

# Media Release

**Steve Dimopoulos MP**  
Minister for Environment  
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events  
Minister for Outdoor Recreation



Monday, 18 March 2024

## **MORE FUNDING TO PROTECT PORT PHILLIP BAY'S PRECIOUS ENVIRONMENT**

The Allan Labor Government is bolstering efforts to protect Port Phillip Bay's iconic natural environment, with \$2.3 million dedicated to preserving one of Victoria's most precious marine and coastal ecosystems.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos today announced applications are now open for the latest round of the Port Phillip Bay Fund grants, supporting projects that protect the health of the Bay's diverse ecosystems.

Grants of up to \$300,000 are available for innovative, large-scale projects and up to \$25,000 for smaller projects that directly benefit the coastal and marine environments of the Bay.

Community groups, non-government organisations, Traditional Owners groups, research institutes, local councils, schools and youth groups can apply.

Port Phillip Bay is home to many unique natural habitats, including sea grass meadows, rocky reefs, and sandy beaches, which are essential breeding and nursery grounds for many marine species. It's made up of more than 10,000 species of marine life including hundreds of species of fish, as well as dolphins, seals and migratory birds.

In addition to its ecological importance, the Bay is also a major tourist destination, offering excellent opportunities for recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, snorkelling, and sailing.

Since 2016, the Port Phillip Bay Fund has awarded more than \$13.9 million in grant funding for 187 projects, including reef restoration, marine life monitoring, water quality improvements, and litter control initiatives.

Applications for grants can be submitted at [marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/grants/port-phillip-bay-fund](https://marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/grants/port-phillip-bay-fund), with the closing date to be announced soon.

Grant applications can be submitted at [marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/grants/port-phillip-bay-fund](https://marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/grants/port-phillip-bay-fund) and applications close on 18 April 2024 at 3pm (AEST).

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos**

*"Port Phillip Bay is iconic to Victoria and these grants will support groups and researchers who are working to preserve and protect the Bay for years to come."*

*"This is another example of how we continue to ensure the long-term health of Victoria's environment and waterways."*