

Media Release

The Hon Colin Brooks MP
Minister for Industry and Advanced Manufacturing
Minister for Creative Industries



Tuesday, 3 March 2026

GRANTS TO BOOST MUCH LOVED MUSIC FESTIVALS

Labor is backing Victoria's vibrant music festival scene – making it easier to experience major live shows close to home while supporting local jobs and strengthening creative industries.

Minister Brooks today announced the latest round of the Live Music Festivals Fund is now open – providing grants of up to \$50,000 to Victorian festival operators.

The program is being delivered by the Allan Labor Government through Music Victoria supporting festivals across the state to stage their events. Festivals attracting more than 1,000 people are eligible to apply.

The first two rounds of the program in 2024 and 2025 backed 32 festivals. This includes well-known events like Echuca-Moama's Riverboats Festival, Queenscliff Music Festival and Port Fairy Folk Music Festival alongside newer events like Bulleen's Gateway Festival.

Labor also supports sector through the *10,000 Gigs: The Victorian Gig Fund*, which helps venues host paid gigs, and the Music Works program which supports artists, bands, music organisations and events.

Applications for the *Live Music Festivals Fund* open Tuesday, 3 March at 10am, and close on Tuesday, 31 March at 2pm.

An online information session will be held on Monday, 16 March at 2pm.

To find out more about the *Live Music Festivals Fund* visit musicvictoria.com.au

Quotes attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks

"We are the cultural capital of Australia and this fund is just one way we are continuing to back our live music industry."

"Music festivals are much more than a great day out – they give musicians valuable opportunities to perform, strengthening our creative fabric and offerings. They also drive jobs and tourism across Victoria."

Quotes attributable to Music Victoria CEO Fiona Duncan

"There's something truly special about live music festivals. They create shared live music experiences that connect communities, spark discovery and generate vital opportunities and employment for artists and creative workers."

"As delivery partner, Music Victoria is proud to work with the Victorian Government to ensure this investment supports experienced organisers and strengthens the long-term sustainability of Victoria's live music sector."