



# Applications for financial assistance

February 2023

Native Vegetation Council Guideline for Section 24(3) of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*

## **BACKGROUND & ELIGIBILITY**

The *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (the Act) allows for land owners to apply to the Native Vegetation Council (NVC) for financial or other assistance in the following circumstances:

- Where the land is subject to a Heritage Agreement and the assistance is for the following purposes
  - managing the land, native vegetation on the land or any animals living on or visiting the land
  - preserving or enhancing native vegetation on the land
  - establishing native vegetation on the land
  - undertaking research in relation to the preservation, enhancement or management of native vegetation on the land or of animals living on or visiting the land
- Where there is an approved revegetation proposal under Section 23F of the Act and the assistance is for the purpose of establishing native vegetation on the land in accordance with the proposal. Section 23F requires that revegetation of land is with one or more plant species indigenous to the local area that will be representative of a naturally occurring plant community.

Any financial assistance granted by the NVC in relation to these provisions of the Act is paid from the Native Vegetation Fund.

Applicants must be the owner of the land or by someone authorized to act on their behalf.

## **PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDELINE**

Applications for assistance must be in a manner and form approved by the NVC and must be based on Guidelines approved by the NVC.

The purpose of this Guideline is to set out the matters that must be addressed in an application for funding and the matters that the NVC will consider when determining if funding should be granted.

## **INFORMATION REQUIRED IN AN APPLICATION**

The following is a summary of what needs to be provided with an application for financial or other assistance in association with a Heritage Agreement or an approved revegetation proposal.

The amount of information provided should be proportional to the scale of the assistance being applied for. Sufficient information should be provided to ensure that the application can be properly considered and assessed. This information may be prepared by the land owner or their authorised representative.

Information to be provided must include the following:

### **1. Background details**

- The Heritage Agreement Number or Revegetation Approval Reference Number for which the application relates
- Contact details of the applicant
- Property details (parcel reference) of the land
- Details of any existing funding, contractual or legislative obligations that are associated with the proposal

### **2. Native Vegetation information**

- Brief description of the current condition of the vegetation, any conservation values that are present and known (e.g. threatened species or vegetation communities) and the threats and issues needing to be managed (e.g. weeds, pests, stock incursions or lack of regeneration)
- Details of the need for the proposed management intervention(s) and the expected biodiversity outcomes

### **3. Proposed management actions**

Details of the actions which are proposed to be undertaken, the amount of funding or other support being requested and any in kind contribution to be provided. In relation to certain activities, the following information should be provided

- Fencing – the type and standard of fencing, what it is proposed to control, the location, length and cost per kilometer
- Revegetation – the species to be established, the method of establishment, the proposed vegetation community being established and the proposed density of plants being established
- Weed and pest control – the species being controlled, the method to be utilised and any follow up management actions to prevent or limit the weed or pest or other weeds or pests from re-occupying the land
- Other ecological restoration activities, such as ecological burning – size of the area to be burnt, proposed date of the burn, ecological objective, pre-burn weed control, post-burn weed control and who will manage and conduct the burn.

For any application, the following information is to be provided

- The specific activities for which funding is being sought and an estimate of the cost
- A schedule of works in which the actions are to be completed
- A map showing the location of the works to be undertaken

One or more quotes may be required by the NVC to verify costs associated with proposed management actions.

#### **4. Monitoring requirements**

The monitoring that will be conducted to enable an evaluation of the actions taken and outcomes achieved. As a minimum, photo point monitoring should be conducted, with quantitative vegetation assessments to be considered for more significant proposals.

Any monitoring programs should facilitate an adaptive management approach to allow for changes to be made in response to outcomes.

#### **5. Management Plan**

If the NVC considers that a proposal involves one or more of the following:

- a substantial amount of funding,
- activities that are multi-faceted, unconventional or occur over multiple years,
- involve a moderate to high risk of failure,

the NVC may request that a Management Plan be developed to provide greater detail for the implementation of the proposal, and include risk management and mitigation strategies, expected outcomes and monitoring and reporting requirements.

### **NVC CONSIDERATION**

When making a decision in relation to an application for funding, the NVC will consider and apply as relevant, the following, along with any other matters that it may consider are relevant:

- If the proposal provides adequate biodiversity conservation benefit, with particular regard to the impacts on threatened flora, fauna or vegetation communities
- If the proposal provides long term and sustainable conservation benefits
- In relation to approved Revegetation proposals, if the revegetation will be sufficiently protected to prevent potential impacts from matters such as, but not limited to, stock grazing, inappropriate land use or fire management and protection requirements
- If the proposal seeks to be resilient to or adaptive to the effects of climate change
- If the proposal represents value for money with regard to the scale of biodiversity benefits that are expected to be achieved
- If the proposal complies with the NVC's endorsed Heritage Agreement policy or any other relevant policy that has been developed and endorsed by the NVC from time to time
- If the control of pest plants and animals, including decommissioning of water points, has been undertaken to maintain the Heritage Agreement
- If the proposal seeks to undertake works to change the land from its current use (i.e. grazing) to conservation
- If the proposal seeks to undertake significant biodiversity improvements to assist in the long term management and sustainability of the site
- If the proposal provides for connectivity within the landscape and for the movement of native animals.
- Where the money being granted from the Native Vegetation Fund was paid into the Fund in association with the clearance of native vegetation, whether the proposal complies with the NVC's Policy for a Significant Environmental Benefit

### **APPROVAL**

Any approval may be subject to conditions as determined by the NVC.

The NVC may elect to provide funding in full or in stages and the release of funds may be subject to the successful completion of specified milestones.

The contravention or failure to comply with conditions of approval or failure to use the granted money for approved purpose within a reasonable timeframe may result in the NVC requiring money to be repaid in part or in full, or future instalments not being paid.

## Reporting requirements after approval

- The NVC may require reporting in relation to both the activities undertaken, expenditure of money and the subsequent outcomes that have been achieved. The reporting requirements will be detailed in the decision approving the granting of assistance.

## USEFUL REFERENCE SITES

Department for Environment and Water - [www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)

Native Vegetation - [www.environment.sa.gov.au/nativevegetation](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/nativevegetation)

Heritage Agreements - <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/protecting-enhancing>

## LODGING AN APPLICATION

**The application, together with supporting information, should be:**

**Posted to:** Native Vegetation Council, GPO Box 1047,  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

**Emailed to:** [nvc@sa.gov.au](mailto:nvc@sa.gov.au)

## For more information

**Native Vegetation Branch**

Department of Environment and Water

**T** (08) 8303 9777

**E** [nvc@sa.gov.au](mailto:nvc@sa.gov.au)

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