

Coastcare Victoria Summer by the Sea Grants - 2027 FAQs

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Contents

Frequently Asked Questions	3
Key Information	3
Submitting Applications	3
Land Manager Approval	4
Delivering activities in partnership with a community group/organisation	5
Budgets and GST	6
H5N1 avian influenza (H5 bird flu) considerations	6

This document (Frequently Asked Questions) may be updated at any time to reflect useful information for potential applicants. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they have read and understood the Guidelines and this document prior to submitting their Summer by the Sea application.

Frequently Asked Questions

Key Information

1. How much funding is available?

Total funding for the 2027 Summer by the Sea Grants is \$80,000, with up to \$7,000 per application (ex. GST).

2. Can we submit more than one application?

Applicants may only submit one application outlining all activities.

3. How long do successful applicants have to deliver activities?

Activities must be delivered during 1-31 January 2027.

4. Can we apply for a grant if we have received Coastcare Victoria funding in the past?

Yes, provided that your proposed activities are not currently funded under the Coastcare Victoria Community Grants. Coastcare Victoria will not fund activities (or components of projects) that have already been funded on the same site by other sources.

Submitting Applications

5. How do we apply?

Applications are submitted online using the DEECA Grants Online portal.

Use the link below to start your application. Click on the 'Start New Application' button once redirected:

<https://deeca.my.site.com/grants/s/form?id=a0hRF00000A6rv8YAB>

To access existing drafts or submitted applications, go to: <https://deeca.my.site.com/grants/s/> and click on the 'Access Saved Application' button.

You will need to register for an account prior to commencing your application. You will receive an application number after you apply online. Please quote this number in all communications with DEECA relating to your application.

6. We are having trouble with the online application - where do we go for help?

If you require technical assistance submitting your application online, contact grantsinfo@deeca.vic.gov.au or contact coastcare.victoria@deeca.vic.gov.au.

7. What if we miss the deadline for submitting our application – can we get an extension?

No extensions for applications are allowed. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Make sure your application is submitted by **3:00pm on 28 September 2026**.

8. What supporting documentation should we submit?

Check the [Guidelines](#) (Section 8 - What supporting documents will need to be provided?)

All applicants must provide the following relevant documents to be eligible. Failure to provide one of the following relevant documents with the application will result in the application being marked ineligible.

Compulsory:

- ☐ Public Liability Insurance Certificate of Currency of at least \$20 million, covering the specific activity categories(s) outlined in the grant application
- ☐ Job Safety Plan with Land Manager Approval (dated signature or written email approval, or evidence of correspondence to date, if approval is pending)
- ☐ First Aid Certificate (Level 2 with CPR) for activity leader/s
- ☐ Working With Children Certificates for activity leader/s (evidence for volunteers not required).

If applicable:

- ☐ Declaration of Conflict of Interest (if the applicant will use contractors and there is a perceived or actual relationship between the applicant and contractor)
- ☐ Letter of support from a local community organisation outlining their agreement to be involved in designated activities.

9. How many attachments can we submit?

Applicants can submit up to 10 attachments via the online GEMS Grants system, with the system file size limit of 10MB each.

Land Manager Approval

10. Do we need approval from land manager/s?

Yes. Applicants will be required to complete a Job Safety Plan (JSP) and submit this with evidence of land manager approval. This evidence may be in the form of a land manager signature on the plan, or it may be via written correspondence.

A template for the Job Safety Plan can be found here: <https://www.marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/coastal-programs/coastcare-victoria/summer-by-the-sea/>

11. Do we need to submit a Job Safety Plan?

Yes. In 2027, completion of a Job Safety Plan is how we assess your application against the Risk Management assessment criteria (20% weighting). Failure to provide a Job Safety Plan will result in your application being deemed ineligible.

A template for the Job Safety Plan can be found here: <https://www.marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/coastal-programs/coastcare-victoria/summer-by-the-sea/>

12. The application period is about to close and I have not received a response from the land manager/s for my Job Safety Plan.

(i) Will my application be deemed ineligible?

No. Failure to provide evidence of land manager approval at the time of application submission will not result in an ineligible application, as it is acknowledged that response timelines from land managers can vary. However, if the application is successful, the applicant must obtain land manager approval before entering into a funding agreement.

Failure to provide a completed Job Safety Plan will result in an ineligible application, as this is how the Risk Management criteria is fulfilled for your application.

(ii) Do I still submit my application prior to the closing deadline?

Yes. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Extensions will not be provided.

13. What is the definition of marine and coastal Crown Land?

Activities must be undertaken on, or relate to, Victorian marine and coastal Crown land. This is defined in the Marine and Coastal Act as 'the outer limit of Victorian coastal waters and 200 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea', or 'reserved under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* for the purposes of the protection of the coastline'.

Delivering activities in partnership with a community group/organisation

14. Why have Summer by the Sea grants introduced community focus groups this year?

There are multiple reasons for the introduction of community focus groups this year.

- **building community confidence** – attending in pre-arranged groups may help to foster confidence among community members, particularly those who may not have previously engaged in Summer by the Sea or similar programs before. Through guided activities and shared learning, participants can feel more comfortable and prepared to engage with coastal issues, expand their learning and connect and care for coastal locations and ecosystems.
- **improving attendance and engagement** – by fostering a sense of commitment and involvement early on, community focus groups can help ensure higher participant commitment, leading to better attendance rates and reduced instances of no-shows.
- **reducing barriers to access** – many communities face structural or social barriers that limit their access to coastal environments and related opportunities. This approach is designed to directly support such community groups by providing a welcoming space where they can learn more about Victoria's coastal ecosystems and feel empowered to participate in future initiatives.

15. What is the difference between running an activity in partnership with a community group/organisation and running an activity open to the general public?

Activities which are delivered in partnership with a community group/organisation will have a target audience (attendance from community group/organisation). These activities will be part of the Summer by the Sea program, and will be listed on our website, but registrations will not be available to the general public.

Additionally, as an activity supplier, there may be additional considerations which need to be addressed to suit the needs of the community group/organisation you are partnering with.

Activities which are delivered to the general public will be open for registrations as part of the Summer by the Sea program, via registration on the Applicants website.

16. Can I do a mix of both?

Yes. Applicants may apply to run multiple activities, and they may choose to vary the attendance requirements. For example, one activity may have attendees only from the community group/organisation, whilst the other is open to the general public for registration and attendance.

17. How have the community focus groups been selected?

These focus groups have been identified through data-driven surveys from other departmental programs, which highlight community groups who often experience barriers to nature-based experiences and locations.

18. Is it mandatory to designate activities for a community organisation focus group?

No, you do not need to designate any activities for a community organisation focus group. All activities can remain open to the general public. However, applicants with community organisation partnerships may be prioritised in the assessment process, as outlined in the Guidelines.

Budgets and GST

19. How do we ensure our activities or budget items are eligible?

Discuss your project with any Coastcare Victoria Officer before submitting your application to ensure your organisation and project activities are eligible.

If you think one of your activities or budget items may fall under one of the types listed under 'what will not be funded' section of the guidelines, contact any Coastcare Victoria Officer with your scenario so they can confirm whether the activity or budget item is ineligible.

20. Do we need to have an ABN?

Yes.

21. Do we need to be registered for GST?

Applicants do not need to be registered for GST.

22. Do we include GST in the budget when costing the project?

Yes. Applicants will need to list the actual costs of the activities or materials you are seeking to be funded. This may include taxable supply items which include a GST charge such as contractor services. Include each item you are requesting grant funding for and its total cost, including GST.

23. Does the grant payment include GST?

If you have an ABN and are registered for GST, your grant payment will be taxable and GST will be added to the total amount of funding you have requested/has been approved (e.g. total amount requested is \$2,000, your GST registered organisation will receive a total amount of \$2,200).

If you are not registered for GST, your grant payment will not be taxable, so will not include GST (e.g. total amount requested is \$2,000, you're not GST registered, organisation will receive a total amount of \$2,000).

H5N1 avian influenza (H5 bird flu)

24. Why is H5 bird flu relevant to Summer by the Sea activities?

Many Summer by the Sea activities are conducted in marine and coastal environments where participants may encounter wild birds and marine mammals. Successful grant recipients must monitor current Victorian Government advice, advice from relevant land managers, and actively manage any H5 bird flu risks associated with their activities.

25. Where can I find information about the H5N1 bird flu outbreak?

With the current outbreak of H5 bird flu in Australia, there is updated advice for reporting sick or dead waterbirds, seabirds, shorebirds, birds of prey and marine mammals. Visit Agriculture Victoria for up-to-date information: <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/poultry-diseases/H5N1-avian-influenza-H5-bird-flu>

26. Will my activity be cancelled if H5 bird flu is detected in the area?

Successful applicants will be required to monitor current Victorian Government and land manager guidance and actively manage any H5 bird flu risks relevant to their activities. This may include changes at short notice to activities and locations to a safe environment. Further information on activity planning around H5 bird flu is provided in the Summer by the Sea 2027 Guidelines.

27. What are activity providers required to do when planning activities?

Activity providers must assess:

- Recent reports of sick or dead birds in the activity area.
- The proximity of seabird colonies, roosting sites or breeding areas.
- Any biosecurity alerts issued by DEECA, Agriculture Victoria or local land managers.

28. What should participants do if they see sick or dead birds?

Participants should:

- Avoid touching sick or dead birds or other wildlife.
- Notify the activity leader immediately.
- Follow instructions from activity leaders regarding exclusion areas and safety measures.

29. What happens if a single dead bird is found near an activity?

The observation should be reported and the area avoided. During an activity, leaders should direct participants away from wildlife and manage safety risks. If necessary, the activity may conclude early.

30. What happens if multiple dead birds are found?

Activities should generally be relocated or postponed. If discovered during activity delivery, activity leaders should prioritise participant safety, move participants away from the area and conclude the activity if required.

31. What happens if H5 bird flu is confirmed at an activity location?

Activities should be relocated or postponed. If confirmation is received while an activity is underway, the event should conclude immediately.

32. Can activities be moved to another location?

Yes. If required, activities can be moved to a safer location where possible.

33. Are activity organisers required to include H5 bird flu planning in their risk management?

Yes. Applicants must complete a Job Safety Plan that includes their planned response to H5 bird flu risks. This plan must be approved by the relevant land manager before activity delivery.

34. Does H5 bird flu affect the Summer by the Sea delivery period?

Potentially. The Guidelines note that the January 2027 delivery period is subject to change in response to H5 bird flu and associated public safety considerations.

35. Who is responsible for monitoring H5 bird flu risks?

Successful activity providers are responsible for monitoring Victorian Government and relevant land manager guidance and managing risks before and during activity delivery.

For the latest H5 bird flu updates and reporting advice, visit:

- relevant land manager website
- [Agriculture Victoria](#)
- [Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.](#)