

Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board
Agricultural Knowledge Small Grants

Guidelines for applicants



Applications due by 15 July 2022



National
Landcare
Program



This project is supported by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the landscape levies.

What is an Agricultural Knowledge Small Grant?

The Agricultural Knowledge Small Grants (the grants program) focus on the delivery of knowledge and skill building events to support agricultural and horticultural groups in the region to achieve natural resources management outcomes for improved sustainable agricultural production. Eligible groups are able to apply for funding to undertake agricultural training, and skills and knowledge building activities.

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board administers this grant program across the area covered by the former SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management region. Please refer to the map at the end of this document. The grants are available for eligible groups who are currently operating within this regional boundary.

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Who can apply?

The priority for this round of the grants program is for agricultural training, skills and knowledge building activities that address the following land management/farming issues:

- managing soil acidification
- reducing the risk of soil and nutrient loss from wind erosion
- opportunities for increasing soil organic carbon
- reducing the risk of soil and nutrient loss from hillslope (water) erosion.

The grants program is available to the following groups:

- agriculture bureaus
- farming system groups
- agricultural industry groups
- field day committees
- Landcare and Local Action Planning groups
- consultant facilitated farmer groups
- non-government and not for profit organisations working to improve agriculture and native vegetation management.

Groups must be pre-existing and can be formal or informal. State and federal government agencies are ineligible to apply. All outstanding reports from previous funding rounds must be completed to be eligible, unless your group has received an exemption due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What if my group is not incorporated?

If your group is not incorporated, your application must seek *sponsorship* from a legal entity which is prepared to take responsibility for the legal and financial accountability of the project. Examples of sponsor organisations include local government and incorporated organisations.

The sponsor will receive the funding on your behalf and will be required to provide a final acquittal of project funds.

For information about how to identify sponsoring organisations for an unincorporated group, please contact the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board's Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator.

How many projects can be applied for or sponsored?

Each group can only apply for a single project. Sponsoring organisations can sponsor multiple projects.

How much can be applied for?

The total funding pool anticipated to be available is \$50,000 (GST exclusive). Applicants can apply for up to \$3,000 (GST exclusive).

A GST component cannot be paid to groups who are not registered for GST. If your group is not registered for GST, the payments will be for the amount requested in the group's application which should be GST exclusive.

How does an Australian Business Number (ABN) affect our application?

Having an ABN means that your group will not be subject to 46.5% withholding tax on the funds provided.

If your group does not have an ABN, and your grant application is successful, you will need to complete and return a 'Statement of Supplier' form with your grant agreement.

Without the 'Statement of Supplier' form, 46.5% of the payment is required to be deducted and passed on to the Australian Tax Office (ATO) under the 'No ABN withholding' arrangements.

We have forgotten our group's ABN / GST status. How do we find it?

An applicant can have an ABN without registering for GST. However, to register for GST a group must have an ABN. You can search for your ABN/GST status online at abr.business.gov.au

Can our group partner with another group?

Yes. Your application should clearly outline the nature of the partnership and the respective functions each group will undertake as part of the proposed project. One of the groups should be clearly identified as the lead group for correspondence, reporting and overall responsibility for the project, and the application should be submitted by the lead group.

What activities are eligible for funding?

The grant application can be used to apply for funding for workshops, field days, webinars, or other events which focus on the following land management/farming issues:

- managing soil acidification
- reducing the risk of soil and nutrient loss from wind erosion
- opportunities for increasing soil organic carbon
- reducing the risk of soil and nutrient loss from hillslope (water) erosion.

Projects which develop information resources for farmers, such as factsheets, videos and podcasts, will also be considered. These need to focus on the land management/farming issues listed above.

Workshop Example 1 Hosting speaker X to discuss improving legume production in sandy soils to increase soil cover over summer.

Workshop Example 2 Hosting a bus tour to visit horticulture X to see first-hand the practical use of manures to increase productivity and soil organic carbon.

Your expression of interest may focus on undertaking activities such as:

- access to a key note or guest speaker/s to present to the group
- organise a field day for the group
- host a workshop or webinar
- host a forum or information session.

Projects must demonstrate the following:

- be driven from an agricultural or horticultural farming group perspective
- be conducted within the region shown on the attached map
- outcomes must build knowledge and skills of the group
- facilitate improved management of natural resources.

Establishment and monitoring of field trials or demonstration sites will not be eligible for funding however presenting field trials or demonstration sites results at a field day or workshop does meet the criteria.

Preference will be given to projects that:

- are agricultural land focused and facilitate improved management of natural resources
- display a clear ability to build knowledge and skills of the group
- are driven from an existing formal or informal agricultural, horticultural, farmer or Landcare group
- demonstrate primary producer engagement and participation
- can be realistically completed within the project timeframes and within budget
- offer good value for money.

All projects must meet the project criteria detailed above to be considered for funding support. Co-contributions to the project are encouraged but not mandatory. Written approval is required from the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board or delegate prior to any project changes or amendments.

When are applications due?

Applications **open 15 June 2022** and must be submitted by 5pm ACST on Friday 15 July 2022.

When will the successful projects commence?

It is anticipated that successful projects will commence on **1 August 2022** after agreements have been signed and received.

When does the project need to be completed by?

Projects must be completed, all funding acquitted, and project reports submitted by **Monday 26 May 2023**. Due to external project funding requirements, there are no opportunities for project extensions.

What reporting is required?

A simple final report is required at the end of the project that shows how the funds were spent in a basic budget outline, as well as a simple participant evaluation survey completed by participants on the day. Final reports are due within one month of the event or workshop delivery date, if the event is delivered in the month of May the final report will be due by close of business 26 May 2023. A copy of the final report template and attendee surveys will be provided to all successful recipients. Reporting should include photographs and video footage from your event.

How are applications assessed?

Applications will be assessed and ranked by a technical assessment panel to ensure submissions meet the criteria.

Once a project is approved for funding, successful applicants will be notified. A funding agreement setting out the terms and conditions under which the event is to be held will be provided to the successful applicants. This funding agreement must be signed by the applicant and a Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board representative in order for the project to proceed.

Publicity and recognition of funding

Successful applicants must ensure that appropriate acknowledgement is given to all sources of funding. All project promotional material will be required to carry the appropriate logos and funding statements. An acknowledgement fact sheet will provide information on recognition requirements and will be provided with the grant agreement.

When are applications due and how should they be lodged?

Applications are due by **5:00pm ACDT on 15 June 2022**. Late applications will not be accepted. Applications are submitted online using SmartyGrants, at: landscape.smartygrants.com.au/2223MRAKG

Need assistance of more information?

For general assistance or more information please contact Zoe Starkey, Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator on 0408 416 684 or zoe.starkey@sa.gov.au. Applicants are also encouraged to discuss their project ideas prior to the lodgement of an application.

Applications will be considered for delivery in the region highlighted below.

