

Water for Community Sponsorship Program Guidelines



Wannon Water is committed to going *beyond water for strong communities*.

We believe that building stronger communities is linked with building value for our customers, building value for our community, and making our contribution to a better world.



Our community strategy [Partnering for Stronger Communities](#) details the ways we are developing and maintaining community partnerships that will create shared value for us and our region, South West Victoria.

As part of the strategy, we have a *Water for Community* program that recognises the mental, physical and social benefits of water in the community. It supports initiatives such as accessible drinking water stations in public spaces, and rebates for green public open spaces and sporting facilities.

Each year we have a limited number of permanent drinking water stations available and organisations are invited to apply to install one in their community.

Applications are now open.

Note: We also have portable drinking water stations and water dispensers available to support events such as fun runs and festivals. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, this program is currently suspended.

Community strategy themes

Applications for funding under our sponsorship program **must** align with (but are not limited to) the following key themes from our community strategy:

Regional prosperity

We believe that part of serving our region involves contributing to economic development and fostering prosperity through our products, services and actions. We will consider sponsorship support for initiatives and projects that build capacity with a focus on leadership, engagement, partnership, strategy and advocacy.

Education, training and volunteering

We rely on a skilled workforce and regard this as an important component for regional prosperity. Access to quality education, training and volunteering pathways is essential for South West Victoria to have a skilled and active workforce. We will consider sponsorship support for initiatives and projects that align with this focus area.

Health and wellbeing

Being healthy and well is influenced by genetics, and by how we live, work and play. It is important for all aspects of social and economic life and is therefore important to us. We will consider sponsorship support for initiatives and projects that enhance public health and physical and mental wellbeing.

Natural environment

Healthy and sustainable ecosystems are crucial in providing communities access to clean water and unpolluted air, and in the production of food. Natural environments provide valued amenity, can contribute to people's physical and mental health, and have their own inherent value. We will consider sponsorship support for initiatives and projects that align with this focus area.

Scope

The *Water for Community* sponsorship program helps to fund accessible water refill units in public spaces, supporting hydration and providing environmental and financial benefits. The program aims to:

- Encourage people to reuse and refill their water bottles
- Educate people on ways they can contribute to a cleaner and healthier future.

Eligibility

The program gives priority to community-based, not-for-profit organisations within the Wannon Water service region who have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or are an incorporated body.

Applications from other types of organisations within our region that demonstrate alignment with our community strategy themes and meet the criteria below may be considered and assessed at the discretion of Wannon Water.

General

Sponsorships are limited. Each year we receive a large number of applications, and although they may meet our guidelines, we unfortunately are not able to sponsor them all. Your sponsorship request may be declined, or we may offer an alternative to the sponsorship that has been requested. The sponsorship decisions we make are final.

Wannon Water will not support requests that:

- Will be delivered outside our service region
- Could attract adverse community criticism
- Could attract high-level COVID-related risk/s
- Discriminate adversely against any persons, organisations or groups
- Seek support for political campaigns or lobby groups
- Support organisations who receive income from, are supportive of, or have visible links to tobacco, gaming, alcohol or drug-related issues.

Criteria - application assessment

Applications assessed according to the following criteria:

- Alignment with Wannon Water's strategic direction of *beyond water for strong communities* and the themes in our community strategy above
- A suitable location (within the [Wannon Water service area](#)) on the land the organisation manages that is available for public access and use, with a photo of the proposed location provided as part of the application
- Written confirmation from the local council providing approval of the proposed location and installation
- Evidence of current public liability insurance (\$20 million per occurrence) and property insurance (\$1 million per occurrence)
- The applicant accepts 'ownership' of the permanent drinking water stations and agrees to undertake its ongoing maintenance to ensure safe drinking water quality parameters are met at all times
- The applicant accepts any ongoing costs, including water charges
- The Wannon Water logo and branding is required alongside the applicant's branding on all permanent drinking water stations.

Criteria - technical

- The unit must only be connected to the Wannon Water urban potable water supply
- The applicant must confirm that an existing metered connection point is available close to the council-approved location
- A filter may be installed at the discretion of Wannon Water at an additional cost
- The unit and its location must meet COVID safety and accessibility requirements (touchless and lower access/paving around unit).

Installation, usage and maintenance

- Wannon Water will cover the cost of the unit's installation and branding artwork
- The applicant must provide an invoice to Wannon Water and organise installation by an authorised contractor/plumber
- The applicant will pay for water meter usage for the life of the permanent drinking water station
- The applicant agrees to:
 - Undertake ongoing and regular maintenance of the permanent drinking water station to ensure safe drinking water quality parameters are met at all times
 - Maintain the permanent drinking water station in a clean and graffiti-free manner.
- Wannon Water will undertake an annual inspection of the permanent drinking water station to ensure the required level of maintenance is being undertaken, including filter replacement (if applicable)
- Wannon Water is responsible for drinking water quality up to the water meter. Water quality downstream of the water meter is the responsibility of the applicant.

Water quality

Wannon Water has a quality control framework designed to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to each customer tap. The framework is based on the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011 and governed by the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* and associated regulations.

Application timeline

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| 8 September 2021 | Applications open |
| 6 October 2021 | Applications close |
| 30 November 2021 | Outcomes advised |

Enquiries

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