



Community Liveability Fund 2026–27 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 must contact Council before submitting an application (see Contact details below).

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Cash Grants: There are two funding tiers:

- **Minor Grant:** up to \$3,000 (plus GST if applicable) per project
- **Major Grant:** \$3,001 to \$10,000 (plus GST if applicable) per project, for exceptional projects that demonstrate substantial community benefit, innovation, and alignment with multiple liveability attributes. Major Grant applications must include additional supporting documents (see How to Apply).

Each applicant may apply for, and receive funding for, only one project per financial year. This ensures funding is distributed fairly across the Huon Valley community.

KEY DATES

Applications Open	9am on Mon 12 October 2026
Applications Close	5pm on Mon 14 December 2026
Advice to Applicants	Applicants will be notified in writing after Council makes its decision at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 24 February 2027.
Project Acquittal	Projects must be completed by 28 February 2028. Acquittal is due within one month of project completion

ELIGIBILITY

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

Eligible Applicants

Applicants can be:

- Individuals
- Not-for-profit community-based organisations
- Incorporated associations
- Social enterprises
- Businesses
- Educational institutions

All applicants must:

- Demonstrate a connection to the Huon Valley (for example, by living, working, or delivering the project in 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
- Not have 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 (except for 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 should 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 or communities
- **Collaborative:** Build partnerships across sectors
- **Sustainable:** Deliver ongoing benefits and outcomes

Your project must 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. Culture

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. Strengthening 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 (reducing waste by reusing, repairing, and recycling materials)
- 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 on a clearly defined local infrastructure or climate adaptation question that directly informs Council or community decisions. For example, monitoring how well coastal erosion works are performing, or investigating options for a vulnerable local road.
- 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: core running costs of an organisation that are not specific to the funded project.
- Existing, ongoing programs or events, on their own: a new initiative, workshop series, or meaningful expansion introduced within or alongside an existing program or event may still be eligible.
- Wages, salaries, or professional fees paid to the applicant, or their own business/staff, for delivering the project's core activities. Grants are intended to cover project costs such as materials, equipment, and venue hire, or fees paid to engage independent third-party specialists.
- Projects that have already commenced: costs already incurred, or items/activities already purchased, commenced, or completed before receiving formal approval and a signed Letter of Offer.
- Fundraising activities or events, trophies, or prize money
- Capital works (e.g. new buildings, renovations, extensions, structural upgrades, or major infrastructure). This does not include small-scale improvements that activate a space, such as community gardens, murals, or planting, which may still be eligible.
- 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, or 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 (this step is required)
3. Complete the online application via Council's website, including the itemised project budget (required for all applicants)
4. Submit your application with any supporting documents required for your funding tier by 5pm, Monday 14 December 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

Supporting Documents:

- **Minor Grant (up to \$3,000):** No supporting documents are required. You are welcome to attach photos, maps, designs, or other relevant material, but this is optional.
- **Major Grant (\$3,001 to \$10,000):** You must attach:
 - Evidence of cost for every item in the budget on your application form, such as a written quote, a supplier price list, or a screenshot of an online price
 - A project timeline showing key milestones
 - Evidence of your capacity to deliver (such as an organisational profile, CV, or examples of previous projects)
 - Letters of support from partners (if applicable)
 - Evidence of community need (e.g survey results, community feedback, or data)

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. This must be provided within 5 business days, or the application may not proceed to assessment.
- Eligible applications are assessed by the Community Liveability Fund Assessment 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 assessment panel's recommendation to Council
- Applications may be recommended for partial or conditional funding. All funding is subject to budget availability.

Assessment Criteria:

#	Criteria	Weight
1	Liveability Outcomes: How does the project improve liveability in the Huon Valley by addressing one or more of the defined liveability attributes from the Huon Valley Community Views Survey, as listed in the values and experiences matrix at: [https://views.id.com.au/huon-valley/values-experiences]. <i>Tip: Choose from the attributes in the matrix and use their exact names. Please do not create your own. Projects score higher if they address attributes the community rates as most important, or where importance is high, but experience is low. These attributes are different from the funding streams you choose. Contact Council if you need help.</i>	20%
2	Local Priorities: How does the project respond to a local community need, issue, or idea? <i>Tip: Explain the need or idea and how you know about it, for example from community feedback, survey results, local data or your own experience. Major Grant applicants must also attach evidence of community need (see Supporting Documents).</i>	20%
3	Ongoing Benefit: How will the project continue to benefit the Huon Valley community after the grant-funded project is complete? <i>Tip: For example, the project may build local skills and knowledge, create resources the community can keep using (such as guides, toolkits, or equipment), produce findings that inform Council or community decisions, or continue as an activity or service after the project is complete. One-off projects, such as a single event or workshop, can also meet this criterion if they leave a lasting outcome. If your project will continue as an ongoing program, service, or activity, you must explain how it will be self-sustaining after the project is complete (for example, through volunteers, participant fees, sponsorship, or other grants). Council will not provide ongoing funding to keep the project running once this grant ends.</i>	20%
4	Demonstrated Ability: How does the applicant show that the project can be delivered on time and within budget, and will achieve the expected outcomes? <i>Tip: Describe your project plan and timeline, and your relevant skills and previous project delivery experience. All applicants must complete the itemised budget in the application form. Major Grant applicants must also attach evidence of cost for every budget item and the other supporting documents listed under How to Apply.</i>	15%

5	Community Connections: How does the project bring people together and strengthen social networks within the community? <i>Tip: Think about who will join in, how they will connect with each other, and what relationships your project will help build.</i>	15%
6	Collaborative Partnerships: How does the project build partnerships between organisations, sectors, or community groups to achieve shared goals? <i>Tip: This refers to the formal or informal working relationships between organisations, groups, or sectors, such as a school working with a landcare group. It does not refer to individual community participation.</i>	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**
- Submission of a valid tax invoice (including GST if applicable), and
- 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](#).

Successful applicants to acknowledge Huon Valley Council's support by displaying the supplied Council logo and including the following statement in all project materials and communications.

“Proudly supported by the Huon Valley Council Community Liveability Fund”

GST and Grants:

- Applicants registered for GST can invoice the funding amount **plus GST**.
- Applicants not registered for GST must invoice 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:

Projects must be completed by 28 February 2028. All recipients must acquit their funding within one month of project completion.

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

The report must include:

- High-quality photographs showing project activities
- Media clippings or project publicity (if any)
- Evidence of community engagement or participation
- Evidence of project completion
- Expenditure breakdown

CONTACT

Community & Place Administration Officer

Phone: (03) 6264 0300

Email: hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au

Post: PO Box 210, Huonville TAS 7109

In Person: 40 Main Street, Huonville