

Limestone Coast Habitat Conservation Incentive Grants

2023/24 GENERAL INFORMATION AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- The Limestone Coast Landscape Board (LC Landscape Board) is offering the opportunity to apply for small incentive grants to undertake habitat conservation activities that protect, enhance or establish native vegetation on private land.
- This grant focuses on works that will be undertaken on private land that align with the objective to support the co-benefits of biodiversity on farms, and ultimately contribute to the LC Landscape Board's priority of "Conserving and enhancing our region's biodiversity".
- While this grant is suited to individual landholders, there are opportunities for individuals to team up with a community group or other organisation to deliver works together on their land.
- The grant is expected to generate strong interest, applicants should be aware this is a competitive process and only those projects that best meet the assessment criteria will be funded. The application process will involve three stages to best identify these projects.
- Incentive funding will be prioritised towards projects that will contribute to one or more of the following objectives:
 1. Enhance habitat resilience by managing the threats affecting remnant vegetation (including protecting paddock trees and wetlands), encouraging natural regeneration or replanting local species within patches of native vegetation.
 2. Creating buffers around priority areas of habitat or enhancing or creating links between habitats.
 3. Revegetating cleared areas to increase the extent of available habitats in the region, reduce the effects of fragmentation and/or support nearby habitats.
 4. Implementing recovery actions to address threatened species and threatened ecological communities listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.
- Funding is available for projects up to \$7,000 (GST exclusive) for the 2023/24 financial year, with a total annual funding pool of \$50,000¹ available.
- Funding is for projects that will be undertaken between **1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024**.

¹ Additional funding may be contributed to this funding pool throughout the year.

- The application process will involve three stages:
 1. **Stage 1, initial application:** All potential applicants must complete a Stage 1 application form on the SmartyGrants platform and submit it for consideration prior to close of business on **31 October 2022**.
Only eligible projects that are anticipated to provide the best biodiversity outcomes will be invited to the next stages of the application process.
 2. **Stage 2, site visit:** Eligible projects that are anticipated to provide the best biodiversity outcomes will be invited to the site visit stage. Site visits will allow the LC Landscape Board staff to meet and discuss the project with the applicant, see the proposed site to ensure it is suitable, answer any questions and offer advice as required. Site visits will be completed by 20 December 2022.
 3. **Stage 3, final application:** Depending on the assessment of the Stage 1 application and site visit, suitable applicants will be asked to submit a final application on the SmartyGrants platform by 28 February 2023.
- The online SmartyGrants portal will be open to anyone who would like to submit an application for consideration between 5 September and 31 October via this [link](#). After this time, only those applicants invited to progress to subsequent rounds will be able to access the SmartyGrants portal.
- 'Guidelines for Applicants' are available on our [website](#).
- In most cases, projects are to be completed by 30 June 2024 and fully acquitted by 30 July 2024. 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.
- Projects that may be subject to a Water Affecting Activity (WAA) permit will need to be assessed before works commence. Applicants will be advised if their project requires a WAA permit (more information [here](#)). If a permit is required, this will be identified in the Grant Agreement.
- 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.

FAQ

Who is eligible for Habitat Conservation Incentive Grants?	3
An applicant must be a 'legal entity'. What is a legal entity?	3
What is not a legal entity?.....	4
What kind of projects are eligible?	4
What won't the funding pay for?	4
Can I purchase equipment to help me undertake on-ground work?.....	4
Do I need a Water Affecting Activity (WAA) permit?	4
Can I ask for 100% funding or do I have to match it somehow?	5
Can I apply more than once?	5
I run a commercial business. Can I apply?	5
When would I need to have a sponsor?	5
Why are there three stages to the application process?	5
Will I be able to get an extension past 31 October 2022 for a late Stage 1 application?	5
When will I find out if my Stage 1 application has been successful?	5
If my Stage 1 application is unsuccessful will I be able to submit a final application?.....	5
What does it mean if I am invited to stage 2, the site visit?	5
What if I can't attend the site visit?	6
If I am invited to complete the final application (stage 3), will this be a different form to the Stage 1 application form that I already submitted?	6
How will I know if I am successful?	6
When will I get paid?.....	6
Will I be able to get an extension past the end date in my application if I need it?	6
Who can I ask for help with my application?	7
What other funding is available from the Limestone Coast Landscape Board?	7
Can I apply for a Habitat Conservation Incentive Grant and a Grassroots Grant?	7
Further Information	7

Who is eligible for Habitat Conservation Incentive Grants?

Eligible projects must be on private land. Eligibility includes but is not limited to:

- Individuals.
- Volunteer groups.
- Community organisations.
- Other bodies.

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).

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.

What kind of projects are eligible?

- On-ground works for biodiversity conservation outcomes, where there are primary productivity co-benefits, in the Limestone Coast. For example:
 - Revegetation of habitat.
 - Fencing to protect important habitats for example wetlands, remnant native vegetation and paddock trees.
 - Shelter belts that have a significant biodiversity co-benefit.
 - Weed control where there is a strong biodiversity benefit.

What won't the funding pay for?

- Activities causing or with the potential to cause environmental damage, either directly or indirectly.
- Projects that seek more than \$7,000 (GST exclusive) of grant funding.
- Revegetation using non-native species.
- Shelterbelts that are less than 15 metres wide.
- Activities that are the legal responsibility of the landholder which are associated with compliance under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.
- Activities that are the legal responsibility of the landholder which are associated with clearance consent under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*.
- Specific works that are funded through a previous devolved grant/program.
- Work that is undertaken before the Grant Agreement for the project is signed or after the 12-month timeframe (unless an extension has been agreed to in writing).
- Standard boundary fencing that is a landholder's legal responsibility.
- Pest plant and animal control where the primary benefit will be for production purposes.
- Budget allocated to pay the LC Landscape Board's Weed Control Service to do weed spraying or other pest control works (N.B. A private contractor can be engaged for this work).
- Please check the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) for a more comprehensive list. There may be other things not included in this list, at the discretion of the LC Landscape Board.

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

- 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?

- Projects that may be subject to a Water Affecting Activity (WAA) permit will need to be assessed before works commence. Applicants will be advised if their project requires a WAA permit (more information [here](#)). If a permit is required, this will be identified in the Grant Agreement.

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 in-kind support is contributed to the project. In-kind contributions from the applicant such as labour, materials or co-funding are strongly encouraged and will be considered as part of the value for money assessment.

Can I apply more than once?

- Yes, as long as the projects are separate and distinct and you have the capacity to deliver them. You are advised to also consider your preference should you only be offered funding for one site.

I run a commercial business. Can I apply?

- Yes, as long as the project meets one or more of the objectives 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 an individual or other legal entity. 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.

Why are there three stages to the application process?

- The grant is expected to generate strong interest, applicants should be aware this is a competitive process and only those projects that best meet the assessment criteria will be funded. The application process will involve three stages which has been identified as the best way to identify these projects, while minimising the time and effort for applicants.

Will I be able to get an extension past 31 October 2022 for a late Stage 1 application?

- No, the online application portal will close at 5 pm on Monday 31 October 2022.

When will I find out if my Stage 1 application has been successful?

- It is anticipated that the assessment process of the Stage 1 applications will take approximately two weeks. All applicants will be advised whether or not their proposed project(s) move to the next stage (site visit) in November.

If my Stage 1 application is unsuccessful will I be able to submit a final application?

- No, only those applicants who are invited to do a site visit will have the opportunity to move to the final application stage. If you do not move past Stage 1 of the application process, it means you will not receive funding from this grant round.

What does it mean if I am invited to stage 2, the site visit?

- It means that the project you outlined in your Stage 1 application is anticipated to provide the best biodiversity outcomes compared to the other projects that were submitted.
- LC Landscape Board staff will contact you to arrange a site visit at a mutually agreeable time. If you have been contacted by LC Landscape Board staff to organise a site visit, you must respond within one week or you may not be eligible to progress to the next stage of the application process.

- Site visits will allow LC Landscape Board staff to meet and discuss the project with the applicant, see the proposed site to ensure it is suitable, answer any questions and offer advice as required. Suitable projects will be invited to submit a final application, which is the third and final stage of the application process.

What if I can't attend the site visit?

- LC Landscape Board staff will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate a site visit at a mutually agreeable time with the applicant, however if this cannot be achieved before final applications open (9 January 2023), the applicant may not be asked to progress to the next stage of the application.

If I am invited to complete the final application (stage 3), will this be a different form to the Stage 1 application form that I already submitted?

- The final application form will be a new form that you complete on the SmartyGrants platform.
- The final application form has many similarities to the Stage 1 application form. Some information from your Stage 1 application will be carried across to the new form and you will have the opportunity to make updates to this information, expand on the details of your project, and address a small number of new questions that are important in the final assessment.
- When submitting their final application it is recommended that applicants carefully address any feedback provided to them following their site visit and during any other discussions with LC Landscape Board staff.

How will I know if I am successful?

- You will receive an email notifying you of the outcome of your application at each stage of the process. If you are successful at the final application stage 3, you will receive a letter of offer and grant agreement for your consideration.

When will I get paid?

- Most grants will be paid 100% upfront after the LC Landscape Board receives the grant agreement that is signed by both parties and a tax invoice for the amount of the grant (plus GST if relevant).

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

- Extensions will be considered on a case by case basis but applicants should make every attempt to undertake their project in the required timeframe. In circumstances beyond your control, you can apply to extend your project.

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 8429 7550**. If your query is in relation to your grant content, please refer to the list below.

Position	Contact	Role
Wetland Restoration Advisor	Emma Maxwell Emma.Maxwell@sa.gov.au	Grant general information and wetland technical advice SmartyGrants support
Bush Management Advisor	Before 30 September 2022 - Michelle Sargent Michelle.Sargent@sa.gov.au	Grant general information and biodiversity technical advice
Team Leader Habitat Conservation	Mark De Jong Mark.deJong@sa.gov.au	Biodiversity and wetland technical advice

What other funding is available from the Limestone Coast Landscape Board?

GRASSROOTS GRANTS

The purpose of the annual Grassroots Grants Program is to support individuals, and volunteer, community and other organisations and groups to undertake not-for-profit landscape activities that help to achieve environmental and community benefits at the local level.

LC Landscape Board Staff will advise applicants interested in the Habitat Conservation Incentive Grant if there project is better suited to Grassroots Grants. The criteria and link to the online application for Grassroots Grants will be found [here](#) when applications open (generally March-May each year).

There are some key differences between the two programs. Habitat Conservation Incentive Grants are mostly aimed at private landholders to support projects that will deliver biodiversity co-benefits to primary production, while Grassroots Grants are focussed on those people and organisations working to achieve local, practical, environmental and community benefits.

To learn more about Grassroots Grants, please contact Alison Boomsma Alison.Boomsma@sa.gov.au or Megan McCrae Megan.McCrae2@sa.gov.au

Can I apply for a Habitat Conservation Incentive Grant and a Grassroots 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.

Further Information

For more information about Limestone Coast Habitat Conservation Incentive Grants, please feel free to contact Emma Maxwell on 08 7424 5809 or email LandscapeSA.LCLandscapeBoardGrants@sa.gov.au, or Emma.Maxwell@sa.gov.au