

# TasNetworks Community Grants Program 2026 Information Pack



# Grant guidelines

**TasNetworks is deeply connected with the Tasmanian community, and we're dedicated to driving positive change where we live and work.**

**As a business serving all Tasmanians, we understand the importance of balancing our operations with care for people and the planet, and we're taking active steps to address social and environmental challenges.**

At TasNetworks, our mission is to 'Power a Bright Future' for Tasmania. We believe that partnering with not-for-profit organisations dedicated to our key focus areas can lead directly to a more resilient community.

Through the Community Grants Program, we empower the community to take proactive measures to enhance community resilience or to tackle the challenges posed by rising cost-of-living. We are collectively building a stronger and more prepared Tasmania for the future.

Grants of up to \$10,000 each are available, with these grants being specifically directed towards projects aimed at addressing our two key focus areas:

- **building community resilience**
- **tackling rising cost-of-living impacts.**



**Lions Club of Bothwell and Districts**  
Purpose-built BBQ trailer setup for cooking at events

**We've expanded our eligibility criteria, so more organisations are eligible to apply.**

We can now consider applications from:

- not for profit organisations, including
  - incorporated associations,
  - charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)
  - school associations
  - companies limited by guarantee, operating on a not-for-profit basis
  - unincorporated groups who are auspiced by another eligible organisation

You must be seeking funding to deliver a project in Tasmania which is aimed at addressing one or both of our focus areas.

**Applications we can't consider:**

- projects undertaken outside of Tasmania
- provision of free or discounted electrical infrastructure, electricity, or any other core product
- initiatives with poor safety and/or environmental outcomes
- any project, event or organisation that could be inconsistent with our vision or role in the Tasmanian community
- individual, or fundraising campaigns
- where the applicant is a for-profit organisation or unincorporated entity.

Cover image:

**Pets in the Park - Hobart and Launceston**

Providing vital veterinary care to the companion animals of Tasmanians who are, or at risk of, experiencing homelessness.



**Hobart Library of Things**  
Opening a library of tools, equipment, and household items so community members borrow what they need.

## Community resilience

Community resilience is the ability of communities to adapt, respond, and thrive in the face of challenges. This includes practical preparedness for natural disasters or emergencies, as well as building strong, connected, and supportive communities.

Projects may focus on improving readiness for major weather events, or strengthening community connection, participation, and inclusion, particularly for people who may face barriers to involvement. Any project that helps communities better cope with, adapt to, and recover from challenges will be considered under this focus area.

## Cost-of-living relief

Cost of living relief supports individuals and families to manage the rising costs of everyday life, such as housing, utilities, food, and transport.

Projects under this focus area should aim to reduce financial pressure by improving access to essential goods and services, providing practical support, or helping people better manage expenses.

This might include initiatives that provide direct relief, increase affordability, or strengthen people's ability to navigate cost-of-living challenges.

## Tips for a strong application.



Don't underestimate the power of a strong application. Here are some tips to help you put your best submission forward:

### Support your application:

- Clearly describe the community need your project will address
- Explain who will benefit and the difference your project will make
- Consider including a photo, video, or example that helps illustrate your project or its potential impact

### Keep it simple:

- Be clear, direct, and to the point
- Use dot points where helpful
- Stay relevant and avoid unnecessary jargon

### Tell your organisation's story:

- Provide a brief overview of your organisation and the work you do
- Explain why this project matters to your community
- Show how your project aligns with cost of living relief and/or community resilience

### Don't leave it to the last minute:

- Allow time to gather information and review your application before submitting
- If you're unsure about anything, don't hesitate to get in touch and ask

## Applying is easy

Applications are submitted online via:

[www.tasnetworks.com.au/grants](http://www.tasnetworks.com.au/grants)

Before you begin, make sure you've read the full Terms and Conditions at the end of this document.

# What to expect after applying

## 1. Application submitted

Your application is received via the online grants platform.

## 2. Eligibility and assessment

Applications are checked for eligibility.

Eligible applications are assessed and shortlisted against the assessment criteria.

## 3. Grant approvals

Our internal Community Grants Assessment Panel reviews all shortlisted applications.

The Panel determines the successful applications.

## 4. Applicants notified

All applicants are advised of the outcome of their application.

Due to the high volume of applications received, we are unable to provide individual feedback.

## 5. Letter of Offer issued

Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Offer outlining key terms and conditions, along with any required financial forms to enable payment.

## 6. Acceptance and documentation

Completed forms must be returned to TasNetworks within two weeks.

## 7. Grant payment

Funding is processed and paid to successful applicants.

## 8. Public announcement

Successful recipients are announced via TasNetworks media releases and social media channels.

## 9. Acknowledgement of support

Recipients are required to acknowledge TasNetworks support in their communications and materials.

Please ensure TasNetworks' announcement has been made prior to any public promotion.

## 10. Project delivery and reporting

Recipients provide quarterly progress reports to TasNetworks until project completion.



**Burnie Surf Life Saving Club**  
Purchased essential dry suits and female-specific PFDs for Inflatable Rescue Boat crews

# Frequently asked questions



## About the program

### What is the TasNetworks Community Grants Program?

The TasNetworks Community Grants Program offers grants of up to \$10,000 to eligible Tasmanian not-for-profit organisations. These grants support projects in our focus areas: increasing community resilience and reducing cost-of-living pressures.

### Why have you chosen these focus areas?

We are passionate about improving the lives of Tasmanians. With many in our community facing significant challenges, these focus areas ensure that grant funds go to projects that empower local communities to address critical issues.

## Eligibility

### What types of organisations are eligible for grants?

We now accept applications from all not-for-profit entities, including incorporated entities, registered charities, school associations, companies limited by guarantee operating on a not-for-profit basis, and any unincorporated entity that is auspiced by an eligible organisation.

### Are there specific geographic areas or communities targeted?

We accept applications from across Tasmania. In our decision-making, we aim to achieve a fair geographic spread among successful projects.

### Can we apply if we've previously received a TasNetworks Community Grant?

Yes, organisations that have completed their previously funded project and submitted the required reports are eligible to apply again.

### Can we apply for operational expenses?

We focus on providing funds for projects, not general operational expenses. However, operational costs directly related to delivering the project will be considered.

### Can we apply for multiple grants for different projects?

We accept one application per organisation. If multiple applications are submitted, we will choose one to proceed and remove the others from consideration.

## Applying for a grant

### How do I apply?

We use the SmartyGrants platform for all of our grant applications. A link to the application form is available from our website at [www.tasnetworks.com.au/](http://www.tasnetworks.com.au/) grants. Applicants will need to create an account with SmartyGrants and apply online.

### When must our project start?

Projects must commence within 12 months of receiving grant funds under this program.

### Can I apply for a project that has already started?

Yes, but preference will be given to new initiatives. For ongoing projects, make sure that you explain how the grant would enhance or expand the existing project.

### What can I do if there are technical issues?

We recommend submitting your application as early as possible to avoid last-minute issues. Should you need help, email us at [community@tasnetworks.com.au](mailto:community@tasnetworks.com.au).

To ensure fairness, we are unable to accept any application which is received after the close of the application period.

### Can we include supporting documents in our application?

Yes, we encourage you to upload relevant documents, images, or other materials that demonstrate your project's expected outcomes and impact.

## Assessment and decision-making

### How are applications assessed?

Applications are reviewed by an internal assessment panel to evaluate eligibility and alignment with our focus areas. Factors such as geographic spread, community engagement, and compatibility with business priorities are also considered.

### How does TasNetworks ensure fairness and transparency in the grant process?

We use a structured and consistent assessment process. All applications are assessed against clearly defined criteria, which are applied consistently across every application. Each application is reviewed by an internal assessment panel, with multiple reviewers involved in assessing every application. This approach supports fair, transparent, and balanced funding decisions.

## After you apply

### Will I be contacted about our application?

Applicants will receive a confirmation of their application via email. If there are clear errors or missing information, we may contact you for clarification.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application once final decisions are made.

### When will I know if we have been successful?

We aim to notify all applicants as soon as we can after making final funding decisions. This may be up to one month after the close of applications.

### What happens if our application is successful?

Successful applicants will need to complete the necessary paperwork to finalise their grant. Funds will be transferred via electronic funds transfer, and details of your project will be published on our website.

### What are our reporting obligations if successful?

Successful applicants must provide progress reports via an online form every three months until your project is completed. These simple reports detail how the project is progressing and how the funds were used.

### What happens if I don't meet reporting requirements?

Failure to provide the required updates may result in your organisation becoming ineligible for future grants and being required to return the funding.

## Additional questions

### Is there a limit to the amount of funding we can request?

Yes, our grants are capped at \$10,000 per application. If your project exceeds this amount, you should explain where additional funds for the project will come from.

### Can I request feedback on an unsuccessful application?

While we would like to provide detailed feedback, the high volume of applications limits our ability to do so. Basic information may be included in your notification email, but not all applications will receive detailed feedback.

### Can I know the questions which appear on the application form prior to applying?

Yes. We understand the importance of being prepared. The application form questions will be available to view on the SmartyGrants platform once the grant round opens, allowing you to review the questions and prepare your responses before commencing an application.

# Terms and conditions

## 1. Definitions

In these Terms, the following definitions apply:

- a. **'Applicant'** means an organisation which applies for grant funding under the TasNetworks Community Grants Program.
- b. **'Application'** means an application for grant funding submitted by an Applicant.
- c. **'Community resilience'** means a community's capacity to prepare for, adapt to, and recover from challenges, ensuring sustained strength and well-being.
- d. **'Cost-of-living relief'** means initiatives that provide practical support to help individuals and families meet essential living expenses. This includes programs such as food assistance, financial literacy workshops, and energy-saving initiatives.
- e. **'Eligibility Criteria'** has the meaning given in clause 4 a.
- f. **'Funding Agreement'** has the meaning given in clause 5 e.
- g. **'Guidelines'** means the information contained in the TasNetworks Community Grants Information Pack.
- h. **'Submission Period'** has the meaning given in clause 3 b.
- i. **'TasNetworks'** means Tasmanian Networks Pty Ltd (CAN 176 357 299).
- j. **'TasNetworks Community Grants Program'** means the program administered by TasNetworks whereby financial assistance of up to \$10,000 is provided to eligible Tasmanian organisations for initiatives which meet the Guidelines.
- k. **'Terms'** means these Terms and Conditions of the TasNetworks Community Grants Program.

## 2. Focus areas

Applications will be accepted for projects addressing community resilience and/or cost-of-living pressures for Tasmanians.

Our chosen focus areas are intentionally broad in nature so that Applicants can consider how grant funding may assist with issues present in their community.

## 3. Submission of applications

Participation in the TasNetworks Community Grants Program is subject to these Terms:

- a. The Applicant acknowledges that, in submitting an Application, they agree to be bound by these Terms.
- b. Applications for the TasNetworks Community Grants Program will be open for a period as outlined on the TasNetworks website each year ('Submission Period').
- c. TasNetworks will accept Applications during with the Submission Period and Applications received outside of the Submission Period will not be accepted.
- d. The Applicant warrants that, to the best of their knowledge, all information provided in the Application is correct and is not misleading in any way.
- e. TasNetworks reserves the right to refuse to consider Applications which are incomplete, which lack sufficient detail, or which, in TasNetworks' view, are inconsistent with our vision or role in the community.
- f. Applications must be submitted in the method advised by TasNetworks. TasNetworks reserves the right to refuse applications which are submitted in alternative methods.

## 4. Eligibility

- a. To be eligible to receive funding under the TasNetworks Community Grants Program, the Applicant must be:
  - an incorporated organisation, not-for-profit corporation, or school association, or a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), or an unincorporated organisation that is auspiced by an eligible organisation
  - operating within Tasmania, or delivering activities that directly benefit Tasmanian communities
  - proposing activities that align with one or both of the program's focus areas.
- b. The Applicant warrants that, in submitting the Application, their organisation fits the Eligibility Criteria.
- c. TasNetworks reserves the right to refuse to consider any Application if TasNetworks holds a view that the Applicant does not satisfy the Eligibility Criteria.

## 5. Granting of funds under the TasNetworks Community Grants Program

- a. TasNetworks will only review Applications which comply with these Terms.
- b. TasNetworks' decision to award, or not to award, any Applicant a grant under the TasNetworks Community Grants Program is final and binding on all Applicants.
- c. TasNetworks reserves the right to refuse any Application at their sole discretion.
- d. TasNetworks will notify all Applicants who submit a properly completed applications during the Submission Period of the outcome of their Application as soon as reasonably practicable.
- e. TasNetworks may require a successful Applicant to enter into a formal Funding Agreement with TasNetworks. In any cases where TasNetworks requires such an agreement, the grant funding is subject to entry by the Applicant into a Funding Agreement on terms acceptable to TasNetworks.

## 6. Funding criteria

- a. All Applications will be assessed by an assessment panel against a range of criteria, including:
  - fulfilling community needs in relation to community resilience and cost-of-living pressures
  - proposal clarity and detail
  - project's impact and innovation
  - feasibility and resource allocation
  - community engagement and inclusivity
  - long term community benefits.

## 7. Proper use of funds

If the Applicant is granted funding under the TasNetworks Community Grants Program, the Applicant must use the funds received to further the objectives of the Applicant and in accordance with any representations made within the Application or in any Funding Agreement entered into between TasNetworks and the Applicant.

## 8. Child and youth safety

Where program activities involve children or young people (under 18 years of age), either as participants or as the intended audience, recipients must ensure appropriate measures are in place to support their safety and wellbeing. This includes complying with Tasmania's Child and Youth Safe Standards, as well as all relevant legislation and regulatory requirements in Tasmania.

## 9. Empowering communities

The TasNetworks Community Grants Program aims to empower communities to deliver outcomes that benefit their people. As part of this program, applicants are encouraged to explore partnership opportunities with TasNetworks to enhance their project's impact. This could include working together to deliver emergency preparedness and resilience workshops or installing emergency relief packs in local communities to better equip them for unforeseen challenges.

## 10. Reporting requirements

- a. Grant recipients will be required to provide regular updates on the progress of their project and expenditure of funds.
- b. All grant recipients are required to provide an acquittal on an approved form at the completion of the grant expenditure.



**Freycinet Volunteer Marine Rescue**

Final fitout of a new rescue vessel to keep the east coast safe, with recruitment and training of volunteers.

