

# Heidi Victoria MP

Member for Bayswater District

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## LOCAL COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS PROGRAMS

Heidi Victoria, Member for Bayswater has encouraged local Landcare and environmental groups, schools and community groups to lodge their applications for around \$1 million in community grants to support a range of environmental partnership initiatives.

Mrs Victoria said \$700,000 in round two funding was available as part of the Victorian Coalition Government's \$20 million *Communities for Nature* program and \$300,000 for the *Healthy Parks Healthy People* program.

The funding announcement follows the recent launch of the Coalition Government's landmark *Environmental Partnerships* plan. The plan focuses on building strong partnerships between government, business, community groups and individuals to play a more active role in protecting and enhancing the environment.

Local community groups and schools are encouraged to apply for these grants of up to \$10,000 each for projects that will be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014, said Mrs Victoria.

Environment and Climate Change Minister Ryan Smith officially launched the grants program and the Coalition Government's *Environmental Partnerships* plan last week.

"We all have a part to play in keeping our environment healthy," Mr Smith said.

"The Coalition Government is focused on practical local action that delivers on-the-ground results for our community and the environment, now and into the future

"The grants programs will help local groups deliver projects that protect and enhance the natural, cultural and heritage values of our parks, reserves, waterways and bays as well as benefit local economies and the people that take part in them."

The *Healthy Parks Healthy People* program targets areas of park management, including environment, recreation, heritage, community awareness, and multicultural access.

Round two *Communities for Nature* funding will be primarily targeted to support activities consistent with the Coalition Government's \$1 billion five-year *A Cleaner Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay Action Plan*.

Information on the Coalition Government's environmental community grants programs is available on the following websites:

<http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/get-involved/healthy-parks-healthy-people-grants> (Parks Victoria)

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/conservation-and-environment/biodiversity/communities-for-nature-grant-program> (DSE).