



REGIONAL BENEFITS GRANTS

How many projects have been funded?

Thirty-one projects will receive funding, benefitting communities along the length of the pipeline.

How many projects did not receive funding and what was the prime reason?

The Regional Benefits Grants Program proved enormously successful and attracted 88 applications from 69 community groups. Thirty-one projects, which all met the selection criteria, were selected by the Advisory Committee and they will provide long-term benefits to local communities impacted by construction of the Sugarloaf Pipeline.

What projects are in the...

Yea area: 16 projects in the Yea area received funding, including sporting clubs, education and environmental centres, tourist facilities, councils and local community groups.

Yarra Glen area: 10 projects in the Yarra Glen area received funding, including sporting clubs, education centres, tourist facilities, councils and local community groups.

Other: 5 projects in other areas received funding, including Glenburn, Kinglake, Steels Creek and Toolangi.

What range of funding was provided?

The largest funding in the Yea area went to build a skate park, Yea wetlands education and tourism centre, the football and netball club, town hall and tennis club. In the Yarra Glen area, funding went to the football and netball club, town hall, dressage club and a community group construction walking trails.

Significant funding was also provided for a community centre, walking trails and playground in areas such as Glenburn, Toolangi and Steels Creek.

What will happen to the money allocated to a project that does not meet required conditions?

All of the \$5 million will be allocated to projects. If any project does not proceed, the money will be reallocated by the Regional Benefits Advisory Committee.

Some projects have only been partially funded. Why?

We received applications totalling four times the available \$5 million. There were lots of fantastic projects but, unfortunately, they couldn't all be fully funded. The Advisory Committee decided to partially fund some projects so more could be supported and more people in the community could benefit.

Will partially funded projects be viable?

When deciding to partially fund projects, the Advisory Committee took care to ensure that the project remained viable. The portions of the projects selected for funding should stand alone.

Who is on the Advisory Committee?

The Advisory 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.

What types of conditions have been placed on successful applicants?

Where projects rely on additional funding from other sources to be viable (and without this funding the project is not viable), it is a condition that this extra funding must be secured. Other projects need to develop approved project plans. In some cases they need to secure an organisation to oversee the project.

Has all of the \$5 million been allocated?

Most of the funding has been allocated, but the Advisory Committee decided to keep almost \$287,000 (\$286,706) as a contingency to shore up the successful projects if required. All of the money will eventually be fully allocated.

Will Melbourne Water consider providing additional funding beyond the \$5 million to worthy projects that missed out?

The \$5 million Regional Benefits Grants Program will provide long-term benefits to local communities. Projects that do not succeed may still be very worthy and we encourage people to continue to pursue their projects and seek other funding opportunities.