

Media Release

Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Environment

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Outdoor Recreation



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GRANTS HELP CARE FOR MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

The Allan Labor Government is helping Victorian community groups and organisations to deliver projects that will build volunteer capacity and keep our coastlines beautiful.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos today announced the 27 successful recipients that will share \$220,000 as part of the Coastcare Victoria Community Grants – making sure that coastal environmental groups are up to speed with the latest conservation practices and increasing its volunteer base.

This funding supports projects that build the skills and knowledge of marine and coastal volunteers, improve and maintain our unique coastal environment and find ways to make these coastal ecosystems more resilient to climate change.

In the Barwon South West region, Friends of the Bluff will use the funding to help increase inclusivity and participation through the re-establishment of the Sharing the Love - A Marine Volunteers Forum.

Around Port Phillip Bay and Western Port region, Bunurong Land Council will receive funding to provide an opportunity for Bunurong Elders, knowledge holders, and community members to visit Bunurong Land and Sea Country connected to Wunmarrin (Western Port Bay).

In the Gippsland region, one of the successful applications, Gippsland Threatened Species Action Group, have received funding to improve habitat for threatened birds at Kilcunda-Powlett River.

Coastcare Victoria provides support to coastal community groups and volunteers through regional facilitators, the Community Grants program, Summer By The Sea and other capacity building programs.

Since 2019, more than \$1.9 million has been invested through the program, supporting volunteer environmental organisations to deliver over 145 local projects along Victoria's 2,500 kilometres of coastline.

For more information, including a full list of recipients, visit marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au

Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos

"This year's Coastcare Victoria Community Grants recipients are a great example of the important work volunteer and community groups do to look after our state's iconic marine and coastal environments."

"We are proud to support the efforts of dedicated volunteer groups that keep our coastlines beautiful for all Victorians to enjoy, both now and into the future."