

# Neighbourhood Activity Centre Renewal Fund

## FACT SHEET

- The Victorian Government's Neighbourhood Activity Centre Renewal Fund will support the development and improvement of shopping strips as places of local economic activity and community gathering. The Fund will deliver small co-funded community improvement and local business initiatives to drive neighbourhood activity centre renewal, stimulate local business activity and improve public amenity and accessibility close to where people live and work.
- The objectives of the Neighbourhood Activity Centre Renewal Fund are to:
  - Support initiatives in (council designated and planned) neighbourhood activity centres that stimulate local business activity, encourage local businesses to return, when safe to do so, improvements to the public amenity and accessibility of suburban strip shopping areas.
  - Support the implementation of the Victorian Governments 20-minute Neighbourhood policy (particularly supporting projects that demonstrate a similar approach to the [pilot sites](#)) and focus on smaller scale approaches to revitalising suburban centres and be delivered in conjunction with local government, business and community sector stakeholders..
- Neighbourhood Activity Centres for consideration would include locations where:
  - businesses and public amenity have experienced significant losses, or which were already struggling pre-pandemic and could be supported to play a stronger role in economic and social recovery.
  - a significant proportion of local businesses are experiencing economic decline
  - the urban form is not pedestrian friendly or less accessible for people with disabilities
  - public realm and open space are experiencing decline or deterioration
  - local economies and business confidence are declining
  - access or use of community spaces/facilities is limited or unsafe.
- The fund is open to the 32 Local Governments in Metropolitan Melbourne as listed by [Metropolitan Partnership Regions](#) and provides grants up to \$100,000 and priority will be given to projects that are considered investment ready, have a well demonstrated need for government assistance, have a plan in place for the centre, and which deliver a place-based impact. Local Governments will be required to make a co-contribution (financial and/or in-kind) of at least 50 per cent of the grant being sought.
- To apply for the grant, complete an online application form on the Victorian Government's Grant website
- A Ministerial letter will be forwarded to all 32 Local Government CEOs to communicate the opening of the Fund.
- Applicants are encouraged to email [suburbandevlopment@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:suburbandevlopment@ecodev.vic.gov.au) to discuss their initiative and seek eligibility advice. The program formally closes on 21 August 2020. Funding will be paid in instalments and must be completed within one year of the date of signing the Grant Agreement.
- Applicants will be required to meet the objectives of the program and assessment criteria outlined in the Program Guidelines.