

Heidi Victoria MP

Member for Bayswater District

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Funding available for water-wise projects

The Victorian Coalition Government is encouraging communities to make greater use of rainwater and recycled water, with \$15 million on offer for local projects through round two of the *Living Victoria Fund*.

Bayswater District MP Heidi Victoria said the *Living Victoria* initiative was about securing the state's future water supplies, keeping future water costs down and ensuring our neighbourhoods remained green and liveable.

"Transforming the state's urban water systems so that they focus on whole-of-water-cycle principles will deliver more efficient, more sustainable and more affordable water services," Ms Victoria said.

"It makes sense to use rainwater and recycled water for tasks like watering gardens or flushing toilets, instead of using our valuable high-quality drinking water.

Ms Victoria said the Victorian Coalition Governments urban water reforms will help avert the need for large scale infrastructure like the desalination plant which is costing Victorians \$1.8 million per day.

Round one of the \$50 million *Living Victoria Fund* supported more than 40 projects across Victoria and round two funding can assist community organisations, education institutions, sporting groups, the private sector and local councils in accelerating innovative water projects.

Up to \$3 million has been set aside for community and not-for-profit organisation projects in this round, with up to \$200,000 for an individual community group or not-for-profit organisation.

"The Coalition Government is delivering on an election commitment to help our cities and towns make better use of all available water sources for future water needs, and to improve the health of Victoria's creeks and rivers," Ms Victoria said.

"The latest round of *Living Victoria* funding is an excellent opportunity for the Bayswater District to develop local water projects that deliver an economic and environmental dividend to the area.

"I encourage local organisations to consider the opportunities for whole-of-water-cycle projects in Bayswater District and become part of the broader improvement in Victoria's water security."

Applications close on 17 March 2014 at 2pm EST. To view the funding guidelines visit <http://www.livingvictoria.vic.gov.au>.

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