoring project in Yea and
27. Permaculture Kinglake Ranges	\$9000	Community gardening and permaculture trailer
28. Yarra Glen & District	\$4500	Purchase of equipment to copy, record, store and
29. Yea Business and Tourism	\$15,000	Marketing costs associated with Autumn Fest Festival
30. Yea & District Community	\$10,000	Feasibility study for community bank
31. Yea Pre-School Inc.	\$5000	Parenting library and parenting course for locals

The Regional Benefits Advisory Committee decided to hold a contingency of \$286,706 to shore-up the successful projects if required.