



# Community Landcare 'Pop-up' Grants - Riverina



## Guidelines

### Overview

The *Community Landcare 'Pop-up' Grants Program* aims to support Landcare and community groups in the Riverina Local Land Services area to promote community-driven natural resource management. Groups are invited to apply for a grant of \$2,000-\$10,000 (GST exclusive) to undertake projects and activities that encourage the involvement of community groups in understanding, protecting and enhancing the natural environment. A total of \$25,000, on a competitive basis, is available each year for three years (2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19).

The Landcare 'Pop-up' Grants are funded by an allocation from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme (NLP) to Riverina Local Land Services for the Regional Landcare Facilitator Project. In the Riverina, the RLF project and the 'Pop-up' Grants are administered by Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc. (MLi) and LachLandcare (LLi) under contract to Riverina Local Land Services.

### Strategic Objectives of the National Landcare Programme (NLP):

1. Communities are managing landscapes to sustain long-term economic and social benefits from their environment.
2. Farmers and fishers are increasing their long term returns through better management of the natural resource base.
3. Communities are involved in caring for their environment.
4. Communities are protecting species and natural assets.

### Priorities for the 'Pop-up' Grants in 2017/18

Preference will be given to projects that:

- Promote membership and attract volunteers to Landcare/NRM community groups
- Improve the capacity and skills of members of the Landcare/NRM community to manage the natural environment.

### Key Dates:

Applications open:	Monday 29 May 2017
Applications close:	Rolling deadline until 30 April 2018
Successful applicants notified:	Within three weeks of receipt of application
Grant activities to be completed:	Within twelve months of receipt of grant

Applications will be accepted at any time between 29 May 2017 and 30 April 2018 and will be assessed within three weeks of receipt. Applications will continue to be accepted until all available funds have been expended.

### Eligibility:

Landcare 'Pop-up' Grants are open to:

- Landcare groups
- Farmer/producer groups
- 'Friends-of' groups
- Indigenous groups
- Other community groups
- Schools, provided that their project deals with on-ground works to improve NRM in natural landscapes, and promotes environmental understanding.



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## What types of projects will be funded?

- On-ground works to revegetate with native vegetation, stabilise soils and/or improve water quality (e.g. weed treatment, pest control, revegetation projects).
- On-ground works to protect and enhance existing areas of native vegetation and sensitive areas (e.g. riparian zones).
- On-ground works to provide habitat for threatened species and ecological communities.
- Projects that enhance community awareness of biodiversity, threatened species and threatened ecological communities.
- Projects that build the capacity of the group (e.g. field days, workshops, community engagement, training or skill development sessions).
- Projects that use Indigenous knowledge to support environmental conservation.

## What can funding be used for?

- Materials (e.g. seedlings, tree/shrub guards).
- Equipment purchase (up to a maximum of \$500 per project). Funding to hire equipment may be proposed or considered. At the completion of the project, small assets shall be entrusted to the group that acquired them but MLI/LLi may negotiate with the group for the loan or use of an asset by another group.
- Fencing materials for the protection of native vegetation and sensitive areas.
- Resources to raise community awareness (books, posters, brochures, etc.).
- Expert advice, guest speakers or technical services (e.g. mapping).
- Involvement of group members in training programs.
- The running of workshops and field days.
- The use of Indigenous knowledge to support environment conservation.

To ensure a maximum grant (\$10,000), applicants should endeavour to outline several funding components (e.g. materials, equipment, expert advice) and/or activities (e.g. a tree-planting day, workshop, farm walk) rather than proposing a single item or event.

## What costs will not be funded?

- Labour costs, or costs of contractors.
- Ongoing maintenance of previously funded work.
- Retrospective activities, or activities that have already commenced.
- Activities that do not contribute towards the National Landcare Programme Strategic Objectives.
- Purchase of assets above \$500 per year.
- Travel and accommodation expenses of group members (actual costs of speakers are eligible).
- Salaried positions related to the normal ongoing operations of an organisation or an individual's commercial operation.
- Purchase of equipment or materials that are normally part of a landholder's responsibility for the management of their property.
- Activities that include the introduction of plants, animals or other biological agents that are known to be environmental or agricultural weeds or pests.
- Weed control activities that are required to be carried out by law or by a private contractual obligation, or where the primary benefit will be for agricultural production purposes.
- Administration costs associated with a project.



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## Conditions:

- No more than two grant applications may be made by each group within a 24-month period. A maximum of \$10,000 is available per grant.
- Projects can be conducted on public or private land.
- Incomplete and late applications will not be considered.

## Assessment Criteria:

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

Significance (15%)	Has the group demonstrated a need for funding? What is the group trying to protect, preserve, sustain or achieve?
Strategic outlook (15%)	Does the project contribute to the strategic objectives of the National Landcare Programme?
Feasibility (20%)	Is the project well defined, measurable, attainable and achievable over 12 months?
Expected outcomes (20%)	Will the project deliver tangible environmental and community results and/or enhance the capacity or skills of the group to undertake environmental projects?
Budget (15%)	Is the budget realistic, appropriate and value for money? Budget should be broken down into specific items (e.g. materials, equipment, expert advice, etc.)
Quality of application (15%)	Does the submission demonstrate the group's ability to undertake the project to a high standard?

## How to apply

To submit an application:

1. We strongly recommend that you contact your Local Landcare Coordinator to discuss your group's proposal (see the MLI website [www.mli.org.au](http://www.mli.org.au) for the names and locations of the Local Landcare Coordinators in the Riverina Region).
2. Complete the Landcare 'Pop-up' Grants Program 2017/18 application form at [www.mli.org.au](http://www.mli.org.au).
3. Email or post the completed application to [office@mli.org.au](mailto:office@mli.org.au) or Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc., PO Box 710, Wagga Wagga, NSW, 2650.

## Successful applications

A Letter of Offer outlining the conditions of the grant will be emailed to successful groups. Groups are required to respond to the email within 10 business days confirming that they understand and accept the grant conditions.

Successful applicants must:

- Within twelve months of receiving funds, provide to Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc. through their Local Landcare Coordinator, a final report on the outputs and outcomes of the project, including how funds were spent.
- Permit MLI and LLI to use the project report and photos for promotional purposes on websites, in media releases and at field days.
- Declare in writing to MLI where any actual, apparent or potential conflicts of interest exist or might arise in relation to their application that may impact on the project or the funding agreement.



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