

Limestone Coast Grassroots Grants

2022-23 GENERAL INFORMATION AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- The purpose of the annual Grassroots Grants Program is to support individuals, and volunteer, community and other bodies, organisations and groups working at the local level on a not-for-profit basis, by making grants available to undertake natural resources management activities that help to achieve environmental benefits at the local level.
- Projects must be aligned to one or more of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board's five priorities:
 - Educating and partnering to sustainably manage our landscapes
 - Protecting and balancing our region's water resources
 - Growing sustainable primary production
 - Conserving and enhancing our region's biodiversity
 - Working collaboratively to manage pest plants and animals
- The value of the grant pool is 2.9% of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board's annual levy income. In 2022/23, this is about \$255,000.
- Applications open on **18 March 2022** and close on **2 May 2022**, with most projects to be completed by 30 June 2023. The online application portal will be open to anyone in that period via this [link](#). All applications will be managed through the online SmartyGrants system.
- 'Guidelines for Applicants' are available [here](#) on our website.
- Funding is available for projects between \$1,000 and \$50,000. \$50,000 is the preferred maximum value however, projects greater than that amount that meet multiple priorities and have significant benefits will be considered.
- In most cases, projects are to be completed by 30 June 2023 and fully acquitted by 30 July 2023. However if a project is likely to benefit from an additional three months for seasonally dependent works such as planting, applicants may apply for up to 15 months to complete the project. Approval of extension will be determined by project type and benefit to outcomes.
- Complex multi-year projects may be considered for funding if the assessment panel believes the project requires guaranteed funding for subsequent years to be successful, and the benefits are consequently increased, to a maximum of three years. Justification of multi-year projects must be included in the application and activities broken down into financial years in the budget table. A multi-year project will require completion of agreed milestones and approval of progress reports for subsequent payments. Timeframes and milestone reporting will be negotiated in grant agreements.
- Projects that may be subject to a Water Affecting Activity (WAA) permit will need to be assessed before works commence. Applications must identify if the project requires a WAA permit (more information [here](#)). If a permit is required, this will be identified in the Grant Agreement and the fee waived.

- Successful projects with an on ground works component may be subject to a cultural heritage assessment under the terms of the Aboriginal Heritage Act (1988). The LC Landscape Board will facilitate this process.

ADAPTIVE AGRICULTURE GRANTS

The Commonwealth Government's National Landcare Program-funded Adaptive Agriculture (also known as 'Agricultural Industries Adapting to Variable Climates and Markets') grants round will also be open at this time. There is a total funding pool of \$40k and the minimum grant amount is \$2,500, with grants typically awarded between \$3,000 and \$7,500.

The Planning Team will work closely with the Adaptive Agriculture Project Officer to make sure that applicants choose the most suitable fund for their projects. The criteria and application form for Adaptive Ag grants will be found [here](#) when applications open.

There are some key differences between the two programs. Basically, Adaptive Ag is mostly aimed at farming systems groups to create engagement events or tools for farmers adapting to climate change.

To learn more about Adaptive Agriculture grants, please contact Chelsea Burns on 0427 015 531 or email Chelsea.burns@sa.gov.au

FAQ:

Who is eligible for Grassroots Grants? Eligibility includes but is not limited to:

- volunteer groups
- non-government organisations
- schools
- progress associations
- peak organisations
- local government related community groups
- outdoor and recreational groups

An applicant must be a 'legal entity'. What is a legal entity?

- Individuals (also known as natural persons)
- Partnership (made up of two or more individuals)
- Corporations/companies under the *Corporations Act 2001* – have a unique ACN and are represented by "Pty", "Pty Ltd" or "Ltd" following the company name
- Associations – incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985* (have "Inc." after their name)
- Trustees in a trust (e.g. **John Smith** as Trustee for the Smith Family Trust)
- Local Government – under *Local Government Act 1999*
- Most Australian Universities

What is **not** a legal entity?

- An unincorporated association or group
- A trust (e.g. Smith Family Trust) however the trustees can be. The trustees may be individuals or companies.

- Businesses/business names
- Some private schools. Some of the larger private schools are incorporated or companies, however many are not.
- Public Schools are NOT a legal entity, however the contract would be with the Minister of Education and Child Development, which is a legal entity.

What kind of projects are eligible?

- Not for profit, local projects with an environmental or sustainable agriculture benefit, in the Limestone Coast. For example:
 - Revegetation work
 - Trialling sustainable farming practices
 - Pest control
 - Monitoring and biological assessment
 - Water efficiency initiatives
 - Education activities and raising community awareness and participation in natural resource management activities.

There's been a lot of discussion about revegetation and fencing projects on private land being eligible. Short answer: yes, they are eligible as they can meet a number of the board priorities, and not-for-profit and environmental benefit criteria. However, they will be assessed alongside projects that do all that AND have a community benefit through education or capacity-building, utilise volunteers, partner with other organisations, show good value for money or innovation and so on (section 6 in the Guidelines for Applicants has more detail).

What will the funding pay for?

- It's easier to say that the funding won't pay for:
 - engaging the board's Weed Control Service to do control works¹
 - establishment of new production sites or facilities
 - activities causing or with the potential to cause environmental damage, either directly or indirectly
 - preparation of the original grant application, variations or reporting
 - routine administration expenses including but not limited to accommodation, office computing facilities, legal and accounting fees and bank charges
 - purchase of assets which could be used for personal benefit
- There may be other things not included in this list, at the discretion of the board.
- To provide some further guidance on the kinds of projects that were successful in previous rounds, please see [this list](#) on our website.

Can I purchase equipment to help me undertake on-ground work?

¹ However, you can apply for funding for a private contractor to carry out control works, or you can ask the board to support your pest control activities as part of their annual work plan by contacting one of the Team Leaders Landscape Operations in the list of contacts towards the end of this document. Please also note, collaborating with the board's Landscape Operations team on a pest control activity cannot be included as 'in-kind' support in your project application.

- Generally, funding is not provided for the purchase of assets. You are encouraged to borrow or hire equipment, however, purchase of equipment may be considered if it can be demonstrated that this is essential to the delivery of specified works.

Do I need a Water Affecting Activity (WAA) permit?

- You will need to check if your project is a Water Affecting Activity (see the policy [here](#)). If a permit is required, this will be identified in the Grant Agreement along with any appropriate conditions and the board will apply a permit exemption as part of the grant approval.

Can I ask for 100% funding or do I have to match it somehow?

- You can ask for your project to be fully funded however, it is preferable that volunteer hours or other in-kind support is detailed in the application.

Can I apply for a Grassroots Grant and an Adaptive Agriculture grant?

- Yes, as long as the projects are distinctly different OR if it is clearly outlined in your applications which elements each program will pay for.

Can I apply more than once?

- Yes, as long as the projects are separate and distinct and you or your organisation has the capacity to deliver them.

I am a landholder wanting a grant for works on my property. Can I apply?

- As an individual you are eligible to apply. However, for your application to be considered for funding you will need to demonstrate community capacity building elements, community engagement and the benefit to the broader community. Alternatively you could apply for funding for a not-for-profit project in partnership with a community organisation

I run a commercial business. Can I apply?

- Yes, as long as the project is not-for-profit and meets one or more of the criteria laid out in the Guidelines for Applicants.

When would I need to have a sponsor?

- 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.
- 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. There is a space in the application form for applicants to add a letter confirming sponsorship from their sponsoring organisation.
- Another common example is an unincorporated Friends of Parks group, who would use Friends of Parks Inc. as their sponsor.

Will I be able to get an extension past 2 May 2022 for a late application?

- No, the online application portal will close at 5pm on Monday 2/5/22.

When will I find out if I've been successful?

- It is anticipated that the assessment and approvals process will take approximately six to eight weeks. All applicants will be advised whether or not their proposed project(s) were successful. Grant Agreements will then be sent to successful proponents.

When will I get paid?

- Most grants will be paid 100% upfront. In some circumstances (a very big grant, or a risky project), we might negotiate a payment split e.g. 80% upfront, 20% on completion. Multi-year projects will receive subsequent years' funding payments upon approval of milestone reports.

Will I be able to get an extension past the end date in my application if I need it?

- Maybe. In circumstances beyond your control e.g. a COVID-19 surge making it impossible to hold your public event or seasonal conditions affecting your planned activities, you can apply to extend your project by up to 12 months.

Who can I ask for help with my application?

- Support to use the online system (fix log-ins, recover passwords etc.) is available **by emailing LandscapeSA.LCLandscapeBoardGrants@sa.gov.au or by calling Alison or Megan on 8735 1204**. If your query is in relation to your grant content, please refer to the list below.

Position	Contact	Role
Snr Project Officers Landscape Planning	Alison Boomsma Alison.Boomsma@sa.gov.au Megan McCrae Megan.McCrae2@sa.gov.au	GG general information, advice and technical support
Northern and Southern Limestone Coast Team Leaders Landscape Operations	Kym Haebich Kym.Haebich@sa.gov.au Alan Robins Alan.Robins@sa.gov.au	pest plant and animal control technical advice
Team Leader Habitat Conservation	Mark DeJong Mark.DeJong@sa.gov.au	biodiversity and wetland technical advice
Bush Management Advisor	Michelle Sargent Michelle.sargent@sa.gov.au	biodiversity technical advice
Wetland Restoration Advisor	Emma Maxwell Emma.Maxwell@sa.gov.au	wetland technical advice
Regional Ag Landcare Facilitators	Skylea McLean Skylea.Mclean@sa.gov.au Eykolina Benny Eykolina.Benny@sa.gov.au	regional networks, primary production advice
Senior Project Officers, Water Policy and Planning	Phil Elson and Ryan Judd Phil.Elson@sa.gov.au Ryan.Judd@sa.gov.au	Water Affecting Activity permit advice

Further Information:

For more information about Limestone Coast Grassroots Grants, please feel free to contact Alison Boomsma or Megan McCrae on 8735 1204 or **0418 575 321** or email LandscapeSA.LCLandscapeBoardGrants@sa.gov.au, Alison.boomsma@sa.gov.au or Megan.McCrae2@sa.gov.au

To learn more about Adaptive Agriculture grants, please contact Chelsea Burns on 0427 015 531 or email Chelsea.burns@sa.gov.au

