



The Support for Organics (SFO) Grant Program aims to grow businesses and create jobs and investment in rural and regional Victoria. The program will encourage innovation and collaboration, and will help regional Victoria's food industry to become more sustainable, globally focused and competitive.

## Support for Organics

The Future Farming Strategy is the Victorian Government's major initiative in the delivery of its services and policies for agriculture. The aim of the strategy is to encourage innovation, increase productivity and competitiveness through the use of new technologies and farming practices.

One of the strategy's actions is designed to assist the Victorian organics sector develop its resilience, further differentiate and substantiate its product, tackle current challenges and capture emerging opportunities.

## Aims of initiative

The SFO program aims to contribute to a more productive, competitive and sustainable organic sector. The grant program will encourage production, consumption and export of Victoria's organic products.

## Eligible project proposals

To be eligible for assistance under the SFO program, the proposed activity must address one or more of the following **program objectives**:

- build the capacity of the organic sector for future growth
- increase awareness of consumers and producers of the organic sector
- provide defensible information and statistics
- foster cohesive industry representation

The proposed activity must also align with at least one or more of the following key **priority actions**:

- develop supply chain/value chain capacity
- raise knowledge and awareness of the organic option
- develop leadership skills
- develop business skills
- demonstrate innovation in products and or processes
- undertake research & development
- encourage exports

Proposals that are eligible for funding must address at least one of the program objectives and one of the key priority actions and must demonstrate a clear benefit to rural and regional Victoria.

Proposals that are eligible for funding will be allocated a higher priority if they:

- maximise funding support from a range of sources
- are ready to be implemented
- relate to the key focus of the Future Farming Strategy – that is contribute to a more productive, competitive and sustainable organic sector; develop its resilience; further differentiate and substantiate its products; tackle current challenges and capture emerging opportunities.



Projects that will generally **not** be eligible for funding are those involving:

- the formation of permanent groups or networks
- tourism focused activity
- individual company marketing material
- requests for retrospective funding, where projects have commenced prior to receiving funding approval
- projects requiring ongoing State Government funding once completed
- projects undertaken by the private sector as a result of Government contractual arrangements or for profit
- projects requiring full funding where funding is normally provided from other State, Commonwealth and/or Local Government sources

## Level of assistance

Level of funding will depend on the proposed activity and the projected outcomes (to be presented in a detailed project proposal).

## Eligible applicants

Applications will generally be accepted from food businesses (including industry organisations), regional development organisations, local government, education and training providers, science and research institutions and State Government agencies.

\* Please note that the program concludes June 2011.

**Further Information and How to Apply, Contact the Program Officer Rowena Cann**

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**Fax: 03 5622 1602**

**Email: rowena.cann@rdv.vic.gov.au**

Or contact one of Regional Development Victoria's Regional Offices in your area for more information and application details.

### Regional Offices

#### Ballarat

48 Sturt Street  
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T 5320 5900  
F 5320 5998

#### Shepparton

3/164 Welsford Street  
Shepparton 3630  
T 5821 1811  
F 5822 2554

#### Bendigo

46 Edward Street  
Bendigo 3550  
T 5442 4100  
F 5442 5452

#### Traralgon

33 Breed Street  
Traralgon 3844  
T 5174 9233  
F 5174 7545

#### Geelong

69 Moorabool Street  
Geelong 3220  
T 5229 0641  
F 5229 9503

#### Wangaratta

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Wangaratta 3677  
T 5721 6988  
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#### Mildura

131 Langtree Avenue  
Mildura 3500  
T 5051 2000  
F 5051 2020

#### Wodonga

6/22 Stanley Street  
Wodonga 3689  
T 02 6056 2166  
F 02 6056 2334

### Metro Offices

#### Dandenong

314A Thomas Street  
Dandenong 3175  
T 9791 5755  
F 9794 5644

#### Vermont

120 Canterbury Road  
Vermont  
T 8872 7444  
F 8872 7445

#### Glenroy

3 Belair Avenue  
Glenroy 3046  
T 9304 4344  
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