

Drought Assistance Initiatives

Name of initiative	Small Towns Development Fund
Description	<p>The Small Towns Development Fund (STDF) assists communities in small towns with funding for projects that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ create new opportunities for economic growth and development;▪ develop economic and social infrastructure; and▪ enhance the liveability of rural communities. <p>Additional funding to the STDF will assist small towns with the challenges sustained through prolonged drought.</p> <p>The STDF prioritises projects that enhance the appeal of rural townships and surrounding areas. Preference for funding is given to projects that engage local workers and enhance or develop the local skills base.</p>
Who is eligible?	<p>Funding assistance through the STDF focuses on towns with a population of up to 10,000. Towns with a population of between 10,000 and 15,000 will be considered where there are exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Applications are only accepted by the state's 48 rural and regional councils. Community groups are encouraged to work with their local councils to develop projects and applications.</p> <p>Funding will be on \$2 to \$1 basis and grants will generally be up to a maximum of \$250,000 per project. In-kind support may be included as part of the local government/ community contribution to a project, however, must be limited to 50% of the local contribution.</p>
How to apply / access	<p>Contact Regional Development Victoria at your local Victorian Business Centre:</p> <p>Ballarat 03 5320 5900 Bendigo 03 5442 4100 Geelong 03 5229 0641 Mildura 03 5051 2000 Shepparton 03 5821 1811 Traralgon 03 5174 9233 Wangaratta 03 5721 6988 Wodonga 02 6056 2166</p>

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