

Overview

Grant amount: **up to \$10,000 (ex GST).**

Landcare Australia's *Habitat Restoration Grants 2017* aim to support the Landcare community's involvement in protecting and enhancing Australia's biodiversity assets¹.

There will be 10 grants available of up to **\$10,000 (excluding GST)** to fund projects that focus on improving biodiversity through the restoration of habitat for Australia's native flora and fauna.

These grants are funded by Landcare Australia's Workplace Giving Program, an initiative that allows individuals to make regular pre-tax donations to Landcare Australia through their employer's payroll system. These generous donations distributed by Landcare Australia offer the Landcare community the opportunity to achieve significant environmental outcomes on the ground.

Key Dates

Applications open:	9am (EST) Monday 20 March 2017
Applications close:	9am (EST) Wednesday 19 April 2017
Successful applicants announced:	Monday 12 June 2017
Funds paid to successful groups:	Monday 19 June 2017
Final report due:	Friday 15 June 2018

Eligibility criteria

The *Landcare Australia Habitat Restoration Grants 2017* program is open to all volunteer-based community groups across Australia that embrace the Landcare ethos. This includes, but is not limited to, Landcare, Farming Systems, Bushcare, Coastcare and "Friends of" groups.

Criteria

- > Projects must directly restore, protect or enhance habitat for Australia's native flora and fauna.

¹ For the purposes of this document an 'asset' is defined as a physical entity we hope to protect, improve or manage better through a proposed project. It could be large or small, degraded or pristine, localised or dispersed. An asset could be single and localized thing (for example, a particular wetland or river), or it could be a collection of smaller assets, such as remnant vegetation on farms in a region. Depending on the project objective, it can be defined as part of a larger asset (e.g. one reach of a river) or the entire larger asset (e.g. the whole river).

This may include addressing one or more of the following threats to the diversity and resilience of ecosystems:

- > habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation
 - > invasive species (pest or plants)
 - > unsustainable use and management of natural resources
 - > changes to the aquatic environment and water flows
 - > changing fire regimes
 - > species/habitats impacted by climate change
- > Project activities and practices must have a sound technical basis with adequate expertise to support the project.
 - > The project outcomes must be monitored and maintained.
 - > The project must be feasible, with a strong probability of success.
 - > Projects must demonstrate value for money.

Other conditions

- > Projects that demonstrate innovation are encouraged.
- > Projects can be conducted on public or private land.
- > Schools and pre-schools are not eligible to receive funding in this program; instead they are invited to apply for Junior Landcare grants as they become available.
- > Groups with project reports still outstanding from previous grants are ineligible for further funding until all reporting requirements are met.
- > Applications that exceed the word limit for each question will not be considered.
- > Only one application per group will be considered.
- > Incomplete and late applications will not be considered.

A guiding framework for conserving our nation's biodiversity over the coming decades is [Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030](#).

The following organisations are ineligible to apply for a *Landcare Australia Habitat Restoration Grant*, however can participate as co-contributors for applications from a Landcare group or similar:

- > Commonwealth statutory authorities
- > State, Territory or Local Governments
- > Not for profits operating at a nationwide level
- > Natural Resource Management organisations
- > Universities
- > Individual landholders

Funded activities

Activities and costs that <u>will</u> be funded	Activities and costs that <u>will not</u> be funded:
Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Materials> Equipment> Obtaining expert advice> Field days, workshops, training or skill development sessions> Conducting monitoring and surveys> Contractor and labour costs (max. 50% of funding requested)> Salary and wage costs (max. 50% of funding requested)> Administration costs (max. 10% of funding requested)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Travel and accommodation> Alcohol> Retrospective activities> Amenity / beautification works

Assessment

The assessment of applications is based on the following criteria:

Assessment Criteria	Application Question
The project clearly addresses issues to significant biodiversity assets through restoration, protection or enhancement.	Project Description

The project has clearly defined goals, outcomes and timelines (e.g. SMART goals).	Project Goals Project Activities Project Outcomes
The project is well researched and appropriately resourced (e.g. volunteer engagement is promoted, adequate technical expertise).	Community Engagement & Collaboration
There are monitoring activities in place to track project progress over time and assess effectiveness of project activities.	Monitoring
There is a commitment to maintain project outcomes.	Maintenance
The project demonstrates value for money.	Budget

Landcare Australia is committed to ensuring that the assessment process for the selection of projects is fair and transparent.

The assessment process undertaken for the *Landcare Australia Habitat Restoration Grants 2017* includes:

- > Stage 1: Eligibility check. Applications that are incomplete or that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be deemed unsuccessful.
- > Stage 2: Initial assessments conducted by internal Grants Team. Applications will be marked against the assessment criteria set out in this document.
- > Stage 3: Shortlist provided to the Landcare Australia Grants Steering Committee for review.
- > Stage 4: Successful and unsuccessful applicants notified by email.

The Landcare Australia Grants Steering Committee consists of:

- > A mix of internal and external experts from the Landcare Australia management team and members of the [Landcare Australia Strategy Forum](#).

Groups that have not received funding from Landcare Australia in the last two years are particularly encouraged to apply.

Conditions of receiving a grant

All funding for the *Landcare Australia Habitat Restoration Grants 2017* will be administered by Landcare Australia.

Successful applicants must:

- > Conduct the project according to the activities and budget for which the funding was approved and received.
- > Provide a progress report and photographs of the project within six months of receiving funds.
- > Provide a final report on outcomes of the project, including how funds were spent, within 12 months of receiving funds.
- > Permit Landcare Australia and partners to use project report and photos for promotional purposes.

How to apply

Groups can apply for the *Landcare Australia Habitat Restoration Grants 2017* on the Landcare Australia Communities Portal. To submit an application:

1. Login or register as a user on the [Landcare Australia Communities Portal](#).
2. Click on '**Landcare Australia Habitat Restoration Grants 2017**'.
3. Click on '**Create an application for this grant**'.
4. If you wish to leave a partially completed application, press '**Save**' and log out. You can log back in and continue to edit your application form until you are ready to submit.
5. To submit your application, select the '**Is application complete?**' checkbox and press '**Save**'.
6. You will receive a confirmation email when your application has been successfully submitted.

For questions about online submissions, please refer to the FAQs tab on the Landcare Australia Communities Portal or email grants@landcareaustralia.com.au.

Successful applications

A Letter of Offer which outlines the conditions of the grant will be emailed to successful groups.

Groups are required to respond to the email within 5 business days confirming that they understand and accept the grant conditions, and then log on to the [Landcare Australia Communities Portal](#) to provide banking details to allow funds transfer.