

Strathbogie Shire Council

Pitch My Project Guidelines

2024/25

About Pitch my Project

Now in its fourth year, Council's Pitch My Project initiative is ensuring our budget includes the projects and plans that matter to our community.

Since its inception we have funded almost 30 community projects throughout our shire. As the initiative has progressed, we have made changes and improvements.

Last year we launched early to ensure the pitched projects were included in the draft budget and we included a participatory budgeting process – that allowed the community to determine the successful projects.

This year we are again launching early, we will again allow the community to determine success, but we're changing the categories to include a major and minor infrastructure section.

At Council we're constantly improving the way we engage with our community.

By putting the decision into the hands of our community we are showing our commitment to truly meaningful community involvement.

Pitch My Project - Guidelines

Council invites residents, community groups, sporting clubs, businesses and organisations to make submissions recommending specific ideas for community programs, projects or initiatives to be funded in the 2024-25 Budget.

Strathbogie Shire Council has allocated \$300,000 for Pitch My Project as part of the annual budget. Each of the six Strategic Focus Areas within the Council Plan will receive a \$50,000 pool of money.

2024/25 Terms and Conditions

- The idea must demonstrate a strong community benefit.
- The idea must directly align to a strategy of Council Plan 2021 -2025.
- One submission per individual, community group or sporting association is permitted.
- As a condition of entry, you agree the name on the application can be made public and promoted on Council's communication channels.
- The idea must be for a one-off community program, project or initiative that can be realised by Council between **1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025**.
- Pitches for infrastructure upgrades that demonstrate strong community benefit can be made through strategic focus areas five and six.
- Infrastructure upgrades will only be considered on infrastructure listed on Strathbogie Shire Council's asset register.
- The ideas must be Council-led and delivered with no direct allocation of funds given to community groups, clubs, organisations or commercial business.
- Where there are multiple submissions for the same idea, Council reserves the right to determine which submission will be put forward for consideration. Council will contact the individual, community group or sporting association if this occurs.
- If multiple/like submissions for the same idea are received and there is no formal community group/sporting association attached, we will group these submissions and review them as one package. You will be advised if this has occurred with your submission.
- The idea must be lodged by 5pm on 23 February 2024 via Council's digital engagement platform, www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au. Applications received after this date and time will not be considered.

What will not be considered:

- General maintenance of property will not be considered.
- Strathbogie Shire Council employees and Councillors or their immediate families are ineligible to submit an idea. Immediate family includes spouses, parents and children only.

Submit your idea on Share Strathbogie, Council's online engagement portal – www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Submissions close 5pm Friday 23 February 2024

How will ideas be assessed?

The assessment process will include:

A. Was the idea received by (date TBC)?

- i. Yes – proceed to the next question
- ii. No – the idea will not be supported, thank you for your application

B. Is the idea better suited for a grant program currently managed by Council?

- i. Yes – the idea will not be supported, please consider submitting your idea as a grant application to one of Council’s grant programs.
- ii. No – proceed to the next question

C. Can the idea be Council-led and delivered with no direct allocation of funds given to community groups, clubs, organisations or commercial business?

- i. Yes – proceed to the next question.
- ii. No – the idea will not be supported, thank you for your application.

D. Is the idea a once-off community program, project or initiative that can be realised by Council between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025?

- i. Yes – proceed to the next question
- ii. No – the idea will not be supported, thank you for your application.

E. Will the idea cost \$50,000 or under to implement?

- i. Yes – proceed to the next question
- ii. No – the idea will not be supported, thank you for your application.

F. If the idea is an infrastructure pitch, is this on Council's asset register?

- i. Yes – proceed to next question
- ii. No – the idea will not be supported, thank you for your application.

G. How does the idea score against the following criteria?

Criteria	Score
To what extent does the idea demonstrate a strong benefit to the community?	(up to 10)
To what extent does the idea align to a strategy of Council Plan 2021 -2025.	(up to 10)

How will ideas be selected to proceed to stage two for the community to vote?

- Ideas that have reached assessment will receive a score out of a possible 20 points.
- Ideas that receive a score of 11 or over will proceed to the next round.
- Successful applicants will receive more information about the next round.

How many projects will be funded?

Council has \$300,000 for Pitch My Project as part of the 2024/25 annual budget. Each of the six Strategic Focus Areas within the Council Plan will receive \$50,000.

Aligning your idea to our Council Plan

Each application must demonstrate how the idea aligns to a strategic focus area of our Council Plan 2021 - 2025.

Your application needs to specifically identify how your suggested project is related to the implementation of an action in the Council Plan. This is because our financial resources need to be directed to achieving the Council Plan, which in turn helps achieve the Community Vision.

The 2021-25 Council Plan is the key strategic document that governs the allocation of human and financial resources at Council and outlines the actions and strategies to be employed to achieve the Community Vision.

It was developed after nine months of engagement with the community and the first ever Strathbogie Shire Community Panel.

The Council Plan identifies strategies relating to six strategic focus areas, along with the initiatives for Council over the four-year life of this plan that will help us achieve our goals.

Please use the following link to find the actions to support your application: [2021/25 Council Plan](#).

The strategic focus areas are outlined below.

1. Engage. Create. Unite.

In the future we.... foster and support creative responses in the community. This means:

- We are inspired by our creatives and celebrate art and culture.
- We create welcoming social spaces where people can connect.
- First Nations culture, knowledge and heritage enriches our Shire.

2. Live. Access. Connect.

In the future...our people are places are connected. This means:

- We all have access to important services
- We are moving through our townships on connected walking and cycling tracks
- We are focused on activities that build economic, financial and social security.

3. Protect. Enhance. Adapt

In the future we... consider Climate Change in everything we do. This means:

- We are minimising harmful impacts on our natural environment.
- We are reversing biodiversity decline.
- We are championing best practice environmental strategies.

4. Inclusive. Productive. Balanced

In the future we... involve the community in decisions that affect them. This means:

- We have empowered locals to make decisions.
- We care, support, and listen to each other.
- We partner with our community to achieve great things.

In the future we... have a thriving economy for everyone. This means:

- We are a smart spender, buying local wherever possible
- We target economic development to enhance our region
- We are capitalising on our region's strengths.

In the future we... are planning to protect the special place we call home. This means:

- We have affordable housing
- We are managing growth carefully to protect the environment and meet our social infrastructure needs
- We are including responsible developer contribution strategies.

5. Strong. Healthy. Safe

In the future... our communities are filled with happy, healthy people. This means:

- We have protected 'the vibe' we love
- We are working together to share knowledge and get things done
- We are encouraging health and wellbeing activities in sport and recreation.

6. Accountable. Transparent. Responsible

Strategies to achieve these goals include:

- Achieving the highest level of good governance
- Delivering responsive and timely customer service
- Being accountable for the decision we make
- Embedding gender equality principles
- Being financially responsible, and
- Maximising public transparency

Tips for your application

Demonstrate strong community need

Each application must demonstrate how the idea meets a strong community need. A simple way of thinking about this is:

- What is the problem or opportunity?
- How does it affect or impact the community?
- What difference would your idea make?

For help to Pitch your idea

There are three ways to access help to make your application

1. Read Tips for your application
2. Register to attend an online information session on **Tuesday 30 January 2024**.
3. Book a time to speak with a Council Officer by phoning 1800 065 993.

If you require the form in a different format or language, or have any questions in relation to the form, please contact Council's communications and engagement team on 1800 065 993.

How to pitch your idea

- a) Read and follow the Terms and Conditions
- b) Read this Guidelines document
- c) Submit your idea on Share Strathbogje Council's online engagement portal – www.share.strathbogje.vic.gov.au

Council's Community and Event Grants Program

Applicants who have submitted ideas better suited to other Council Grant programs will be advised and redirected to apply to them.

Projects that are eligible to apply for Council's Community and Event Grants program will not be considered through the Pitch My Project funding.

Community Grants

Our Community Strengthening and Quick Response grants provide an opportunity for groups to undertake projects that may include:

- social connection
- inclusion
- health
- wellbeing
- safety
- community arts
- positive cultural or environmental outcomes
- economic development, and
- increased visitor economy.

To be eligible for funding under the Community Grants Program, applicants must be:

Incorporated groups based in Strathbogie Shire, or unincorporated not-for-profit groups based in Strathbogie Shire auspiced by an appropriate incorporated association with:

- a minimum \$20,000,000 Public Liability Insurance
- an ABN

Read the [Community Grant Program Guidelines on our website.](#)

Event Grants

Our Event Grants are available for events that:

- Promote community engagement and participation
- Support gender equality and social inclusion and improve accessibility
- Contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities
- Increase economic development, tourism and the visitor economy

To be eligible for funding under the Event Grants Project, applicants must be:

Incorporated groups based in Strathbogie Shire, or unincorporated not-for-profit groups based in Strathbogie Shire auspiced by an appropriate incorporated association with:

- a minimum \$20,000,000 Public Liability Insurance
- an ABN

Read the [Event Grants Guidelines on our website.](#)

Privacy Collection Statement

Strathbogie Shire Council is committed to protecting your privacy. The personal information and opinions supplied by you in a Pitch My Project submission will assist Council keeping you involved and up to date. Your personal information will not be disclosed to any external party without your consent, unless required or authorised by law. You have the right to access your personal information and make corrections. If you have any queries or wish to gain access to amend your information, please contact Council's Privacy Officer on 1800 065 993.

For further information on how your personal information is handled, visit Council's Privacy Policy at www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au