

### Overview

As part of our efforts to create long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships with our farmers, the Lion Dairy Pride Landcare Grants program supports our direct suppliers and DFMC farmers in growing productivity and profitability, while improving the sustainability performance of their dairy farms.

Lion is pleased to invite applications for funding to support projects addressing one or more of the following three areas:

- > Reducing energy consumption on the dairy farm
- > Improving nutrient management
- > Increasing on-farm biodiversity

### *Reducing energy consumption on the dairy farm*

The price of energy is increasing and accounts for a significant proportion of a dairy farm's total costs. Many dairy farmers have recently undertaken energy efficiency assessments and identified opportunities to increase profitability by reducing costs, while simultaneously reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Every farm is unique and the potential energy savings vary between farms. Across the industry, assessments have found that similar herd sizes have significant variation in energy costs. Investments to reduce energy consumption for cooling milk, milk harvesting and hot water are some of the opportunities for improving energy efficiency.

Energy audits are still available free to farmers in many dairy regions through Dairy Australia's "Smarter energy use on Australian dairy farms" program<sup>1</sup>. Implementing the recommendations from an energy audit provides good direction for a project application in this area. Electricity bills provide simple means of measuring a reduction in energy use. You may wish to also use one of the many agricultural greenhouse gas emissions calculators such as the Dairy Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy<sup>2</sup> (DGAS) to measure reductions in emissions. To learn more about energy consumption, read the Reducing Energy module [on Dairy Pride](#).

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/Animals-feed-and-environment/Milking-cows/Free-energy-assessments-for-your-farm.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> DGAS: <http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com/index.php?id=47>



### **Improving nutrient management**

Adequate nutrition for pastures and fodder crops is essential for profitable dairy farms. Fertiliser, which is a significant operational cost, effluent and manure are the primary sources of nutrients and can contribute to nutrient loss from farms. Farm nutrient loss is costly, and can degrade waterways, groundwater and contribute to greenhouse gases.

The pathways and causes of nutrient loss are well understood, and farmers in recent times have been using tools such as the Farm Nutrient Loss Index and nutrient management plans to simultaneously identify profitability and environmental risks. Interventions to reduce the risk have included nutrient budgeting for differing farm management zones, spreading effluent over large areas with a buffer excluding drainage lines and creeks, controlling drainage from hard standing areas and lanes, and composting wastes.

Many dairy farmers have used tools such as DairySAT<sup>3</sup> and the Farm Nutrient Loss Index<sup>4</sup> (FNLI) to identify opportunities for improving both profitability and environmental management. Both tools provide guidance on reducing risks and increasing profitability. Implementing recommendations from the FNLI or DairySAT can provide strong direction for a project application. For example, the project could reduce the FNLI Risk Ranking and Score, by implementing the recommended management options. Another option might be to shift a current “*Unacceptable practice*” to “*Above industry standard*” as assessed by DairySAT. More detailed advice on keeping nutrients on-farm and utilised for feed production can be found on the dairy Fert\$mart<sup>5</sup> website. Farmers are welcome to suggest other methods, but they should provide a clear and objective rationale for undertaking the project and demonstrating positive change. To learn more about nutrient management, read the Environment module on [Dairy Pride](#).

### **Increasing biodiversity**

Re-establishing biodiversity is one of the key ongoing challenges for Australian farming. Farmers now recognise that some areas of the farm need to be better protected or replanted with native vegetation to support native wildlife and improve overall farm management.

Over recent years, many farmers have revegetated creeks, shelter belts, wildlife corridors and wetlands. Benefits include improved stock health, creation of native wildlife habitat, control of erosion on waterways and slopes, reduced salinity and improved water quality. Many of the remnant areas of our most threatened ecological communities are on farms. Fencing vulnerable habitat areas to

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<sup>3</sup> DairySAT: <http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com/index.php?id=90>

<sup>4</sup> Farm Nutrient Loss Index (<http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com/index.php?id=56>)

<sup>5</sup> <http://fertsmart.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au/dairy-soils-and-fertiliser-manual/chapter-10-keeping-nutrients-on-farm/10-5-minimise-losses/>



exclude stock, control of invasive pests, revegetation with local native species, installing wetlands and repairing eroded slopes or gullies are highly beneficial to farms and the wider community.

Tools such as DairySAT or the Riparian Vegetation Appraisal Tool<sup>6</sup> (RVAT) can be used to demonstrate improvements in projects focussed on biodiversity. Each tool can provide simple recommendations. A grant application could implement a project to achieve “Above industry standard” as assessed by DairySAT or to improve the “Environmental function” ranking for waterways as assessed by the RVAT. Farmers are welcome to suggest an alternative method for measuring change, which may be as simple as reporting the number of trees established in a revegetation project. Details and advice on native revegetation, habitat connectivity and management of waterways can be obtained from your regional Natural Resource Management Group, Catchment Management Authority (Vic), Local Land Services (NSW) and local Landcare groups.

### Project Funding Available

The Lion Dairy Pride Landcare Grants will fund up to **\$10,000 (including GST)** per individual project in one or more of the three priority areas described above.

Total funding available up to \$100,000 (including GST) is available to support successful applications.

### Key Dates

Applications open:	19 December 2016 (5.00pm EST)
Applications close:	13 February 2017 (5.00pm EST)
Assessment:	14 – 27 February 2017
Successful applicants announced:	6 March 2017
Funding agreements offered and executed:	13 – 17 March 2017
Reporting due for nutrient and energy projects:	14 July 2017
Reporting for biodiversity projects	12 February 2018

Applications received after the closing date will be ineligible for assessment.

### Eligibility

Lion and Landcare Australia will consider your application if:

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<sup>6</sup><http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com/uploads/documents/file/Case%20studies/Riparian%20Appraisal%20Tool%5B1%5D.pdf>



- > Your farming business supplies milk directly to Lion or is part of the Dairy Farmers Milk Co-operative
- > You will report the improvement achieved by your project to Lion and Landcare Australia in the specified timeframe
- > You did not receive a Lion Landcare grant in 2015

## How to Apply

Groups can apply for the Lion Dairy Pride Landcare Grants 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 **'Lion Dairy Pride Landcare Grants 2016 /17'**.
3. Click on **'Create Application'**.
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 [help@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:help@landcareaustralia.com.au).

## Assessment Criteria

### Essential Criteria

- > Your project must meet all planning approvals or relevant state EPA guidelines.
- > The activities in your project must be directly related to one or more of the priority funding areas:
  - > Reducing energy consumption on the dairy farm
  - > Improving nutrient management
  - > Increasing biodiversity
- > The improvements proposed by your project must have a sound technical basis. The project must be technically and financially feasible, with a strong probability of success.
- > You must identify how you will objectively measure and be able to report improvements achieved by your project.
- > The budgeted items in your application must be cost-effective and directly related to the activities undertaken in the project.



- > Commitment should be provided to maintain and upgrade infrastructure, on-farm works or revegetation on an ongoing basis.
- > Applicants must complete the Dairy Pride Self-Assessment Tool on the Dairy Pride website in advance of submitting their application. Please click [here](#) to access.

### **Desirable criteria**

- > You may advise whether the project will support broader environmental sustainability objectives, e.g.; water conservation, water quality, waste minimisation, greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- > You may make a financial contribution to your project, however, this is not a mandatory requirement.
- > You may involve others in your project, such as other farmers, local Landcare groups, or the wider community or share information about your project.

Preference will be given to applicants who clearly demonstrate:

- > An objective rationale for why and how their project will result in an improvement
- > How the improvement will be measured once the project is completed

### **Assessment Process**

Lion and Landcare Australia are committed to ensuring that the assessment process for the selection of projects is fair and transparent. The following assessment process will be undertaken:

- > 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 Landcare Australia Grants Team. Applications will be marked against the criteria set out in this document.
- > Stage 3: Shortlist provided to Lion for review.
- > Stage 4: Successful and unsuccessful applicants notified by email.



## Successful Applicants

### Payment

Successful applicants will receive a letter of offer to fund the project as proposed in their original proposal. Funding will be transferred to the applicant's nominated bank account on receipt of a signed acceptance of the offer.

Funded applicants will receive 85% of their total requested funding prior to commencement of the project. The remaining 15% will be transferred upon acceptance of a final report by the due date.

### Reporting

Successful applicants with energy reduction and nutrient management objectives will be required to submit a final report by 14 July 2017.

Successful applicants with a biodiversity objective will be required to submit a final report by 12 February 2018.

The report should include a measure of improvement described in the original application, other results, photos, and grant expenditure. Energy bills demonstrating cost and energy savings to be sent as they are received by supplier (within three months of project completion).

## Conditions of Funding

- > Applicants must directly supply milk to Lion Dairy & Drinks or be a part of the Dairy Farmers Milk Co-operative
- > Applicants must complete the Dairy Pride on line Self-assessment tool: [dairypride.lionco.com](http://dairypride.lionco.com)
- > Funds can be utilised for all, or any parts of the project implementation, infrastructure and communications
- > Funding is provided on a one-off basis and will not include ongoing maintenance. However, refurbishment and upgrading of existing infrastructure and initiatives to deliver better outcomes are eligible
- > Funding must only be allocated to activities detailed in the funding application, unless otherwise agreed
- > Upon request, recipients must provide receipts or other relevant evidence of where expenditure of grant money has been allocated
- > Funding from the Lion Dairy Pride Landcare Grants must not be used for any of the following activities:
  - > Political or religious organisations,



- > Fundraising dinners and events,
  - > Debt reduction activities,
  - > Funding or purchase of vehicles, computers or media equipment
- > Applications must be made via the [Landcare Australia Communities Portal](#)
  - > Recipients must abide by the guidelines set out in the application form, including the reporting of outcomes to Lion and Landcare Australia throughout the duration of the project.
  - > Lion and Landcare Australia reserve the right to refuse any application.
  - > The information requested in the attached application form will be used for assessing your application under the Lion Dairy Pride Landcare Grants program. All information will be maintained according to strict privacy laws under which Lion and Landcare Australia operate.
  - > Recipients must acknowledge the funding from the Lion Dairy Pride Landcare Grants program on all published or promotional material arising from your project.
  - > Recipients must submit high resolution photos and/or video footage of the project
  - > Successful applicants must provide permission to Lion and Landcare Australia for using information about the project, progress updates, your final report, quotes, photos, maps, and video for national promotional purposes, including as part of feature projects on Landcare Australia and Lion websites, media relations campaigns, publications, case studies and all social media.

## Planning Your Application

The following links to case studies on various dairy industry websites can serve as a good reference for applicants while developing their projects.

### *Reduced energy consumption*

- > <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/agriculture-and-food/dairy/energy-in-dairy/economic-analysis-of-technologies-to-reduce-dairy-energy-consumption>
- > <http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com/index.php?id=98>
- > <http://frds.dairyaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/WP1243a-Dohnt-solar.pdf>
- > <http://frds.dairyaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/WP948-Ronalds.pdf>
- > <http://frds.dairyaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/WP646-Brasington.pdf>
- > <http://frds.dairyaustralia.com.au/myregions/queensland/renewable-energy-options-2/>
- > <http://frds.dairyaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/WP648-Seng.pdf>

### *Improved nutrient management*

- > <http://frds.dairyaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/WP1341-Rodwell-Nutrient-Plan.pdf>



- > <http://fertsmart.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/P1.00303-GippsDairy-Managing-Dairy-Effluent.pdf>
- > <http://frds.dairyaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/WP1340-Nutrient-management-case-studies.pdf>
- > [http://fertsmart.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/P1.00304-cradle\\_coast\\_soil\\_nutrient\\_management\\_information\\_oct2010.pdf](http://fertsmart.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/P1.00304-cradle_coast_soil_nutrient_management_information_oct2010.pdf)
- > <http://fertsmart.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/P1.00327-Perry-DBnB-improves-sustainability-v1.pdf>

### **Increased biodiversity**

- > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icyGa1S0JN8>
- > [http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au/wp-content/uploads/CIC-Case-Study\\_Dairy\\_0614\\_FINAL-v2.pdf](http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au/wp-content/uploads/CIC-Case-Study_Dairy_0614_FINAL-v2.pdf)
- > <http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Dairying-the-Green-Way.pdf>
- > <http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au/wp-content/uploads/000725-DFT-Case-Study-TWO.pdf>
- > <http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au/wp-content/uploads/trees-benefit-sale-dairy-farm.pdf>
- > <http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au/wp-content/uploads/share-farming-with-nature.pdf>
- > <http://www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au/downloads/publications/soils-and-landuse/pub-nr-dairy-case-studies.pdf>

### **Assistance**

If you need assistance with your application, please contact your local Lion Farm Services representative. They may be able to refer you to an industry specialist who can recommend equipment to best suit your dairy.

