

# Native Vegetation Council Significant Environmental Benefit Grant

Guide for Applicants

Hills and Fleurieu Revegetation Grant

November 2022



Government  
of South Australia

Department for  
Environment and Water



Native Vegetation Council

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# Instructions

Prior to starting your application, please read these criteria carefully and discuss your proposal with the Native Vegetation Branch by calling 08 8303 9777 or emailing [nvc@sa.gov.au](mailto:nvc@sa.gov.au).

To be considered for a grant, you must ensure you are eligible (see Eligibility Criteria) and are developing a project that is aligned with the Assessment Criteria.

It is important that you read the following documents to assist you to prepare your application:

- This Hills and Fleurieu Revegetation Guide for Applicants
- Hills and Fleurieu Revegetation Grant Application Form

It is also recommended you familiarise yourself with the Policy for a Significant Environmental Benefit (July 2020) requirements.

The above documents are available on the SEB grant webpage:

[www.environment.sa.gov.au/Get\\_Involved/grants-and-funding/native-vegetation-incentives-programs/Significant\\_environmental\\_benefit\\_grants](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Get_Involved/grants-and-funding/native-vegetation-incentives-programs/Significant_environmental_benefit_grants)

# Introduction

## Significant Environmental Benefit

There are circumstances where the Native Vegetation Council (NVC) may consent to the clearance of native vegetation if proposed in accordance with the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (the Act) or *Regulations 2017*. However the NVC may require the proponent to offset the loss of vegetation by providing a [Significant Environmental Benefit](#) (SEB) elsewhere in the region.

To fulfil their SEB obligation the proponent may choose to make a payment into the Native Vegetation Fund, and essentially pay for the SEB that will be produced by someone else on their behalf. The NVC manages the Native Vegetation Fund to provide programs (including grants) that will achieve the SEB required.

## Hills and Fleurieu Revegetation Grant

The purpose of this grant is for the offset of the approved clearance of scattered trees and woodland vegetation in target areas of the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape region, refer Figure 1.

There is a total of \$1,350,000 allocated to this grant round and it may be awarded to one or more applicants. Funding is available for projects that will restore woodland vegetation communities through revegetation and other restoration techniques.

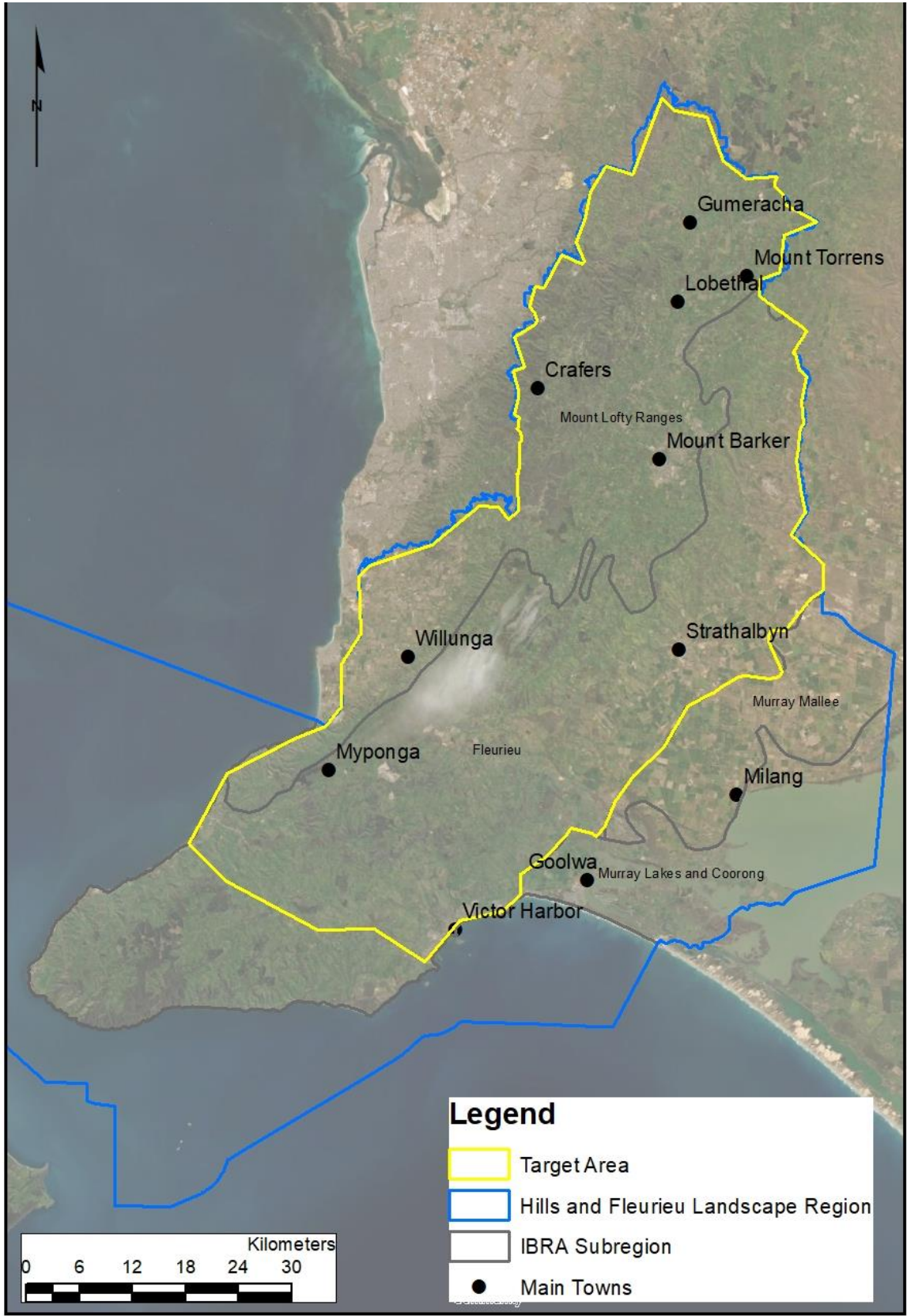
The grant round will open 1 November 2022 and applications are to be submitted to the Native Vegetation Branch (NVB) by 5pm, 21 February 2023. Grants are expected to be awarded in April 2023.

# Outcomes

Applications must improve the extent or condition of woodland vegetation communities in the target area (refer Figure 1) by revegetation and other restoration techniques.



Figure 1 Target Area



# Eligibility Criteria

Applications must meet all eligibility criteria. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be accepted.

Eligibility Criteria	Details
Project Activities and Scale	<p>The proposal must actively improve the extent and / or condition of one or more remnant woodland vegetation communities, example communities may include the following dominant species: Red Gum, Blue Gum, Pink Gum, Candlebark Gum, Rough-barked Manna Gum, Grey Box, Peppermint Box and Sheoaks.</p> <p>The proposal must include revegetation.</p> <p>The proposal must seek to achieve a woodland vegetation community with appropriate density and diversity across all stratum (i.e. to mimic the original pre-European vegetation community at maturity unless otherwise justified).</p> <p>The proposal must restore or improve vegetation condition over an area greater than 10 hectares (i.e. the combined area of revegetation plus any patches of remnant vegetation is &gt;10 ha). If the proposal includes multiple properties or patches, each patch must be greater than 10 hectares.</p> <p>All sites must be at least 30 m wide for at least 90% of their length.</p>
Location	Applications must occur with the eastern and southern flanks of the Mount Lofty Ranges within the Mount Lofty Ranges and Fleurieu IBRA Subregions, as shown in Figure 1.
Land Tenure and Protection	<p>The applicant must be able to protect the land into perpetuity via new Heritage Agreement or equivalent.</p> <p>The eligibility for a new Heritage Agreement is the land must be held under fee simple, or dedicated Crown Land under the care and control of a Council.</p> <p>The land must not be already protected or covered by a conservation covenant e.g. not a National Park, Heritage Agreement, SEB Area or not already dedicated to the purpose of conservation if Crown land.</p> <p>Crown land applicants may need to seek advice from the Crown Lands Branch of DEW prior to applying.</p>
Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting	Successful applicants must provide progress reports based on scheduled milestones. All successful applicants must provide a final (end of project) report that evaluates the outcomes of the grant project.
Timing	The project (including monitoring of outcomes) is to be delivered between five and ten years (depending on scale of project) and commence on award of the grant.
Funding	<p>Restoration of woodland vegetation should account for greater than 85% of the funding sought.</p> <p>Project management, administration and monitoring should account for less than 15% of the funding sought.</p>

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Applicant	<p>The applicant must be the land owner.</p> <p>Where multiple land owners are collaborating on a multiple property project, an organisation can be engaged to manage and deliver the project on behalf of the land owners.</p> <p>If the applicant is registered for GST, this must indicate on the application form.</p> <p>The applicant must have no overdue reports or acquittals from prior NVC grant funding.</p> <p>The applicant must have confidence they can obtain all necessary planning, regulatory and other approvals. Where approvals are required, written evidence will be required.</p> <p>The applicant must submit the application on or before the closing date.</p>
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Funding is not available for the following ineligible criteria:

- Activities for which individuals or bodies have a statutory obligation i.e. plant or animal control that would normally be expected to undertaken under any relevant legislation i.e. *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, unless appropriate justification can be provided
- Activities that have potential to have negative impacts on natural resources
- The purchase of assets and equipment unless appropriate justification can be provided
- Activities within areas that could be subject to future disturbance e.g. easements
- Activities within protected areas e.g. National Parks, Heritage Agreements, SEB Areas

## Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the criteria set out below. The criteria are designed to rank the applications based on project-specific criteria and applicable principles of the Policy for a Significant Environmental Benefit (July 2020).

Assessment Criteria	Details
Area and Location	<p>Applications that restore greater areas of woodland vegetation communities with appropriate density and structure will be weighted higher.</p> <p>Applications that are a part of a larger area of native vegetation or will connect areas of native vegetation will be weighted higher.</p>
Conservation Significance	<p>Applications that support or provide habitat for threatened species or vegetation communities will be weighted higher.</p> <p>Applications that will improve the extent of vegetation in low remnancy (&lt;10%) IBRA associations will be weighted higher.</p>
Methods and Feasibility	<p>Activities must be feasible and based on the available scientific data and knowledge.</p> <p>The projects risks are adequately assessed and managed.</p>

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	The applicant has any necessary approvals or can demonstrate they are able to attain necessary approvals, e.g. scientific permits
Additionality	The project provides new works, additional to what is required by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• duty of care</li><li>• any other environmental and planning legislation at any level of government, and</li><li>• any other grant-funded responsibilities.</li></ul>
Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting	The process to measure and evaluate the success of the project is realistic and feasible.
Applicant Capability, Experience and Capacity	<p>The application demonstrates processes to ensure good project management, governance and procurement.</p> <p>The applicant has experience in successful delivery of projects of a similar type and scale.</p> <p>The applicant has capacity to deliver within suitably nominated project timeframes (a schedule with nominated resources is to be provided).</p>
Value for Money	<p>Budget items are reasonable and relevant to project activities, and apply to only eligible activities.</p> <p>Amount of grant funding sought does not exceed the total pool of funding available.</p> <p>The budget is proportioned appropriately between administration, restoration works and monitoring as per eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Targets and funding details for longer term projects are provided with a breakdown based upon financial years.</p>
In-kind Contribution	Applications that demonstrate in-kind contributions will be weighted higher.
Management Commitments	Applications that provide a long-term management commitment or are part of a long-term project will be weighted higher.

## How to Apply

Applications should be prepared on the Application Form and must be lodged during the NVC Hills and Fleurieu Revegetation Grant application period, from 1 November 2022 to 21 February 2023.

Send a signed electronic copy (preferred) or hardcopy of the application to Coordinator SEB Program via:

Email: [nvc@sa.gov.au](mailto:nvc@sa.gov.au) or

Mail: Native Vegetation Branch, GPO Box 1047, ADELAIDE, SA, 5001

Mailed applications must be post marked on or before the closing date, and email submissions must be received on or before the closing date. Late applications will be considered ineligible.

All applications received will be acknowledged within two business days of receipt.

Noting applications for funding will simultaneously be considered as applications for the proposal for revegetation of land under Section 23F of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*.

## Assessment Process

Once the application period closes, the applications will be screened to ensure they match the eligibility criteria. Ineligible or incomplete applications will be rejected and applicants notified.

Eligible applications will be assessed by a panel comprising: Panel Chair - Coordinator SEB Program (DEW), SEB Native Vegetation Officer (DEW) and may involve an independent member. Advice will be sought from a Science representative (DEW).

Eligible applications will be assessed against the Assessment Criteria.

Based on the panel assessment, the Chair will prepare a recommendation to the Native Vegetation Council or delegate, who will make a final determination regarding successful and unsuccessful applications. The determination is expected to occur early April 2023.

All applicants will be notified in writing if they are successful or unsuccessful in a timely manner.

## Conditions of Funding

There are conditions associated with receiving grant funding. The most significant requirements are outlined below. Please read carefully before submitting your application.

### Conditions of Approval

If your application is successful and you are offered funding, you will be required to agree to the conditions associated with the funding and the Revegetation Proposal will be registered on the Title of the land. The conditions will relate to schedule for project delivery, achievement of expected outcomes, reporting and payment. It is recommended that you fully review and consider the conditions prior to accepting the funding. Changes to the conditions of approval are generally not permitted. Failure to meet the conditions of approval may result in requirements to repay funds or the NVC withholding funds. To review a draft version of the standard condition, please contact the Native Vegetation Branch.

The NVC may not offer you the full amount of funding requested or may impose general or special conditions of the funding. The NVC will contact you to discuss any special conditions that must be fulfilled prior to awarding the grant.

### Heritage Agreement

If your application is successful, you will be required to enter into a Heritage Agreement to protect the site in perpetuity. A standard Heritage Agreement template is available to view.

### Payments and Reporting

Payments will be made in accordance with milestones as specified in the conditions of approval. Payments are dependent on receipt and approval of satisfactory progress reports. Requirements of progress reports will be stipulated in the conditions of approval and include financial reporting.

### Project Completion Report

The grant recipient will be required to prepare a project completion report that can be made available to the public via the NVC website. The project completion reports shall be in electronic format, preferably as a single PDF file, or at least in a format that is able to be read by widely available software. If the project completion report contains information that is intended for research publication, the NVC may in its discretion, agree to withhold publication of the project completion reports on its website or otherwise for a period of up to 2 years.



## Publicity

All projects funded in full or in part must acknowledge the NVC in all publications and promotional activities including electronic media.

You must prominently acknowledge the NVC's assistance in your final report and all publications and promotional material relating to the project with the NVC's logo and using the following statement:

*'This project has been assisted by the Native Vegetation Council through a Significant Environmental Benefit, Revegetation Grant.'*

The consistent presentation of the NVC brand is important to build recognition and reinforce the work the NVC is assisting. The NVC logo must only be used by grant recipients for funded projects and prior to use, you should first seek approval of the NVC.

## Insurance

The applicant receiving a grant is required to assess and consider the risks and scope of insurance required under the project agreement. Necessary insurance arrangements are the responsibility of the applicant.

## More information

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Native Vegetation Branch

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Published by the Department for Environment and Water.  
Government of South Australia  
November 2022

Telephone +61 (8) 303 9777

ABN 36702093234

Prepared by:

Department for Environment and Water

Native Vegetation Branch

Environment, Heritage and Sustainability Directorate

[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)



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