

Victorian Plantations Support Program

Guidelines for Grant Funding

Round 1 - August 2025



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.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

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ISBN 978-1-76176-452-3 (pdf/online/MS word)

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1. What is the Victorian Plantations Support Program?

The Victorian Plantations Support Program (VPSP) is a \$10 million State Government initiative promoting the development of long-rotation hardwood and softwood plantations across Victoria.

The VPSP provides supplementary funding (up to \$1,000 (GST exclusive) per hectare) to select applicants who have been approved under the Commonwealth Government's Support Plantation Establishment (SPE) Program for Victorian-based projects.

Compared to other states, Victoria's higher land costs and generally smaller land parcels create a greater financial barrier to entry for plantation development and can limit economies of scale.

To overcome this, the VPSP provides Victorian-based SPE projects with additional funding to be spent on select project activities that would otherwise need to be funded by the applicant.

By incentivising a greater uptake of the SPE Program, the VPSP will help expand and diversify Victoria's plantation estates to meet local timber needs.

The objectives of the VPSP are to:

- accelerate the establishment of new long rotation plantations in Victoria
- incentivise private investment in the establishment of new long-rotation plantations in Victoria
- increase domestic timber supply for construction and manufacturing purposes

- ensure Victoria continues to meet its objectives under the Water for Victoria plan
- enhance social, environmental and economic outcomes through job creation, community partnerships and environmental benefits.

Round 1 of the VPSP will make \$2 million available to eligible applicants. Applications will close 27 February 2026, or earlier if the funding is fully allocated.

The Commonwealth Support Plantation Establishment (SPE) Program

The SPE Program supports the establishment of new long-rotation softwood and hardwood plantation forests across Australia and assists the sector in responding to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber resources.

Under the SPE Program, the Commonwealth Government is providing successful grantees with up to \$2,000 (GST exclusive) per hectare for newly established long-rotation plantation forests.

Round 3 of the SPE Program is open until 5 November 2025. Details of the SPE Program can be found on the Commonwealth Government's [Support Plantations Establishment Program webpage](#).

2. Who can and cannot apply?

To be eligible for a VPSP grant, applicants must have a project that is:

- approved under Round 3 – Batch 5 onwards of the SPE Program to establish a long-rotation plantations
- located outside Victoria's [Declared Irrigation Districts](#)
- located in Victoria.

Applicants may submit one VPSP grant application per SPE project.

Eligible projects must not have received, or plan to receive, funding under another Victorian tree growing program, including:

- the Gippsland Plantations Investment Program
- the BushBank Program
- the Victorian Trees on Farms Program.

All applications will undergo an eligibility and probity check.

Applicants who are not eligible under the VPSP may contact the department to discuss the suitability of their project for other Victorian tree growing programs.

3. What will be funded?

Applicants will need to demonstrate why the VPSP grant funding is required to support their SPE project. Eligible VPSP funded activities include:

- fencing and roading
- any of the eligible activities listed in the [SPE - Round 3 Program Guidelines](#), as long as they are not already being funded under the SPE Program.

Note that applicants will need to request a copy of the SPE Program guidelines via [GrantConnect](#).

4. What will not be funded?

VPSP grant funding cannot be used for the following purposes:

- a. Purchase of land
- b. Major capital expenditure
- c. Retrospective costs
- d. Costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- e. Subsidy or general ongoing administration of an organisation (e.g. electricity, phone, bills, rent)
- f. Construction/capital works
- g. Domestic or overseas travel
- h. Replanting of plantations within 7 years of harvesting activities
- i. Replanting of plantations within 7 years of bushfire activity
- j. Installation of an irrigation or drainage system
- k. Any other activities deemed ineligible by DEECA

Any project that has commenced tree planting activities prior to executing a grant agreement with the department is ineligible for VPSP grant funding.

5. What are the funding details?

Approved applicants are eligible to receive up to a maximum of \$1,000 (GST exclusive) per hectare of SPE project land located in Victoria.

Approved applicants may receive a total maximum of \$200,000 (GST exclusive) per eligible SPE project. Applicants cannot divide a single project into multiple applications to circumvent this maximum threshold. The department reserves the right to reject or consolidate such applications at its discretion.

For applicants applying for funding for multiple eligible SPE projects, the total project area cannot exceed 500 hectares.

All decisions on all matters in recommending and awarding grant funding under this Program are at the absolute discretion of the department and the Minister for Agriculture. This includes recommending or awarding a lesser amount than sought, or not awarding any amount.

All grant values exclude GST.



6. What are the funding conditions?

6.1 Funding agreement

Successful applicants must enter into a funding agreement with Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

It is recommended that applicants review the terms and conditions before applying. A template funding agreement can be provided by contacting plantationforestry@deeca.vic.gov.au

The department makes no representation that a grant application will be approved and reserves the rights to make no funds available under the VPSP.

All costs of preparing and lodging a grant application are the responsibility of the applicant and will not be recoverable from the department under any circumstances.

The department reserves the right to withdraw any offer provided under the VPSP if the letter of offer has not been signed within 30 days of issue, or if the grant agreement has not been signed within 2 months of issue.

6.2 Legislative and regulatory requirements

In delivering the activity grant recipients are required to comply with all relevant Commonwealth and state/territory legislations and regulations, including but not limited to:

- The *Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth)*
- The *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic)*
- The *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*

6.3 Tax implications

Applicants should consult the Australian Taxation Office or seek professional advice on any taxation implications that may arise from this grant funding.

Successful applicants without an ABN will need to provide a completed Australian Taxation Office form 'Statement by a Supplier' so that no withholding tax is required from the grant payment.

6.4 Acknowledging the Victorian Government's support

Successful applicants are expected to acknowledge the Victorian Government's support and promotional guidelines (<https://www.deeca.vic.gov.au/grants>) will form part of the funding agreement. Successful applicants must liaise with the departmental program area to coordinate any public events or announcements related to the project.

6.5 Payments

Payments will be made as long as:

- the funding agreement has been signed by both parties;

- grant recipients provide reports as required, or otherwise demonstrate that the activity is progressing as expected;
- other terms and conditions of funding continue to be met.

6.6 Monitoring

Grant recipients are required to comply with project monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the funding agreement. This may include progress reports, site inspections, completion reports and acquittal documentation.

6.7 Privacy

Any personal information about you or a third party in your application will be collected by the department for the purposes of administering your grant application and informing Members of Parliament of successful applications. The department also reports on grants and programs it administers. The reporting includes the identity of successful applicants and projects and, where applicable, deviations from or exceptions to the assessment and approvals processes set out in these guidelines. Personal information may also be disclosed to external experts, such as members of assessment panels, or other Government Departments for assessment, reporting, advice, comment or for discussions regarding alternative or collaborative grant funding opportunities.

Personal information provided in your application may also be shared with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to verify your eligibility for this program, which is based on eligibility for Commonwealth assistance.

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 you 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.

Please do not include any sensitive personal information in your supporting documents unless explicitly requested by DEECA.

DEECA is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. You can find the DEECA Privacy Policy online at <https://www.deeca.vic.gov.au/privacy>.

Requests for access to information about you held by DEECA should be sent to the Manager Privacy, P.O. Box 500 East Melbourne 8002 or contact by emailing foi.unit@deeca.vic.gov.au.

7. Notification of intention to apply to the VPSP

Applicants are encouraged to notify DEECA of their intention to apply for the VPSP. This is not a formal requirement of the process but may provide for a more expedient assessment of applications when they are received. Notifications can be sent to plantationforestry@deeca.vic.gov.au.

Notifications should include the applicant's name, organisation (if applicable), and contact details. This information will be used to support DEECA's planning and coordination of the application assessment process. All personal information will be managed in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and DEECA's privacy obligations.

8. What is the application process?

Applications are submitted online using the Grants Online portal.

To apply, go to the grant program web page <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/crops-and-horticulture/farm-forestry/victorian-plantations-support-program> and click on the 'Apply Now' button. To return to a saved draft application, click on the 'Access Saved Application' button.

Attaching required documents:

Applications must provide the following documents:

- the executed grant agreement between the Commonwealth Government and the grant recipient for an SPE project from Round 3 – Batch 5
- a copy of the SPE Plantation Management Plan and indicative budget submitted as part of the approved SPE Program application
- a completed DEECA budget (Appendix 1) demonstrating how VPSP grant funding and other financial contributions provided by the grantee will

be spent on eligible VPSP activities

- any other supporting documents.

Supporting documents must be in an acceptable file type, such as Word, Excel, PDF, or JPEG. The maximum file size for each file is 10MB.

You will receive an application number when you submit an application online. Please quote this number in all communications with the department relating to your application.

If you have documents to submit that cannot be attached to your online application you can email them to plantationforestry@deeca.vic.gov.au, quoting your application number. Attach all documents to one email, zipping the files if required.

Note: No hard copy applications will be accepted. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

9. What is the notification process?

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing after the assessment process is completed. All decisions are final and are not subject to further review. Unsuccessful applicants can ask for feedback on their application.

10. Key dates

Applications open	18 August 2025
Applications close	27 February 2026
Applicants notified	Within 12 weeks of an application being submitted

11. Further information

Applicants requiring further information about the Victorian Plantations Support Program should visit <https://www.deeca.vic.gov.au/forestry/grants> or email plantationforestry@deeca.vic.gov.au

12. Checklist

Read these guidelines and the information about this grant program at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/crops-and-horticulture/farm-forestry/victorian-plantations-support-program> before applying and complete the following checklist.

Have you:

- read these guidelines carefully?
- checked that your project and its activities are eligible for this grant funding?
- checked that you would be able to comply with all relevant laws and regulations in delivery of your activity?
- prepared the appropriate supporting documents?
- notified DEECA of your intention to apply to the VPSP?



Appendix 1. Budget Template

Victorian Plantation Support Program Project Budget Template

Applicant name				
Project name				
Commonwealth Support Plantation Establishment (SPE) Program				
Activity	Cost per ha	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27
Mechanical site preparation				
Site preparation weed control				
Planting				
Establishment fertiliser				
Victorian Plantations Support Program (VPSP)				
Activity	Cost per ha	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27
Mechanical site preparation				
Site preparation weed control				
Planting				
Establishment fertiliser				
Fencing				
Roading				
Grant applicant co-contribution to Project				
Activity	Cost per ha	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27
Value of land				
Mechanical site preparation				
Site preparation weed control				
Planting				
Establishment fertiliser				
Fencing				
Roading				
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				
TOTAL:				

