

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Solar Homes



Wednesday, 12 May 2021

SUPPORTING OUR VOLUNTEERS TO PROTECT THE COASTLINE

The Andrews Labor Government has announced a new round of grants to support volunteers who work hard to conserve, restore and rehabilitate the state's coastline.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio announced more than \$640,000 in grants would be available for volunteer groups through the Coastcare Victoria Community Grants Program, which was launched alongside the *Coastcare Victoria Strategy 2021–2026*.

Small-scale projects can apply for grants of up to \$5,000, and grants between \$5,000 and \$30,000 are available for larger-scale projects.

Last year 24 groups received grants for projects that included raising awareness of shorebirds and their habitat and weed management, and revegetation of A Convincing Ground near Portland.

The grants will support projects that:

- improve community adaptation and ecosystem resilience to climate change
- boost education and knowledge in the community about coastal management
- support community groups to expand and diversify their volunteer base by creating opportunities to engage youth and people from diverse backgrounds and abilities
- support Traditional Owner self-determination on Country, including restoration of marine and cultural knowledge and practice.

Grant applications are open until 23 June 2021.

For more information on the 2021 Coastcare Victoria Community Grants Program, including funding guidelines, visit marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/coastal-programs/Coastcare-Victoria

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"This year's Coastcare Victoria Community Grants Program has been expanded to include more funding streams, meaning even more opportunities for groups to deliver small and large-scale projects."

"I'm really proud to support the dedicated efforts of local community groups and volunteers working to look after our iconic and special coastal environment."

"Our more than 2,000 kilometres of coastline and marine environments are a precious resource and are a major tourist attraction."