

Environmental Grants Program Guidelines

July 2024

What is the Environmental Grants program?

Scenic Rim Regional Council is committed to working in partnership with the community to protect and enhance its unique natural environment.

The Environmental Grants program is an annual Council initiative provided in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*. The program seeks to assist landholders and groups to complete environmental projects which aim to protect and enhance native vegetation and wildlife habitat. Note: concurrent projects are encouraged.

Who is Eligible to apply?

Community and Landcare Groups - groups should preferably be incorporated or sponsored by an incorporated organisation. Projects can be on any land tenure, where a strong public benefit can be demonstrated.

Non-Government Organisations, Not-for-Profit Organisations - organisations need to display a significant public benefit from the project.

Businesses with philanthropic programs - businesses need to display a significant public benefit from the project and provide a minimum of dollar-for-dollar financial contribution.

Pre-Schools, Primary Schools, or Secondary Schools - schools must be located within the Local Government area. Applications must be endorsed by the Principal or Deputy Principal.

Private Property Owners - the property must be located within the Local Government area and involved in Council's Habitat Protection program (e.g. Land for Wildlife).

What funding is available

Grants are available (one project per applicant) up to a maximum of:

- \$10,000 for Private Property Owners (Land for Wildlife) and Schools; and
- \$30,000 for Businesses with philanthropic programs, Non-Government Organisations, Not-for-Profit Organisations, Community and Landcare Groups.

Note: all GST components of your projects will not be funded except for Landcare Groups which are exempt as work will be carried out on Council land.

Examples of projects eligible for funding

- **Improvement to the environment through habitat enhancement and creation.** Project examples:
 - Restore and enhance local and/or regional environmental corridors;
 - Management of Restricted Invasive Plants (priority to weed species of local and national significance are preferred), including the purchase of herbicide, weed suppression matting, equipment hire and/or labour costs;
 - The purchase of planting material such as mulch, soil, fertiliser, regeneration/seed matting, planting aids and plant guards;
 - Costs for contractors to support restoration activities;
 - Soil conservation works, sediment and erosion control including the purchase of erosion control matting, sediment fencing, off stream watering system, log jam constructions, equipment hire, labour costs or fencing of waterways to prevent stock access;

- Establish off-stream watering points for stock, including the purchase of fixed infrastructure such as pumps, pipe, troughs, equipment hire and labour costs.
- **Restoration of habitat for significant and vulnerable species and /or environmental values.** Project examples:
 - Create/restore habitat through revegetation and/or weed control;
 - Nestbox purchase and arborist installation;
 - Management of a threatened process to protect threatened species;
 - Purchase of fauna cameras relating to specific fauna species recovery project. (when assets are no longer required, the asset will be available to other Land for Wildlife members);
 - Management of introduced Invasive Animal (pests) species, including traps and lures. (when assets are no longer required, the asset will be available to other Land for Wildlife members);
 - Fencing to protect significant vegetation and/or exclude pest animals, including purchase of wire, strainer posts, steel pickets, gates, equipment hire and labour costs. Note: wildlife friendly fencing will only be awarded.
- **Long term sustainable outcomes for the environment and community.** Project examples:
 - Fire management activities including the preparation of a fire management plan, labour costs for a planned burn or fire break maintenance and equipment hire.
- **Improved community connection to the environment with stronger environmental awareness.** Project examples:
 - Environmental awareness campaigns.

Note: native tubestock can be obtained through the One Million Trees Program and do not need to be added to your project costs.

Examples of projects not eligible for funding

- Activities and costs that are associated with a previous project or monies spent.
- Activities that are required by law or fall within normal landholder responsibilities such as boundary fencing.
- Purchase of non-fixed, portable equipment such as tools and machinery.
- Depreciation of assets.
- Good and Services Tax associated with the project.
- Construction or maintenance of dams.
- Purchase, hire or leasing of computer hardware, software or vehicles.
- Day to day operating costs to deliver the project (e.g. rent, electricity, telephone, cleaning etc).
- Consumables (e.g. fuel, oil, batteries etc).
- Incidental expenses and personal items.
- Long-term, ongoing or routine maintenance costs.
- Insurance costs.
- Salaries or wages.
- Works that contravene any local, state or Commonwealth legislation or policy.

Note: grants do not support the purchase of assets (except fixed assets such as fencing, fauna cameras, traps and watering points as detailed above). Ineligible assets include mowers, brush-cutters, whipper-snippers, power tools, hand tools etc. However, grants will support funding towards the hiring of such equipment.

When can I apply?

Applications open: Monday 5 August 2024

Applications close: Monday 26 August 2024

Information sessions

Online and in person information sessions are provided to assist with grant applications and a time to ask questions about your projects.

- Tuesday 6 August 12:00-1:00pm online;
- Thursday 8 August 6:30-7:30pm online;

Register your attendance for the online Information Sessions on Environmental Grants - eventbrite.

- In person sessions will be held at Beaudesert, Boonah and Tamborine Mountain. Go to Council's [Environmental Grants Program](#) webpage for more details.

How do I apply?

Applicants must use the online grant application platform known as SmartyGrants.

Applications must be submitted and accompanied by all relevant supporting documentation required for assessment including:

- Map of project site;
- Quote/s from contractor and/or project details;
- Photos (before project);
- In-kind contribution and project costs;
- Letters of support;
- Copy of Public Liability Insurance Certificate of Currency; and
- ABN or complete a Statement by Supplier form.

Please complete the online form on [SmartyGrants](#), which is made available when the grant round opens. **Apply here:** [Environmental Grants Program](#).

When will I be notified of the outcome of my application?

An assessment panel will review all applications and provide a formal recommendation to Council. Council's Biodiversity and Climate Change team will provide notification following Council's formal decision and endorsement. It is anticipated that funds and projects will be finalised by the end of the year.

Other matters to consider when making application

In-kind contribution support includes community/individual hours, GST components of the project, materials and equipment that was used on the project. Volunteer in-kind hours should be costed at \$35/hr.

ABN number if an ABN is not quoted, applicants will be required to complete the Australian Tax Office (ATO) Statement by a Supplier form through the SmartyGrants portal.

Agreement Conditions there are a number of conditions agreed upon when accepting a grant and partnership with Council. Conditions may include funding amounts, timeframes in achieving project milestones and reporting requirements.

Goods and Services Tax all grant payments are paid exclusive of GST regardless of the tax status of the applicant or organisation (except for Landcare Groups operating within the Scenic Rim region). If the applicant is being auspiced, the payment will be made to the auspicing organisation.

Acknowledgement All successful projects will be acknowledged by the Council. You may be asked to assist with media releases regarding your project.

Acquittal / final report submission following the successful completion of your project, applicants must complete a final project report submission form and email to mail@scenicrim.qld.gov.au or upload via the SmartyGrants platform. The report is to include achievements, expenditure, project outcomes and any additional relevant information (e.g. photos (after project), receipts etc).

Note: a final report must be submitted prior to applying for any future grants.

Non-compliance with conditions if misuse of funds is determined, grant funding may need to be returned to Council.

Privacy statement

Scenic Rim Regional Council is collecting your personal information in order to process your request. The information will only be accessed by Scenic Rim Regional Council for Council business related activities. Your information is handled in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009* and will not be given to any other person or agency unless you have given permission or we are required by law.

More information

For more information relating to the Environmental Grants program, contact the Biodiversity and Climate Change team on 07 5540 5111 or alternately email mail@scenicrim.qld.gov.au.