



Kangaroo Island **GRASSROOTS GRANTS**

2026-27 GUIDELINES

Local funding for local projects



KI Grassroots Grants

The Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Grassroots Grants support the Kangaroo Island (KI) community to undertake local projects to help improve the health of Kangaroo Island’s landscapes and/or connect people to KI’s landscapes. Individual landholders, volunteers, schools, community organisations, First Nations and not-for-profit groups working locally, can apply.

The grants are supported through the regional Landscape Levy and the Government of South Australia’s annual allocation for the KI Landscape Board (the Board).

Acknowledgement of Country

The Ngarrindjeri, Kurna and Narungga Nations are the traditional owners of Kangaroo Island, connected to its lands and waters via ancient storylines and ancestral occupation. The three Nations acknowledge and respect the interests that each group hold to Kangaroo Island, including their storylines, spiritual and cultural connections, and histories. The three Nations work together to protect and preserve the cultural values of the Island for current and future generations. The three Nations also acknowledge the interests of other Aboriginal groups who have historic connections to the Island. The Kangaroo Island Landscape Board acknowledge the deep, ongoing spiritual connection that Ngarrindjeri, Kurna and Narungga Nations hold to Kangaroo Island, and commit to working together to protect and preserve the cultural values of the Island for current and future generations.

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The principles of the Kangaroo Island Grassroots Grants

1. **Community connection** — KI Grassroots Grants are an effective method for the KI Landscape Board to connect with and support the KI community.
2. **Strategic alignment** — Projects must contribute to and align with the KI Landscape Plan, with tangible benefits to Kangaroo Island’s community, biodiversity, economy and water quality and supply.
3. **Community engagement and participation** — Grants should support projects that actively involve the community, fostering local stewardship, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration to build environmental awareness and action.
4. **Capacity building and knowledge sharing** — Projects should enhance the skills, knowledge, and capacity of individuals and groups to continue environmental stewardship beyond the funding period.
5. **Return on investment and co-contribution** — Projects should deliver a return on investment by generating environmental, community and social benefits. Applicants are expected to demonstrate their commitment through financial, in-kind or volunteer co-contributions to ensure shared responsibility and long-term sustainability.
6. **Value for money** — Funded projects must be value for money.
7. **Transparency and accountability** — Funded projects must have clear objectives, realistic budgets, and measurable outcomes, with reporting to ensure accountability and improvement.
8. **Innovation and best practice** — Projects will be supported that either use best-practice environmental management techniques, or trial innovative practices that apply scientific or traditional ecological knowledge to maximise the effectiveness of outcomes.
9. **Equity and accessibility** — KI Grassroots Grants are accessible to all community-based organisations, volunteer groups and individuals who work at a local level on Kangaroo Island, and that funding is allocated fairly to support a wide range of initiatives.
10. **Partnerships and collaboration** — KI Grassroots Grants encourage partnerships between community groups, businesses, traditional owners, and government agencies to leverage resources, expertise, and networks for greater impact.



Key dates



Who can apply?

Applicants must either be a legal entity (e.g. an incorporated association, individual, partnership, corporation/company) or be sponsored by a legal entity. If a sponsor is used, the sponsor will enter into the grant agreement and be responsible for managing the funding on the applicant's behalf.

If the applicant is not a resident or ratepayer on Kangaroo Island, they must provide a letter of support from a Kangaroo Island organisation stating how their project will directly benefit the Kangaroo Island community, or an invitation from a KI-based organisation to undertake a project on behalf of the community.

Special consideration will be given to projects that engage with First Nations people. For projects which include First Nations involvement or outcomes, applications should demonstrate that the relevant Nation has been consulted prior to grant submission, involved in the project design and agreed to participate in the project.

Please note:

- The project must be located on Kangaroo Island.
- Applicants can submit more than one application.
- Successful applications will be determined based on merit selection.
- Successful applicants from previous Grassroots Grants will be eligible to apply, however new applicants may be prioritised.
- Applicants with overdue or outstanding progress or final reports from previous Grassroots Grants rounds will not be funded, unless you have an approved variation.

Is an ABN required?

Applicants that do not have an ABN can be sponsored by an entity with an ABN, or they can provide a completed *Statement by Supplier* form. Contact the KI Landscape Board for more information.

When would a sponsor be needed?

If you are not a legal entity e.g. a group of neighbouring landholders banding together for pest management activities, you will need someone, a person or organisation, to be responsible for receiving and managing grant funding and completing reporting. For example, this could be the local council, or an individual. A sponsor's letter is required as part of your application if you are using a sponsor.

How to apply

Applications are submitted on-line using SmartyGrants via this link:

<https://landscape.smartygrants.com.au/KIGrassrootsGrants2026>

If you need help filling out your application form on-line please contact the KI Landscape Board.

When are applications due?

Applications are due by 5 pm ACDT on 5 May 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

How much funding can be applied for?

The total amount of funding available in the program for 2026-27 is \$62,000. Applicants can apply for between \$1,000 and \$8,000 (+ GST) for their project.

What will the Grassroots Grants fund?

Projects must contribute to one or more of the Board's regional priorities and focus areas outlined in the draft [Kangaroo Island Landscape Plan 2026-31](#) (detailed in Figure 1 on page 6).

Figure 1.

Regional priorities and focus areas of the KI Landscape Board

Working together for healthy land and sea					
VISION REGIONAL PRIORITIES					
	EMPOWER COMMUNITY	SUSTAIN BIODIVERSITY	FOSTER HEALTHY LAND & WATER	MANAGE PESTS	MANAGE CLIMATE RISKS
	Islanders connect, share knowledge and work together	Our biodiversity is flourishing, in the bush, farms, waters and oceans	Fertile soil and fresh water for life and productivity	An island haven for biodiversity and productive agriculture	Resilient communities, farms and nature
FOCUS AREAS	Broaden and strengthen partnerships	Protect, restore and connect native vegetation	Safeguard equitable water supplies	Eradicate feral cats	Prepare for a hotter, drier climate
	Share knowledge and build capability	Protect and enhance threatened animal populations	Improve water quality in catchments	Limit extent and impact of declared weeds	Strengthen disaster preparedness and recovery
	Enable Islanders to manage landscapes	Strengthen marine, estuarine and coastal resilience	Protect and enhance soil health	Limit impact of declared pest animals and overabundant native animals	Enable the transition to low carbon
				Enhance biosecurity	



Eligible activities

Some examples of eligible activities include, but are not limited to, those outlined below. You will need to put what you plan to achieve for each activity in your application as a quantified amount. For example, for fencing to protect native vegetation you will need to specify the length of fencing to be constructed and the area of native vegetation being protected. You do not have to include every type of activity listed below in your project. Just make clear which activities apply to your project in your application.

Please contact us if you have any other ideas that you think might fit.

Please visit our website to see what the KI Grassroots Grants have funded in the past.

See: www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/community-connections/funding/kangaroo-island-grassroots-grants/kangaroo-island-grassroots-grants-recipients

Type of project	Examples of activities	Information you'll need
 Revegetation	- Tubestock planting - Plant guards	- Total area revegetation (ha) - Number of plants (tubestock) <i>Note: revegetation includes the restoration of native habitat for conservation, shelterbelt or windbreak purposes.</i>
 Seed collection & propagation	- Collecting seeds/cuttings - Propagating seeds/cuttings	- Number of plants to be propagated - Number of species to be collected/propagated
 Controlling access	Fencing to protect native vegetation including watercourses, wetlands, shelterbelts, windbreaks	- Length of fencing and watercourse (km) - Area to be protected by fencing (ha)
 Habitat creation/enhancement	Installation of nesting boxes	Number of structures to be installed
 Erosion management	- Building stock crossings - Moving stock watering points from creeks and rivers	- Number of stock crossings to be built - Number of stock watering points to be moved

Type of project

Examples of activities

Information you'll need to measure your activities

 Sustainable agriculture	• Soil monitoring and improvement • Establishing perennial pastures • Integrated pest management (IPM) <i>Note: On-ground agricultural activities need to demonstrate new and innovative techniques with good in-kind contributions.</i>	• Methods and total area soil improvement (ha) • Species of pasture and total area for planting (ha) • Type of IPM and area for treatment (ha)
 Community engagement	• Conference/seminar presentation • Workshop/field day • Cultural awareness activity with First Nations group	• Number of events/activities • Number of attendees
 Education activities	• Bush kindy • School excursion, activity, experiment, project etc.	• Number of activities • Type of activities • Name of school/kindy • Number of students • Year level of students
 Communication materials	• Signage • Brochures • App development	• Number of educational/promotional materials to be produced and distributed
 Controlling weeds	• Control of declared weeds across neighbouring properties • Control of outlying or emerging declared weeds	• Total area of control (ha) • Weed species for control • Number of landholders working together



Ineligible activities

- Projects, works or activities already funded by existing or future insurance claims
- Activities that are causing or likely to cause environmental damage, either directly or indirectly
- Property boundary fencing
- Landscaping and amenity-enhancing projects
- Projects seeking funds only for weed control on private property, where this is a basic landholder responsibility. Weed control will only be considered eligible where control is of a regionally significant outlier population, or several landholders have applied together to control a weed across multiple properties, or weed control is part of a package of activities associated with habitat restoration, revegetation or supported natural regeneration of native plant species at the site.
- Preparation of the grant application
- Purchase of machinery, plant, and equipment that is not clearly outlined in the Project budget table in the application form
- Activities that occurred before the grant began
- Project management and administration costs of the applicant which are not related to the project and do not appear in the Project budget table in the application form
- Routine administration expenses including but not limited to accommodation, office computing facilities, legal and accounting fees and bank charges
- Existing debts or shortfalls
- Marketing and promotion of the organisation or existing services (unless directly associated with the project and educational in nature)
- Activities that are unlawful.

Note: Other activities or spending may be ineligible where they do not directly support the goals of the grants program, or where it is contrary to the spirit and intention of the grant funding. If you are unsure about the eligibility of your proposed project or activities, please contact the KI Landscape Board via the contact at the end of these guidelines.

Where can projects take place?

Projects must be undertaken on Kangaroo Island.

When can projects start and finish?

Projects can start on 1 July 2026 and must be completed by 30 June 2027. However, if a project contains revegetation activities the completion date can be extended until 30 September 2027. Projects must be undertaken within this timeframe but do not have to occur across the whole timeframe e.g. the project may run from October 2026 to March 2027.

Variations

If the project cannot be completed, or applicants need to change the activities they are funded for, they will need to request a formal variation to the project. Please contact Bec Mussared or Alex James on 8553 2476 during business hours. A project variation form will need to be completed for review by the Grassroots Grants team.

What requirements must applicants be aware of when applying?

Monitoring:

Successful projects will need to keep a record of the work they undertake over the lifetime of the project. This record will need to be submitted when the project is complete. For example, if revegetating an area please photograph the site before and after planting. Keep a record of the number of plants planted, the type of guards used and how your revegetation went. More information will be provided with the grant agreement.

Reporting:

Successful projects will be required to submit a final report detailing their achievements and a financial acquittal.

Publicity and acknowledgment:

Successful applicants will be required to work with Board staff to publicise project activities in regional communications including print media, website and social media.

All project communications must acknowledge the Board as the funding source. More detailed acknowledgment information, wording and logos will be provided to successful applicants.

Insurance:

The type of activities, the amount of funding granted, and the applicant type will determine the type and level of insurance required. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure they are adequately insured.

How will project applications be assessed?

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

1. Is the applicant eligible to apply for a Grassroots Grant?
2. Is the application form complete and has all required supporting documentation been submitted?
3. How well does this project meet one or more of the Board's draft [Kangaroo Island Landscape Plan 26-31](#) priorities?
4. Does the project application clearly outline what the project intends to achieve, why this is important, and the activities to be undertaken?
5. Does the project deliver good value for money in a way that will have a lasting impact? Priority will be given to projects with a high level of financial, in-kind and/or volunteer co-contributions.
6. Has the applicant demonstrated their ability to deliver their project and achieve the intended outcomes?
7. Does the project connect with the community and encourage partnerships to build local stewardship, community capacity and knowledge.



What is the application process?

Stage 1

Develop your project idea. It is strongly recommended that applicants discuss their project ideas with a Grassroots Grants team member (listed on page 12) prior to completing an application. This will help you to address the priorities of the Board, and identify opportunities for establishing a successful partnership.

Stage 2

Once a project idea has been developed, the applicant will submit an application for assessment. Please ensure you also submit all information needed with your application, including a map, and a letter of permission from the landholder where the project will occur if it is not on your property.

Applications must be submitted via SmartyGrants online.

See link: <https://landscape.smartygrants.com.au/KIGrassrootsGrants2026>

All grants will be managed through SmartyGrants. Support to use the on-line system is available by emailing ki.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au or by calling Bec Mussared or Alex James on 8553 2476 during business hours.

The closing time and date for applications will be 5 pm on 5 May 2026. There will be no extensions and late applications will not be accepted.

Stage 3

Projects will be assessed against a set of pre-determined criteria by an assessment panel including Kangaroo Island Landscape Board members and staff. A site visit may also be conducted as part of the assessment process. A staff member will be in contact to organise a site inspection if required.

Stage 4

Successful applicants will be notified before the end of June 2026. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by letter. If the grant is successful, a grant agreement must be signed by both the applicant and the KI Landscape Board before any work begins. Grant funding will be provided upon receipt of a compliant Tax Invoice. Some projects may be funded in stages. These details will be included in the grant agreement.

Stage 5

Projects can begin from 1 July 2026 and proceed against the agreed deliverables and any conditions outlined in the grant agreement. Grantees will be encouraged to invite Kangaroo Island Landscape Board members and staff to their activities to build relationships and document Grassroots Grants projects for promotion and engagement with the wider community.

Stage 6

All projects must be completed by 30 June 2027, unless they contain revegetation activities and then the completion date can be extended until 30 September 2027. Reporting must be undertaken in accordance with the grant agreement with a final report and acquittal submitted within one month of the project completion date. A report and acquittal template will be provided to successful applicants.

Unspent funds

Any unspent grant funds must be returned to the KI Landscape Board in accordance with the grant agreement.

Need assistance with the application form or more information?

For general assistance or more information please contact Bec Mussared or Alex James on 8553 2476 during business hours.

People who can help you

We strongly recommend you talk about your project with one of our relevant technical staff.

Technical area	Contact person	Contact details
Revegetation advice	Jo McPhee	P 0437 322 692 E kinativeplantnursery@sa.gov.au
Weed management advice	Jason Walter	P 0418 708 557 E jason.walter@sa.gov.au
Feral animal management advice	Brenton Florance	P 0427 618 304 E brenton.florance@sa.gov.au
Water and wetland management advice, Water Affecting Activity permit advice, including stock crossing construction	Phoebe Edwards	P 8553 2476 E phoebe.edwards@sa.gov.au
Native vegetation protection and revegetation advice	Kym Lashmar	P 8553 2476 E kym.lashmar@sa.gov.au
Sustainable agriculture advice	Joaquin Pillado	P 0437 172 877 E joaquin.pillado@sa.gov.au
Community education	Deb Laver	P 8553 2476 E deb.laver@sa.gov.au
Grassroots Grants application support	Bec Mussared and Alex James	P 8553 2476 E rebecca.mussared@sa.gov.au E alexandra.james@sa.gov.au

