



# Community Liveability Fund 2026 Guidelines



# HUON VALLEY COUNCIL COMMUNITY LIVEABILITY FUND

The Huon Valley Council's Community Liveability Fund provides grants for projects that promote, enhance, and sustain liveability in the Huon Valley. This program brings together Council's previous Community, Creative, and Natural Resource Management (NRM) Grants, the Community Fund, and the Climate Research Grant into a single, streamlined fund.

The fund recognises that all members of the community - individuals, groups, organisations, and businesses, are partners in liveability, and each has a role to play in helping our communities thrive.

Council Officers are available to support you in developing your application. All applicants are required to contact Council prior to submission.

## AVAILABLE FUNDING

**Cash Grants:** Applicants may apply for cash grants of:

- Up to the value of \$3,000 (plus GST if applicable) per project
- Up to \$10,000 (plus GST if applicable) for exceptional projects that demonstrate substantial community benefit, innovation, and alignment with multiple liveability objectives

Applicants may only apply for and receive funding for one project per financial year, even if applications are for different projects. This ensures funding is distributed fairly across the Huon Valley community.

## KEY DATES

Applications Open	9am on Mon 13 April 2026
Applications Close	5pm on Mon 18 May 2026
Advice to Applicants	Early June 2026
Project Acquittal	Due within one month of project completion, or by 30 July 2027 (whichever is sooner)

## ELIGIBILITY

Before applying, please review the following eligibility requirements to ensure both your organisation and proposed project qualify for funding under this program.

### Eligible Applicants

#### Applicants can be either:

- Individuals
- Not-for-profit community-based organisations
- An incorporated association
- A social enterprise
- Businesses
- Educational institutions

#### All applicants must:

- Demonstrate connection to the Huon Valley
- Demonstrate capacity to deliver their proposed project
- Demonstrate a community benefit
- Have fulfilled the conditions of any previous Huon Valley Council grant or funding
- Have not received any other funding from Huon Valley Council for the same project
- Demonstrate the project is not designed to make a significant profit or loss

### Ineligible Applicants

#### Applicants cannot be:

- Federal, state or local government agencies or bodies (with the exception of registered educational institutions)
- Government Business Enterprises
- Political Parties

## WHAT WE'RE LOOKING TO SUPPORT

- The Community Liveability Fund supports projects that strengthen the social, cultural, environmental, or economic wellbeing of the Huon Valley. We're looking for initiatives that bring innovative solutions to local challenges and align with our Community Vision and values.
- Strong community outcomes depend on collaboration and local leadership. We encourage applications that are community-driven, build on local knowledge, and create lasting benefits for the Huon Valley.

### The proposed project must be:

- **Community-centred:** Led by or co-designed with local people
- **Evidence-based:** Respond to identified community needs or data
- **Contextual:** Tailored to specific Huon Valley places/communities
- **Collaborative:** Build partnerships across sectors
- **Sustainable:** Demonstrate the ongoing benefits and outcomes

### Please address ONE OR MORE of the following streams:

#### 1. Social Wellbeing

Projects that:

- Build community connections and networks that strengthen social capital and foster an inclusive, diverse community where everyone can participate and contribute
- Create collaborative programs or services that are community-led and respond to locally identified health, wellbeing, recreation, or learning needs
- Support community members to share their skills, knowledge, and talents while addressing barriers to participation and ensuring equitable access to opportunities
- Enhance community spaces and facilities through participatory design that reflects local needs, builds ownership, and creates places for people to connect and collaborate
- Develop community capacity and leadership by supporting local people to identify solutions, build partnerships, and drive positive change in their neighbourhoods

## **2. Cultural**

Projects that:

- Increase community participation in arts and cultural activities through workshops, performances, exhibitions, or skill-sharing programs
- Support cultural diversity and multicultural celebrations that strengthen community connections and promote understanding between different cultural groups
- Preserve local heritage and promote storytelling that captures and shares community stories, oral histories, and cultural traditions to strengthen collective memory and identity
- Support First Nations arts, culture, and knowledge in partnership with local Aboriginal communities, including cultural maintenance and knowledge sharing initiatives
- Foster community cultural development and sense of place through creative place-making initiatives, public art, and storytelling projects that celebrate local identity and strengthen community connection to place

## **3. Environment**

Projects that:

- Protect, restore, or enhance the natural environment and local ecosystems
- Build community resilience to climate change impacts
- Promote sustainable practices and circular economy principles
- Support biodiversity conservation and enhancement
- Improve environmental awareness and stewardship in the community

## **4. Economy**

Projects that:

- Create employment or training opportunities in the community
- Strengthen food production, sustainable farming, or access to local produce
- Encourage innovation, digital transformation, or new economic opportunities
- Build economic resilience within the community
- Support sustainable tourism that benefits the local community

## PROJECTS WE MIGHT FUND

Examples of projects or research that we might fund:

- Collaborative Landcare projects controlling invasive weeds across multiple neighbouring properties to protect and improve native habitat or productive land.
- Community initiatives that improve social inclusion and access to activities, spaces, or services for people living with disability, including peer support networks, adaptive programs, or accessible community events.
- Programs that connect young people with local mentors, trades, or creative industries to build pathways to employment and strengthen community belonging.
- Community-led waste reduction initiatives such as establishing local FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) programs or composting hubs at community facilities or transfer stations to divert waste and build environmental awareness.
- Community-engaged studies monitoring environmental change through innovative methods such as repeat photography and biodiversity surveys to build climate resilience capacity.
- Community skill-sharing hubs where residents teach each other practical skills like cooking, gardening, or digital literacy while building intergenerational connections.
- Cultural festivals or events that bring together diverse community groups to share traditions, food, and artistic practices while building cross-cultural understanding.
- Collaborative public art installations that celebrate the unique character of different Huon Valley towns and engage residents in the creative process.
- Place-based research addressing a clearly defined local infrastructure or climate adaptation question. For example, an academic study monitoring the effectiveness of coastal erosion protection works, or investigating adaptive options for a vulnerable local road, that produces findings which directly inform Council or community decision-making.
- Community food security initiatives such as community gardens, cooperative farmers markets, or food-sharing programs that improve access to affordable local produce while creating employment pathways, teaching food growing skills, and building connections between producers and community members facing food insecurity.
- Cultural knowledge-sharing experiences led by community members, such as Aboriginal Elders teaching traditional practices and storytelling, multicultural cooking workshops sharing family recipes and food traditions, or heritage walks where long-term residents share local history and place-based knowledge that strengthens collective memory and intergenerational connections.

## WHAT WE WON'T FUND

- Ongoing administration or operational costs
- Activities or events which have a fundraising outcome, trophies or prize money
- Capital works (e.g. building renovations, major infrastructure, facility upgrades)
- Projects with the potential to generate significant private or commercial profit
- Individual pursuits or professional development that do not result in clear, tangible outcomes for the wider community
- Travel expenses to attend sporting, educational, civic events, conferences or similar
- Projects that do not align with the [Huon Valley Liveability Framework](#) principles

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply for funding, please follow these steps:

1. Review these guidelines and confirm your eligibility
2. Contact Council's Community & Place team for preliminary advice and to confirm funding availability
3. Complete the online application via Council's website
4. Submit your application with all supporting documentation by the closing date

## ASSESSMENT

### Assessment Process:

- The Community & Place Administration Officer will review applications to determine eligibility and ensure all supporting documents have been provided
- Applicants may be asked to provide additional information to support their application
- Eligible applications are assessed by the Community Liveability Fund Panel, comprising three Council staff members appointed by the Chief Executive Officer, one Huon Valley Councillor and one external assessor.
- Applications are then scored on merit against the assessment criteria
- The final score determines the panel's recommendation to Council

- Applications may be recommended for partial or conditional funding and subject to availability of the funding budget

## Assessment Criteria:

#	Criteria	Weight
1	<p><b>Liveability Outcomes:</b></p> <p>How the project improves liveability in the Huon Valley, with reference to the liveability attributes outlined in the <a href="#">Huon Valley Community Views Survey</a> (e.g., 'Feeling Safe', 'Health Services', 'Natural Environment', etc.)</p> <p><i>Applicants should review the survey results and identify which attributes their project addresses. Note that attributes ranked more highly by the community in the survey or which have a significant liveability gap will be given greater weighting in assessment. Contact Council for assistance if required.</i></p>	20%
2	<p><b>Local Priorities:</b></p> <p>How the project responds to a local community need, issue, or idea.</p>	20%
3	<p><b>Ongoing Benefit:</b></p> <p>How the project provides ongoing benefit to the Huon Valley community beyond the funding period.</p> <p><i>Ongoing benefit may include building capacity, resource development, inform Council or community decision-making, or sustained activity and operation after the grant project is complete.</i></p>	20%
4	<p><b>Demonstrated Ability:</b></p> <p>How the applicant demonstrates the project can be delivered on time, within budget, and achieve the expected outcomes.</p> <p><i>Consider providing project plans, budgets, timelines, previous experience with project delivery and skills.</i></p>	15%
5	<p><b>Community Connections:</b></p> <p>How the project brings people together and strengthens social networks within the community.</p>	15%
6	<p><b>Collaborative Partnerships:</b></p> <p>How the project builds partnerships between organisations, sectors, or community groups to achieve shared goals.</p> <p><i>This refers to the formal or informal relationships between organisations, groups, or sectors - rather than individual community participation.</i></p>	10%

## SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

Successful applicants will receive a formal **Letter of Offer** that details funding terms and conditions.

Payments will be processed upon:

- Receipt of the signed **Letter of Offer**, and
- Submission of a valid tax invoice (including GST if applicable)
- Verification of bank account details via Eftsure™

Huon Valley Council takes the security of your payments seriously. To protect against payment fraud, all suppliers and grant recipients are required to verify their bank account details through Eftsure™, our trusted third-party payment verification service. You will receive a secure verification request from Eftsure™ as part of the payment process. For more information, visit [Council's Eftsure™ information page](#) or [Eftsure AU](#).

Applicants must acknowledge Huon Valley Council's support by displaying the supplied Council logo and including the below statement in all project materials and communications.

***"Proudly supported by the Huon Valley Council Community Liveability Fund"***

### **GST and Grants:**

- If registered for GST, applicants can invoice the funding amount **plus GST**.
- If not registered for GST, invoices should be for the funding amount only.
- Applicants without an ABN must provide a completed **'Statement by a Supplier'** form. A copy of the form can be found on the [Australian Taxation Office website](#)

## Acquittal:

All recipients must acquit their funding within one month of project completion, or by 30 July 2027 (whichever is sooner).

The Acquittal Report template will be provided to all successful applicants. Additional copies can be obtained by contacting Council.

The report should contain:

- High-quality photographs showing project activities
- Media clippings or project publicity
- Evidence of community engagement/participation
- Evidence of project completion
- Expenditure breakdown

## CONTACT

### Community & Place Administration Officer

**Phone:** (03) 6264 0300

**Email:** [hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au](mailto:hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au)

**Post:** PO Box 210, Huonville TAS 7109

**In Person:** 40 Main Street, Huonville