



Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board

Cummins Wanilla Basin Infrastructure

Upgrade Grants

Guidelines for applicants

Priority infrastructure upgrade funding is provided by the Cummins Wanilla Basin Streamcare Group in partnership with the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board (the Board) through funding made available by the South Australian Government's *Regional Growth Fund*.

Funding is now available for projects valued greater than \$2,000 and less than \$30,000 (GST exclusive).

Funding will be awarded to projects that meet all requirements for a valid application. The Board expects to fund a range of projects concerning drainage infrastructure and maintenance issues across the Cummins Wanilla Basin.

Funding will be awarded on merit to those projects that demonstrate delivery towards ongoing management of drainage infrastructure. Applications will be assessed against standard eligibility and assessment criteria outlined below.

1. Introduction

The Cummins Wanilla Basin (CWB) contains a vast network of surface water and groundwater drainage channel systems that have been developed over many decades to support agricultural production and address issues such as dryland salinity, waterlogging, erosion and sedimentation.

The drainage channel systems are not only pivotal to agriculture production; they support a significant amount of habitat and biodiversity. The channels connect up wetlands and other water dependent ecosystems including Coffin Bay, which in turn supports a thriving aquaculture and fishing industry.

To support current drainage infrastructure required to maintain the function of the catchment, improve hydrology for the purpose of supporting agricultural production and address issues such as dryland salinity, waterlogging, erosion and sedimentation, grant funding has been made available through the *Regional Growth Fund* for eligible landholders, land managers, and Councils.

Round three funding is now open and, project proposals can be submitted up until **COB February 17, 2023**. On-ground works must be completed before May 19, 2023. Applicants are encouraged to submit their proposals as early as possible to avoid missing out.

2. Eligibility criteria

The following eligibility criteria will need to be met. The applicant will need to:

- Be an individual, community organisation, council, farming systems group or other body working at the local level and based within the Cummins Wanilla Basin on lower Eyre Peninsula.
- Be undertaking activities that will achieve improvements by upgrade and maintain existing drainage infrastructure at a local level.
- Be able to demonstrate skills and resources to complete the works and be contributing at least 50% of the total cost of the project.
- Be a legal entity or be sponsored by a legal entity.
- Ensure that proposed project activities are not a component of any other funding agreement.
- Ensure that written approval for any works undertaken on land owned by another person/entity other than the applicant, is attached to the application.
- Be undertaking project activities within the Cummins Wanilla Basin of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board region.
- Submit a project proposal that is aligned with the priorities outlined below.
- Gain a water affecting activity permit, where required prior to commencing works.

3. Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board Priorities

Eligible projects will contribute to one or more of the priorities of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board as outlined in the ***Cummins Wanilla Drainage Management Plan Report 2020*** including:

- Sustaining land and water resources, reducing further deterioration in salinity and waterlogging, and where possible, restoring land and water quality.
- Upgrading or maintaining existing drainage infrastructure.
- Conserving natural diversity, protecting remaining natural areas, and restoring a representative range of natural environments on a regional scale through improved land management and farming.
- Reducing economic and financial losses to the individual, the community and the state, in terms of agricultural production, water quality downstream in the catchment (with particular attention to the oyster industry in coffin bay), water resources, environmental values and infrastructure.
- Reducing negative impacts on landowners across the catchment.
- Providing support for new economic activity that would not otherwise occur.
- Be sustainable without further intervention by government after the funding has been provided.
- Contributing to the scale of an industry or sector, and have a connection to and vested interest in a specific regional community.

Successful projects must meet one or more of the priorities identified above. The Board's full *Cummins Wanilla Drainage Management Plan Report* can be found on the Board's grant web page at: <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep/get-involved/grants-and-funding>

4. Funding

Funding will be offered to individuals, volunteers, community organisations and other bodies working at the local level on a not-for-profit project, on the following basis:

- Payment will be made upon completion of the project.
- Successful projects will be expected to acknowledge the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board, the Cummins Wanilla Basin Streamcare Group and *Regional Growth Fund* in their promotions and publications. Logos and branding information will be supplied.
- Funding will not be provided for projects that have already commenced.

5. Eligible expenditure

Only expenditure incurred by the funding recipient, directly attributable to the approved project, will be considered eligible expenditure.

Eligible expenditure must be incurred on or before the project completion date.

Funding is provided strictly to support the project and its core activities as per the grant application and any approved variations.

Eligible expenditure cannot be incurred before the grant agreement has been signed by both parties.

For the purpose of assessing a project proposal, ineligible activities and items include but are not limited to:

- Projects outside of the Cummins Wanilla Basin Catchment.
- Establishment of reticulated water supplies or storage (i.e. dam building, replacing water pipes or other reticulated stock or domestic infrastructure).
- Activities that have not received water affecting activities permit approvals or other permits or permissions that may be required.
- Activities causing or with the potential to cause environmental damage, either directly or indirectly.
- Preparation of the original grant application.
- Works that will not contribute to addressing priorities outlined in the *Cummins Wanilla Drainage Management Plan Report 2020*.
- New drainage systems.

This list is not exhaustive. Other activities or specific expenditure may be ineligible where the Board decides they do not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes of the project or that they are contrary to the spirit and intention of the funding.

6. How will your project submission be assessed?

Project proposals will be assessed against how well they answer the following questions:

- a. How does this project meet one or more of the Board's investment priorities, as identified in section 3?
- b. How does the project deliver good value for money?
- c. Does the project have required water affecting activity permit approval or other authorisations?
- d. How does the project benefit the wider catchment and contribute to the overall aims of the *Cummins Wanilla Drainage Management Plan Report 2020*?

- e. If relevant, does the project have information on how it will be supported after grant funding has expired?
- f. Is appropriate and sufficient supporting documentation attached to the application?
- g. Does the project address one or more of the following criteria?
 - i. Improvements in waterlogging or salinity – this includes the likelihood of success of the work in resolving waterlogging and salinity problems, and whether the work will benefit land at property or catchment level. It should also include an estimation of the anticipated increase in productivity.
 - ii. Reducing economic and financial losses to the individual, the community and the state, in terms of agricultural production, water quality downstream in the catchment water resources, environmental values and infrastructure.
 - iii. Building resilience in the farming landscape and opportunities for production systems to adapt to climate change.
 - iv. Collaborative projects with neighbours, community groups and or council is favourable. Similar works may need to occur over property boundaries or within local communities, and collaborative works are more likely to have catchment-level benefits.

7. Application for funding and project delivery

Stage 1

It is strongly recommended that applicants discuss their project ideas with the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board's Water Resources Officer (listed below in Section 8) prior to completing an application. This will assist to address the priorities of both the applicant and the Board, identify opportunities for establishing partnerships, and ensure that appropriate consideration of requirements for **water affecting activities** permits or other approvals.

Stage 2

Once a project scope has been developed, the applicant will submit an application for assessment.

Applications must be submitted via email to david.cunningham2@sa.gov.au

The closing date for Round 3 applications will be **5pm on February 17, 2023**, or when grant funding has been exhausted.

Stage 3

Projects will be assessed against a set of pre-determined criteria by a panel including Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board staff and Cummins Wanilla Streamcare Group representation.

Stage 4

Once projects are assessed, applicants will be notified of a successful application, which will include the provision of a Grant Agreement. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified. If the grant is successful, the grant agreement must be signed by both parties before any work is commenced. Grant funding will be provided upon receipt of a compliant Tax Invoice. These details will be included in the Grant Agreement.

Stage 5

Project implementation will commence, and proceed against the agreed deliverables and any conditions outlined in the grant agreement.

Grantees will be encouraged to invite Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board staff and the Cummins Wanilla Streamcare Groups to their activities to build relationships and document projects for promotion and engagement with the wider community.

Stage 6

The project must be completed, reported on and acquitted by the date stated in the Grant Agreement (refer stage 4).

8. Consultation on project submissions and further information

Please ensure that you consult with the Board's Water Resources Officer (contact details below), to ensure that your project outcomes are aligned with the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board's priorities.

Position	Contact
Water Resources Officer	David Cunningham David.cunningham2@sa.gov.au Phone – 0428 815 487