



Heritage Agreement Grants

Guide 2026–2030



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water

Heritage Agreement Grants Guide

Native Vegetation Heritage Agreements help conserve and protect South Australia's important biodiversity. The South Australian Government recognises the importance of these areas, and the contribution that Heritage Agreement owners make to the state's biodiversity. Accordingly, the government has committed \$6 million in funding to continue the Heritage Agreement Grants program over an additional four years (2026 to 2030).

The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water Emily Bourke and the Native Vegetation Council are pleased to offer the Heritage Agreement Grants program to support Heritage Agreement owners to maintain and care for biodiversity on their properties.

Heritage Agreement Grants webpage

Information, forms and links for the Heritage Agreement Grants are all accessible on the Department for Environment and Water's website.

Access via the website home page:

www.environment.sa.gov.au > Topics > Native vegetation > Funding and support > Heritage Agreement Grant Program

or type this shortened URL into your browser:

bit.ly/HAGrants



Program overview

Who can apply?	People who own land with a Heritage Agreement or a person (like a contractor) working on a property on behalf of a Heritage Agreement owner.
When will the program run?	The program will start in August 2026 and run until June 2030.
What is being offered?	• grants to manage and improve biodiversity • land management advice and site visits for technical support where required • assistance with grant administration • training and networking
What grants are available?	There are three types of grants available: • medium <\$25,000 (GST inclusive) • large between \$25,001 and \$100,000 (GST inclusive) • multi-property <\$200,000 (GST inclusive) Grants can be for: • one-off activities or activities that span multiple years • works on individual Heritage Agreements or works spanning multiple Heritage Agreements
How to apply?	As a first step, submit an expression of interest online (preferred), by phone (08) 8303 9777 or email NVC.haprogram@sa.gov.au. An officer will then contact you to discuss your proposal. Grant applications are to be submitted online via SmartyGrants.



Eligibility details

To be eligible for a Heritage Agreement Grant, you must:

- own a Heritage Agreement or be working on a Heritage Agreement on behalf of the Heritage Agreement owner*
- propose activities to manage or improve biodiversity within your Heritage Agreement
- have not received funding to undertake the same activities from another source or are not required to conduct the same activities through another arrangement, e.g. offsetting or carbon credits
- propose activities that will be completed within the timeframe for this program (i.e. grant activities to be complete by 30 December 2029)
- obtain any necessary permits and approvals to undertake your activities
- have no outstanding matters with the Department for Environment and Water, i.e. no outstanding conditions related to previous funding agreements or acquittals.

Multiple property applications are encouraged

Partnering with your neighbours is a great opportunity to make a landscape scale improvement in biodiversity, particularly if neighbouring Heritage Agreements share similar management issues and can be managed more efficiently using the same contractors. Multi-property applications are intended where two or more properties are located near each other and share similar management issues. If sites are not close together and management activities are different, then an individual application is better suited.

What if I don't have a Heritage Agreement yet?

If you are interested in establishing a new Heritage Agreement to protect biodiversity on your property, the Native Vegetation Council would love to hear from you. You may be eligible for an incentive grant to assist in establishing a new Heritage Agreement. Please contact the Native Vegetation Branch for further information.

What can the grants be used for?

The grant funding is to be used for activities that will manage or improve biodiversity within the Heritage Agreement such as:

- Pest plant and animal control, including over-abundant native species.
- Fencing to exclude stock or other activities that impact biodiversity (includes internal and boundary). The grant can provide funding for a standard six plain wire fence (as outlined in Schedule one of your Heritage Agreement document). If you seek a higher specification fence, you may need to cover the additional cost for the higher standard.
- Revegetation of local native species to enrich disturbed areas.
- Minor assets and equipment (<\$2,000) e.g. spray pack, fencing tools, monitoring cameras.
- Other activities that could be expected to improve biodiversity of the Heritage Agreement.

* If you are applying on behalf of a Heritage Agreement owner or several, your application must include a letter of consent from each Heritage Agreement owner authorising you to manage their grant and grant finances on their behalf. A letter template can be found on the Heritage Agreement Grants webpage.

Grant application process

Prior to starting an application, please submit an expression of interest online. Depending on the region your site is located in, either a Branch Officer or a Landscape Board Officer will be in touch to discuss your site and grant ideas, and help you scope a grant and improve the likelihood of success.

Our Officers are experts in the conservation and restoration of biodiversity. They can provide advice to assist you in understanding your Heritage Agreement and effective activities to improve local biodiversity. This information should form the basis for your grant application through this program.

By submitting an expression of interest, you will be added to the Heritage Agreements contacts list and notified about any training or networking opportunities.

Submit your application online via SmartyGrants

You will need to log in and create an account with SmartyGrants.

The Native Vegetation Branch will run online workshops to teach you how to use SmartyGrants and what to include in your application. Please check the Heritage Agreement Grant webpage for dates and links to the workshops.

You can log in and out of SmartyGrants and edit your application as you go. When you have finished the application, be sure to select 'Submit' and take note of grant timeframes if applicable.

If your application is successful, you will continue to use this SmartyGrants account for your grant reporting and acquittal.

Links to SmartyGrants and application forms can be found on the Heritage Agreement Grants webpage. MS Word or paper versions of the application forms are available to draft your application, but you will need to submit the final application online.

If you're unable to submit your application online, please contact us so we can discuss alternative arrangements.

How much information is needed in the application?

The level of information you include in your application should reflect the complexity and level of funding you are seeking. This will be reflected in the questions in the application forms, which are tailored to different levels of funding.

A **medium grant** will include a basic level of information to describe the activities, effort and justify the funding you are seeking i.e. describe how you determined the costs.

A **large** or **multi-property grant** application will include a higher level of information, clearly describing the activities, methods, location, effort and evidence for funding sought. We strongly recommend you talk to contractors or suppliers and seek quotes for goods or services. However, other forms of evidence or justification for costs may be considered, e.g. a budget spreadsheet detailing cost calculation, photos from catalogues, copies of past paid invoices, or other relevant information.

You will need to attach the following with your application:

- A map showing where the work will occur (e.g. a simple drawing on a Google Maps image).
- Photos showing where activities will occur.
- Evidence or justification for funding you are seeking.
- If working on behalf of a Heritage Agreement owner, or several, please provide a letter of consent from each Heritage Agreement owner.
- If your activity requires approvals or permits, please attach a copy of the relevant document with the application.

Application periods and timeframes

Grant applications will open from 27 August 2026.

The demand for grant funding from Heritage Agreement owners in Green Adelaide and the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board regions is expected to be high. Therefore the below application periods and timings apply to all grants (medium, large and multi-property).

For all other Landscape SA regions, medium value grants can be submitted any time and will be assessed within a few weeks of submission. The applicant will be notified within six weeks of submission.

For large and multi-property grants in all regions, the following application periods and timing apply.

Application period 1	• 7 December 2026 applications close 7pm • late January 2027 applicants notified of outcomes • late February 2027 grant agreements issued and grants activities can commence
Application period 2	• 15 March 2027 applications close 7pm • late April 2027 applicants notified of outcomes • late May 2027 grant agreements issued and grants activities can commence
Application period 3	• 19 July 2027 applications close 7pm • late August 2027 applicants notified of outcomes • late September 2027 grant agreements issued and grant activities can commence

Please note, you may only apply once per Heritage Agreement. You cannot apply each period and will not receive two grants for the same property through this program (2026–2030). Additional application periods may be offered for Heritage Agreement properties that have not previously applied, if funding remains or if further funding becomes available.

Early application encouraged

In areas of high demand, funding for the region may be committed in the first period or two, so you are encouraged to submit your application early.

Grant application assessment

Your grant application will be assessed on:

Conservation outcomes:

- how well the activities will improve habitat for native plants and animals, particularly listed rare or threatened species or vegetation communities where present. A large grant is more likely to be successful if it is likely to achieve an outcome for rare or threatened species or vegetation communities.

Level of benefit to biodiversity:

- the scale of the benefit, with applications showing positive impacts over large areas preferred.

Value for money:

- how well the costs align with standard industry rates and the level of in-kind provided. It is not mandatory to include in-kind contribution, but where it adds to the project value it will be assessed favourably. An in-kind contribution can be financial or your own labour.

Likelihood of success:

- activities must be feasible and the personnel involved should have suitable skills and experience.

The Heritage Agreement Grants program strives to provide grant funding and support equitably across the state. The program is looking to inspire and increase participation in private conservation. In areas of high demand, the funding available may be shared amongst recommended applications and you may not get the level of funding that you applied for. If a funding adjustment is necessary, it will be discussed with you before a grant is offered.



Grant agreement, funding and reporting

Successful applicants will be required to sign a grant agreement to receive the funding. The grant agreement outlines key dates for the grant deliverables and any conditions. The agreement will include:

- a schedule for grant reporting (e.g. describing activities done and expenditure)
- a schedule for payments
- any conditions, for example:
 - that you acknowledge that your project has been funded by the South Australian Government in any media promotions or statements
 - that you return any unspent funds at the end of the project.

The Heritage Agreement Grants program seeks to make documentation as easy as possible. The level of documentation will depend on the value of the grant. For example, reporting for medium grants could be as simple as description of activities undertaken, a few photos, a map where activities were conducted and evidence of payment for goods and services over \$2,000 (GST inclusive) and minor assets. Reporting for larger grants will require a greater level of information on the deliverables and outcomes (informed by monitoring) and copies of paid invoices for goods and services over \$2,000 (GST inclusive) and minor assets.

Payment of medium grants may be provided up front. However, payments for large grants or multi-property grants may be made in stages based on agreed milestones, which will be outlined in your grant agreement.

The program has a set budget each financial year. The timing of your grant funding may be delayed to a financial year where funds are available. We will try to work with you as much as possible to ensure outcomes can be achieved with the funding available.

Completion of grant activities

Grant activities should be planned to be complete by 30 December 2029. The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) is forecasting an El Niño weather pattern which could impact rainfall, temperatures and the ability to undertake some activities such as weed control. In the previous grant program (2023–2026), a high proportion of grantees requested time extensions due to a prolonged dry period in the summer of 2024/25, impacting their ability to complete proposed works. Planning to complete grant activities by December 2029 is designed to give grantees time to account for variations and grant extensions where needed.





Training and support

The Heritage Agreement Grants program is more than just grants. Advice, support and training are provided to help landholders achieve funding and deliver projects with real results for native vegetation and habitat.

Land and biodiversity management advice

Heritage Agreement Officers from the Native Vegetation Branch or a Landscapes Officer from your local Landscapes SA office are experts in land management and restoration of biodiversity. They can provide help to understand the natural values of your Heritage Agreement site and what activities can contribute to improving biodiversity. Where possible, site visits can be arranged to discuss what will work best to manage your site. Information provided by the program officers can help you to develop a grant application that can be applied through this program and others.

Training and workshops

The program will offer a series of online workshops on topics including grant writing, using SmartyGrants, grant reporting and acquittal, working with contractors, property planning and common weed control techniques.

The program is also planning some face-to-face and onsite workshops, to demonstrate weed control techniques and showcase what people have tried on their properties.

Information on the training sessions and workshops will be published on the Heritage Agreement Grants webpage when available. We will also email this information to people who have submitted an eligible expression of interest, and successful grant program recipients.

Please check the Heritage Agreement Grants webpage for dates and links to the workshops. If you need further assistance, please get in touch.

More information

Please contact the Native Vegetation Branch on:

Email: NVC.Haprogram@sa.gov.au

Phone: (08) 8303 9777

Website: bit.ly/HAGrants

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