

# Living Heritage Program

2021 Guidelines



Environment,  
Land, Water  
and Planning

OFFICIAL

## Cover image

Yurunga Homestead, Rainbow. Hindmarsh Shire Council were awarded a grant of \$65,000 in Round 4 (2019-20) of the Living Heritage Program to undertake urgent repair and restoration works to the veranda of the historic homestead.

## Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



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# What is the Living Heritage Program?

The Living Heritage Program offers grants to owners and managers of state-listed heritage places and objects, for eligible works. Victoria's heritage is rich and diverse, as clearly demonstrated by the approximate 2,500 state significant heritage places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register. These unique heritage assets contribute to the liveability of Victoria and provide a wide range of economic, social and other benefits.

The program is an initiative of the Victoria State Government and will support the repair and conservation of 'at risk' heritage places and objects identified as being of State significance and included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) under the provisions of the *Heritage Act 2017*. Priority consideration may be given to the conservation of Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) listed places and objects located in Victorian communities impacted by bushfires. Applications will be open to local councils, community and not-for-profit organisations, and Committees of Management under the *Crown Land Reserves Act 1978*. Matched funding will also be available for places of worship, and in some instances, heritage places and objects in private ownership if public accessibility criteria can be met and a significant community benefit can be demonstrated.

## Quick eligibility check for the Living Heritage Grants Program:

- Is the place or object in the [Victorian Heritage Register](#)?
- Is the place or object publicly accessible?
- Is the applicant organisation or owner/manager eligible to receive funds?
- Are the proposed works eligible conservation works?

You must get in touch with the Living Heritage Grants team before applying to discuss your project proposal by **5pm 12 March 2021**. This is a mandatory requirement.

**To contact the Living Heritage Grants team please email [living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au) with your contact details and the place or object subject to your application and a member of the team will call you back.**

## What are the timelines?

<b>Applications open</b>	1 February 2021
<b>Mandatory requirement to be eligible: Last date to contact the Living Heritage Grants team</b>	12 March 2021
<b>Applications close</b>	26 March 2021
<b>Assessment and decision making</b>	April to June 2021
<b>Successful grants announced</b>	From July 2021
<b>Successful applicants enter into Grant Agreement</b>	From August 2021
<b>Necessary permits and approvals obtained, and projects commence</b>	From August 2021

Please note that the timeframes for grant announcements are indicative only and subject to change. This is depending on the number and complexity of applications received.

## Who can apply?

The heritage place or object that is the subject of the application must be in the Victorian Heritage Register. All potential applicants **must** discuss their project with the Living Heritage Grants team by **5pm 12 March 2021** before applying. The Living Heritage Grants team can be contacted at [living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au). Please include your contact details and the place or object subject to your application, and a member of the team will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you do not have access to email, please contact **Heritage Victoria** on **03 7022 6390** and ask to speak to a member of the Living Heritage Grants team.

### The following parties can apply for a grant:

- A Victorian municipal council.
- A community or not-for-profit organisation that is a legal entity (for example an incorporated association, incorporated cooperative or Indigenous corporation) – please note that an incorporated not-for-profit organisation must provide proof of not-for-profit status.
- A Committee of Management under the *Crown Lands Reserves Act 1978*. Groups must meet the conditions of clause 14(4)a (any three or more persons) or 14(4)e (any board, committee, commission, trust or other body corporate or unincorporated established by or under any Act for any public purpose).
- Trusts appointed pursuant to a restricted Crown grant (during the 19th century, under a series of Land Acts, Crown land was often permanently reserved for specified purposes – mechanics' institutes, sports grounds etc. – and granted to trustees on trust for the purposes of the reservation) and Cemetery trusts appointed under the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003*.
- An owner of a privately-owned place or object (including places of worship)– please note that applicants must: match the grant funding on a dollar for dollar basis; must meet public accessibility criteria and; must demonstrate significant community and public benefit from the investment.

### The following parties are ineligible for a grant:

- Any party that has failed to complete, or has not yet completed, any projects funded under previous State or Commonwealth heritage grants programs. If the property has an active project under a previous round of the Living Heritage Grants Program (or another funding program for heritage-related works), then this must be completed before applying.
- Other State government agencies.

### Other requirements:

- Applicants must be either an Incorporated body or Association, Cooperative or be auspiced by a group with this status. If an auspice arrangement is in place, the auspice organisation agrees to take the full legal and financial responsibility for the project. Grant funds are paid directly to the auspice organisation. For further information refer to: <http://www.nfplaw.org.au/auspicing>.
- Applicants who do not have adequate insurance must partner with another group or be auspiced by a group who does.
- Applicants must possess an Australian Business Number (ABN) or provide a completed Australian Tax Office form (Statement by a supplier) so that no withholding tax is required from the grant payment.
- If the applicant is not the owner of the place, the project and application must have the owner's written consent at the time of submission.

## What types of projects are eligible?

Projects will include conservation works to the exterior and/or interiors of Victorian Heritage Register listed places and objects to improve their overall condition and mitigate the risk to the place.

### The place or object subject to works:

- Must be included in the [Victorian Heritage Register](#).
- Must be publicly accessible and provide a significant community benefit.

### The proposed project:

- Must mitigate the identified risk(s) to the place or object.
- Must be guided by advice sought from a heritage professional, such as a heritage architect or advisor.
- Must not have started.
- Must be able to complete within two financial years.
- It is generally expected that projects will replace materials in a like-for-like manner, rather than introduce modern materials, as is considered best practice.

### Examples of projects include, but are not limited to:

- Repairs to roofs, installation of new guttering and downpipes, or stonework repairs, using traditional materials and methods.
- Re-stumping and repairs to timber framing, weatherboards, windows and doors.
- Works that will enable the re-use of a building that has been unoccupied due to poor condition.
- Repairs, restoration or reconstruction and conservation of an object at risk of deterioration.
- Protection works such as the installation of appropriate fire protection systems.
- Conservation works or documentation of conservation works to Victorian Heritage Register listed places or objects impacted by bushfires.
- Documentation projects will be considered if the project outcomes demonstrate a commitment to undertake urgent 'at risk' works to the place. Documentation projects may include for example, conservation management plans that include a prioritised and costed works action plan.

## What types of projects are ineligible?

Certain projects will be ineligible for grant funding through the Living Heritage Grants Program. These include, but are not limited to:

### Ineligible places or objects subject to works:

- Heritage places and objects that are not in the Victorian Heritage Register.
- Places and objects that have no general public access or where access to the general public is limited.
- Privately owned heritage places and objects, and places operating on a commercial or for-profit basis, unless public accessibility criteria can be met, and a significant public benefit can be demonstrated.

## Ineligible projects:

- Regular maintenance activities that should normally be carried out to keep the place or object in good repair. This could include, for example, cleaning or repairing of blocked or broken stormwater and sewer lines, blocked gutters and downpipes, broken water services or leaking taps and toilet cisterns, damaged or defective light fittings and general painting works.
- Refurbishment projects involving, for example, the purchase of new carpet, and the installation of kitchens and bathrooms and construction of new buildings (such as a new toilet block, storage facility, fence or museum) or new additions to heritage places.
- Repair of damage caused by vandalism, fire or other natural disasters where the repair of damage is covered by insurance.
- Purchase of heritage places, associated land, equipment, furniture, storage or display cabinets.
- Relocation of heritage buildings or objects.
- Demolition or other works that may affect the heritage significance of the heritage place or object.
- Interpretation projects.
- Works that are the subject of State or Local Government 'Emergency Works Orders'.
- Employment or remuneration of staff.
- Projects that have already started.
- Incomplete applications.
- Any other projects deemed ineligible after assessment of application.

## What are the funding details?

An amount of between \$20,000 and \$200,000<sup>1</sup> per project is available.

Complex or multi-phased projects may be eligible to apply to more than one grant round. This may be done if, for example, a project to restore a place involved complete restoration of a roof and associated works that would exhaust the full \$200,000 allocation for that year. In order to apply for a grant in a subsequent grant round, any previous funding provided would need to have been completed and fully acquitted. Successful grant applications for stage one of a project will **NOT** guarantee the awarding of a grant for any subsequent rounds. It is therefore essential that each project stage is able to be completed within the allotted timeframe, and without reliance on receiving future funding. The table below shows the funding available and the funding ratios that apply:

Applicant type	Minimum grant	Maximum grant	Required funding ratio
Victorian municipal councils Community or not-for-profit organisation that is a legal entity A Committee of Management appointed under the <i>Crown Land Reserves Act 1978</i> Trusts appointed pursuant to a restricted Crown grant Cemetery Trusts appointed under the <i>Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003</i>	\$20,000	\$200,000 <sup>1</sup>	DELWP \$1: \$0 Other
Private owners Places of worship	\$20,000	\$200,000 <sup>1</sup>	DELWP \$1: \$1 Other

1. Grants above \$200,000 may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Matched funding cannot be offered 'in kind' and must relate to the nominated project. For example, if a privately-owned place requires conservation works to the value of \$100,000, the applicant may request \$50,000 from the grant.

## Project manager requirements

An appropriately qualified project manager, with experience in heritage conservation, is recommended for all projects, but mandatory for projects valued at \$50,000 or more. A percentage of the grant funds may be used to fund this. If applicable, the project manager should be nominated in the application and costs included.

A site project manager is required to:

- Project manage and oversee the works on site.

A grants project manager is required to:

- Administer the grant funding, ensuring that funding timelines are met, undertaking reporting to Heritage Victoria as required and delivering the project within its allocated budget.

A suitably qualified heritage professional is mandatory for all projects and is required to:

- Provide advice on the application
- Provide advice during the implementation of the grant
- Provide advice on the Cyclical Maintenance Schedule

Please note, these three roles may or may not be filled by the same individual, please specify in your application.

## What is the application process?

To apply submit your application through the online portal (available when the applicable round opens on **1 February 2021**) on the department's website at: <https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/grants/living-heritage-program>.

All potential applicants must discuss their project with the Living Heritage Grants team by **5pm 12 March 2021** before applying. This is a mandatory requirement to be eligible for the program. The Living Heritage Grants team can be contacted at [living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au). Please provide your contact details and the place or object subject to your application, and a member of the team will get back to you as soon as possible.

Applications **must be submitted through the online portal** by **5pm 26 March 2021**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. When you apply online you will receive an acknowledgement email with an Application Number. Please quote your Application Number in all future correspondence relating to your application.

The application must include at least two written quotes (GST inclusive) for each eligible component of works, totalling the estimated cost of the project. Quotes must be dated and have been obtained within the last six (6) months. Please ensure quotations are broken-down, detailed and are based on the same scope of works to allow for comparison. It is recommended that a written brief is supplied to contractors to ensure quotes are comparable. Heritage Victoria acknowledges that obtaining two quotes may be difficult in rural areas, and under some circumstances one quote may be acceptable.

You can attach documents to your online application as long as they are in an acceptable file type (e.g. Word, Excel, PDF, or JPEG). Please note:

- Attached files must not be larger than 5MB in size
- When you submit your application online check carefully to ensure all your attachments have been uploaded



If you have documents to submit that cannot be attached to your online application you can email them to [living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au), quoting your application number. Attach all documents to one email, zipping the files if required.

All required sections of your application form must be completed before submitting. If you are having difficulty downloading information or technical difficulties with the online application, please contact **Heritage Victoria** on **03 7022 6390** and ask to speak to a member of the Living Heritage Grant team.

Things to consider in your application

A strong application would likely include the following:

- A sound budget that clearly breaks down the costs of each project element and includes a 15% contingency and an allowance to prepare a Cyclical Maintenance Plan.
- Two recent quotes (one may suffice if the applicant is regionally located), prepared by appropriately qualified contractors, for each project component.
- Realistic project timelines.
- Evidence of wider public access to the place or object.
- Photographs that clearly demonstrate that the place is “at risk” and requires urgent works.
- Good scoping documentation prepared by a heritage professional, such as a conservation works plan, a conservation management plan, or a condition report to guide the required works.
- The nomination of an appropriately qualified project manager.
- An appropriate conservation methodology supported by heritage advice or ideally a valid Heritage Victoria permit or permit exemption.
- Supporting material demonstrating that the works will result in significant community benefit.

## How will applications be assessed?

Heritage grants will be awarded through a competitive process. Once the application round has closed, all applications will be assessed against eligibility and assessment criteria. It is important to complete the application form and include all mandatory attachments, as only complete applications will be assessed. You may be contacted during the assessment process to clarify elements of your application.

Projects will be assessed based on competitive ranking against the assessment criteria and presented to an independent assessment panel. Projects will be considered for funding until all funds have been distributed. As it is a highly competitive process, applicants should be aware that not all projects that are eligible for funding will be successful.

In awarding grants, priority will be given to projects relating to places identified as being ‘at risk’ and where there is demonstrable heritage conservation, community, social, economic and environmental benefits. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate how their proposed project will achieve these priorities. Priority consideration may be given to the conservation of Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) listed places and objects located in Victorian communities impacted by bushfires.

Assessment of applications will also consider benefits to rural and regional communities as well as metropolitan fringe or high growth areas, to ensure a fair spread of support to heritage places and objects across the state. Where there is high demand for funding, grants may be offered for high priority works only (i.e. works that specifically address the risk to the place or object).

## The assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility of the proposed project, and how the project addresses the following criteria:

<b>Why?</b>	The project is needed in order to address the risk to the place or object, including the urgency of the works	20%
<b>How?</b>	The proposed project will be undertaken, including the use of an appropriate heritage conservation methodology.	20%
<b>Who?</b>	Will be conducting and overseeing the works (i.e. a suitably qualified project manager, heritage architect or other heritage professional)	10%
<b>What?</b>	The intended outcome(s) of the project will be, including any heritage conservation, community and social, economic and environmental benefits	50%

Weightings in percentage are provided as a guide to the relative importance of different criteria in the assessment process.

Applications are required to outline how the project will provide **at least one benefit** in each of the following four categories. Please note that the more benefits that are demonstrated within the application, the more competitive the application will be.

### Heritage conservation benefits

Addresses the need for urgent and necessary works such as roof repairs or structural works

Has an appropriate conservation approach

Will use traditional heritage trades and skills

### Community and social benefits

Involves a collaboration or partnership between a number of stakeholders, such as a community group and a local council, or a church hall and a local welfare organisation

Provides new or improved community facilities

Offers opportunities for community events and increased social interaction

Provides increased education and training opportunities

Delivers increased community understanding of, and participation in, heritage conservation and celebration of heritage places and objects

Enhances public health and safety

### Economic benefits

Improved tourism opportunities

Increased private spending and business opportunities

Provides employment opportunities

Promotes reduced maintenance costs

### Environmental benefits

Demonstrates re-use or improved use of a heritage asset

Provides a positive contribution to the visual environment

Promotes sustainable use of heritage assets (reduced consumption of building materials, or new uses for a building of high replacement value)

## Funding offers

### Announcements & notifications

After the successful applications have been approved, all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by letter. Unsuccessful applicants will be given a general indication of why their application did not receive funding. All decisions are final and are not subject to further review. Applicants who did not receive funding are welcome to ask for feedback on their application.

### Funding Agreement

Successful grant applicants will be offered a grant subject to the acceptance of a Victorian Common Funding Agreement. Successful grant recipients must enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Funding agreements establish the parties and outline their commitments and obligations to each other, as well as setting out the general funding terms and conditions. It is recommended that applicants review the Funding Agreement standard terms and conditions before applying. No funding will be released, and the project cannot commence until DELWP and the applicant have executed the Funding Agreement. A sample grant agreement is available at: [www.heritage.vic.gov.au/grants/living-heritage-program](http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/grants/living-heritage-program)

## Case studies: Successful projects

For a complete list of projects previously funded through the Living Heritage Grants Program, please visit: <https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/grants/living-heritage-program>. Examples of funded projects include:



**Former Walhalla Post Office and Residence**  
Walhalla  
Walhalla Board of Management

A grant of \$43,000 was awarded to the Walhalla Board of Management in 2019-20 to install a fire protection system for the former Walhalla Post Office and Residence. The external sprinkler system will be sensitively placed to not impact on the heritage values of the site. The timber building is located in a mountainous and bushfire prone area and the system will provide necessary ongoing protection for this 'at risk' place. Built in 1885 by the then Public Works Department, the building now operates as a museum managed by the Committee of Management and is a major attraction in the town.



**Ebenezer Mission, Dimboola**  
Barengi Gadjin Land Council

A grant of \$200,000 was awarded to the Barengi Gadjin Land Council in 2018-19 to fund urgent conservation works to all registered buildings at Ebenezer Mission, including structural repair and roof works. Established in 1858-59, Ebenezer Mission has historical and pre-historical associations with Aboriginal communities and a long history of shared values. The land on which Ebenezer is located is of great significance to the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadwadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk peoples and the former mission is the oldest of its type in Victoria.



**Wollaston Bridge,**  
Warrnambool  
City Council

A grant of \$195,000 was awarded to Warrnambool City Council in 2018-19 to undertake urgent conservation works to the failing timber elements of the Wollaston Bridge. The suspension bridge was erected across the Merri River in 1890 as an entrance to the Wollaston Estate. Today, the bridge is one of the oldest surviving cable suspension bridges in Victoria and a local landmark. The bridge provides a key link for pedestrians over the Merri River and is frequently used for birdwatching, cycling, and other recreational activities.



**Omeo Justice Precinct,**  
East  
Gippsland  
Shire Council

A grant of \$200,000 was awarded in 2018-19 to fund urgent structural repairs to the Old Court House dating from 1859 and conservation works to the New Court House dating from 1893 at the Omeo Justice Precinct. The precinct is one of the most intact examples of a nineteenth century police and court complex known to survive in Victoria. The precinct is open to the public 7 days a week, from 10am-2pm. The Old Court House houses a museum, and the New Court House is used as a regular Magistrate's court. Due to the poor state of both buildings, use for community events are currently limited. The grant will enable increased public use of these important heritage assets.

# Who can I contact about my application?

All potential applicants **must** discuss their project with the **Living Heritage Grants team** by **5pm 12 March 2021** before applying. This is a mandatory requirement to be eligible for the program. The Living Heritage Grants team can be contacted at [living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au). Please provide your contact details and the place or object subject to your application and a member of the team will get back to you as soon as possible. If you do not have access to email, please contact **Heritage Victoria** on **03 7022 6390** and ask to speak to a member of the Living Heritage Grants team.

Visit the Living Heritage Program website at: <https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/grants/living-heritage-program> for assistance including summaries of all previously funded projects, *frequently asked questions* and sample funding agreements.

## Application checklist:

- you have contacted the **Living Heritage Grants team** (at [living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au)) by **5pm 12 March 2021** to discuss your project proposal
- you have answered and completed all questions in the application form
- you have searched [VicPlan](#) to confirm if the site is in the Victorian Heritage Inventory and/or is a potential place of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, and (if applicable) supplied the Victorian Heritage Inventory number and considered if the project will impact upon the Aboriginal or Historic archaeology of the site.
- you have uploaded the following:
  - scanned copy of the current Certificate of Title
  - signed letter of consent for the application and proposed project from the owner of the place or object (if not the applicant)
  - if applicable, proof of not-for-profit or Committee of Management status
  - supporting information, including images, detailing the risk to the place
  - supporting information detailing public access to the place, as required
  - supporting information detailing the scope of the proposed works as it relates to mitigating the identified risk, as required
  - two comparable written quotes for the proposed work supporting information detailed in your project budget.

# Appendix 1 - Conditions

## Application conditions

By applying, the applicant acknowledges that:

- the *Living Heritage Grants Program 2021 Guidelines* and the terms have been read and understood
- all information provided within your application is correct (providing any false or misleading information may result in the rejection of the grant application)
- DELWP may follow up and confirm any information contained in your application and may request additional information. Failure to provide the information may mean that the application is unable to be assessed and result in the rejection of the application
- if successful, details of the grant will be made public on Heritage Victoria's website (including the address of the place, Victorian Heritage Register number, description of works funded and the total funding amount)
- the applicant and owner of the property agrees to allow Heritage Victoria to use or publish any photographs supplied for the purposes of promotion on the DELWP website, intranet and social media accounts, and in any printed material or media
- it is recognised that the DELWP is collecting your personal information (such as your name and contact details) and supporting material in order to assess your eligibility for grant funding and contact you about your application. Your information will be held and managed in accordance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Public Records Act 1973*
- any personal information about you or a third party in your application will be collected by the department for the purpose of grant administration. This information may be provided to other Victorian government bodies for the purposes of assessing your application. If you intend to include personal information about third parties in your application, please ensure that they are aware of the contents of this privacy statement
- Any personal information about your or a third party in your correspondence will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and other applicable laws
- The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. You can find the DELWP Privacy Policy online at <http://delwp.vic.gov.au/privacy> and requests for access to information about you held by DELWP should be sent to the Manager Privacy, P.O. Box 500 East Melbourne 3002 or by phone on 03 9637 8697. information and uploaded images and documentation in this application is stored on GEMS (grant management system) and HERMES (Heritage Victoria's heritage database) in sections accessible to DELWP employees

## Funding Conditions

The following conditions will apply to successful applicants:

- works cannot proceed without a permit or permit exemption issued by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria under the *Heritage Act 2017* (refer to: <https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/permits/apply-for-a-permit>).
- works cannot commence until the Funding Agreement has been executed by DELWP and the applicant
- It should be noted that a successful application does not equate to the granting of a permit or permit exemption under the *Heritage Act 2017*
- the project must commence within six (6) months of entering into the Funding Agreement with DELWP. Projects that have not commenced within this timeframe must contact the grants team to explain the delays and negotiate an appropriate commencement date. Grant recipients that fail to provide this advice may risk voiding the Funding Agreement and having to return any funds that have been provided

- funds must be spent on the project as described in the application and any unspent funds must be returned to DELWP, as per the Funding Agreement
- issues concerning the return of unspent funding will be resolved between DELWP and the organisation after the Funding Agreement expires or the completion of the project, whichever occurs first
- any variation to the approved project must be submitted to the DELWP for approval prior to implementation
- successful applicants are expected to acknowledge the Victorian Government's support, and promotional guidelines will form part of the funding agreement as outlined in the *DELWP Acknowledgement and Publicity Guidelines*. Successful applicants must liaise with the departmental program area to coordinate any public events or announcements related to the project. Successful applicants may be required to contribute information on activity outcomes for use in program evaluation reviews or the department's marketing materials
- successfully funded projects will be required to submit reports detailing the progress and outcomes of the Living Heritage funding as per the Funding Agreement
- successfully funded projects will be offered funding as a GST exclusive amount. However, for organisations with an ABN and who are GST registered, payment will be made GST inclusive
- successfully funded places under private ownership will be required to repay the full amount of the grant to the DELWP if the property is sold within twelve (12) months of completion project and grant acquittal.

