

**Business Assistance Grants
2024 – 2025
Hindmarsh Shire Council**



Application Guidelines

Hindmarsh Shire Council's vision is to be a connected. Inclusive and prosperous community

Background

The Hindmarsh Shire Council Business Assistance Grants Program was established in 2016 to generate new employment opportunities, support existing business growth and to attract new business to Hindmarsh Shire. The Business Assistance Grant Program assists with addressing the ongoing need to attract new business and support existing business within the shire. Council has allocated **\$20,000** towards the 2024/2025 Business Assistance Grants Program which is categorised into two key areas: 1) Business Development and, 2) Streetscapes.

Grant Categories

Business Development – Up to \$2,000 (business must match \$1:\$2 to grant)

This grant supports the establishment of new and innovative businesses that increase the diversity of the Shire's business community and provide the potential for local residents to start new businesses. This grant can assist:

- Existing small business growth and attract new businesses to the shire;
- Expansion from home business base to commercial premises;
- Up-skilling existing employees;
- Small business mentoring;
- Creation / update of business planning documents (business plan, marketing plan and succession plan etc.).

Streetscapes – Up to \$3,000 (business must match \$1:\$2 to grant)

This grant is open to existing businesses to improve the exterior façade of their building (must have property owner approval) - up to \$3,000 for streetscape improvements. This grant may include:

- Painting, signage, cleaning, removal and replacement of cladding/awnings, repair or replacement of façade structures;
- Access works to reduce entrance barriers;
- Removal of steps;
- Installation of handrails.

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Eligibility

Applications must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for a Business Assistance Grant:

All applications must:

- Have a registered ABN.
- Provide evidence that the business is currently operating, or is planning to operate in the Hindmarsh Shire.
- Demonstrate an economic benefit and value for money.
- The project will result in the creation and / or retention of employment.
- Demonstrate a financial viability of the business.
- Submit only one application per business/property owner.
- Obtain written consent from property/building owner for any structural alterations.
- Only be applying for one category per funding round, and
- Obtain the relevant permits from Council.

Ineligibility

Applications by, or for, the following purposes will not be eligible for funding:

- General business operating expenses including salaries, wages, overheads, material expenses, utility usage costs etc.
- Legal and financial advice or market research.
- Applications made by small businesses that have outstanding amounts owing to Council (rates, permit payments etc.).
- Government bodies/Schools and their Parents and Friends organisations.
- Businesses owned/operated by Council staff or Councillors or relatives that prompt a perceived or actual conflict of interest.
- Projects that are clearly a duplication of an existing service.
- Retrospective funding (projects that have commenced or have been completed will not be funded), and
- Businesses who have successfully obtained funding in the current or previous financial year (businesses can only apply for funding every 2 years)

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Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against a set of Assessment Criteria. Applications scoring highly against the criteria detailed below are more likely to receive funding:

Why? 30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the demonstrated need for the project • How will the project improve the business operations and economic situation?
What? 30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a brief summary of what you are going to do. • Complete and submit a Risk Assessment for the project • Provide detail on how Hindmarsh Shire Council's contribution will be recognised and acknowledged.
How? 40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide quotes/ information on specific item(s) that funds will be used to purchase. • Provide the organisations banking details and evidence that the organisation can complete the project on time and within budget. • Complete the budget and in-kind contribution templates • How will your projects success be measured? (including number of employment opportunities gained) • Provide a copy of a bank statement to demonstrate financial viability • If the property is leased or rented provide written consent from property owners for streetscape applications.

Deadlines

Applications need to be received prior to the closing date for submission to the October 2023 and March 2024 (subject to confirmation) Council Meetings. Council will evaluate all applications based on the eligibility, assessment criteria and information provided, as part of their decision-making process.

Category	Round 1 Closing Date	Round 2 Closing Date
Business Development	Closing Date Friday 09 August 2024 5.00pm	TBD
Streetscapes		
Council Meeting Date	28 August 2024 3:00pm	TBD

Announcement of Grant recipients and distributions of funds

Businesses will be notified on the outcome of their grant application via phone call and written confirmation following the appropriate Council Meeting.

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Funding Received

Successful applications will receive 80% of grant upon completion of grant acceptance form. The balance of 20% of grant funding will be received on receipt of completion report.

Grant Acquittal

All successful grant recipients will be required to provide evidence to Council that the grant was expended in accordance with their application. A completion report template will be provided to grant recipients prior to receiving funds. The final date for acquittals will be 30 June of the financial year funding was obtained, failure to do so may hinder future funding opportunities.

Further Information

If you have any queries, please contact the Tourism and Economic Development Team, on 5391 4444 or via email business@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au.

Applications can be submitted via the online form. Alternatively, the application form can be downloaded and completed.

Applications should be forwarded to the Tourism and Economic Development Team via any of the below methods marked 'Application- 2024/25 Business Assistance Grants Program'.

Online	Visit our website, or use this link: https://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/Community/Apply-for-Grants
Email	Email your application, along with all required attachments to grants@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
In Person	Hand in your printed application and attachments to any of our Customer Service Centres in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow
Mail	Send your printed application and attachments to: Tourism and Economic Development Team Hindmarsh Shire Council PO BOX 250 Nhill VIC 3418