

Community Environmental Grants Program Guidelines

July 2025

What is the Community Environmental Grants program?

Scenic Rim Regional Council is committed to working in partnership with community groups to protect and enhance its unique natural environment.

The Community Environmental Grants Program is an annual Council initiative provided in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*.

The program seeks to assist community groups to complete environmental projects which aim to protect and enhance native vegetation and wildlife habitat. Note: concurrent projects are encouraged.

Who is Eligible to apply?

Community and Landcare Groups - groups should preferably be incorporated or sponsored by an incorporated organisation. Projects can be on any land tenure, where a strong public benefit can be demonstrated.

Non-Government Organisations, Not-for-Profit Organisations - organisations need to display a significant public benefit from the project.

Businesses with philanthropic programs - businesses need to display a significant public benefit from the project and provide a minimum of dollar-for-dollar financial contribution.

Pre-Schools, Primary Schools, or Secondary Schools - schools must be located within the Local Government area. Applications must be endorsed by the Principal or Deputy Principal.

What funding is available

Total funding available is \$80,000 for projects up to a maximum of \$20,000 per group annually.

Note: all GST components of your projects will not be funded except for Landcare Groups which are exempt when work will be carried out on Council land.

Examples of projects eligible for funding

Improvement to the environment through habitat enhancement and creation:

- Restore and enhance local and/or regional environmental corridors;
- Management of Restricted Invasive Plants (priority to weed species of local and national significance are preferred), including the purchase of herbicide, weed suppression matting, equipment hire and/or labour costs;
- The purchase of planting material such as mulch, soil, fertiliser, regeneration/seed matting, planting aids and plant guards;
- Costs for contractors to support restoration and conservation activities;
- Soil conservation works, sediment and erosion control including the purchase of erosion control matting, sediment fencing, log jam constructions, equipment hire, labour costs or fencing of waterways to prevent stock access;
- Establish off-stream watering points for stock, including the purchase of fixed infrastructure such as pumps, pipe, troughs, equipment hire and labour costs.

Restoration of habitat for significant and vulnerable species and /or environmental values.

- Create/restore habitat through revegetation and/or weed control;
- Nestbox purchase and arborist installation;

- Management of a threatened process to protect threatened species;
- Purchase of fauna cameras relating to specific fauna species recovery project.
- Management of introduced Invasive Animal (pests) species, including traps and lures.
- Fencing to protect significant vegetation and/or exclude pest animals, including purchase of wire, strainer posts, steel pickets, gates, equipment hire and labour costs. Note: wildlife friendly fencing will only be awarded.
- Restocking of native fish to waterways.

Long term sustainable outcomes for the environment and community

- Fire management activities including the preparation of a fire management plan, labour costs for a planned burn or fire break maintenance and equipment hire.

Improved community connection to the environment with stronger environmental awareness.

- Environmental awareness campaigns & events.

Landowners permission

Applicants must provide evidence of the landowner's consent to undertake any proposed project related activities. Clear details on how the landholder will continue restoration works after the project has occurred. For example: in-kind contribution of labour and/or resources.

Examples of projects not eligible for funding

- Activities and costs that are associated with a previous project or monies spent.
- Activities that are required by law or fall within normal landholder responsibilities such as boundary fencing.
- Purchase of non-fixed, portable equipment such as tools and machinery.
- Depreciation of assets.
- Good and Services Tax associated with the project.
- Construction or maintenance of dams.
- Purchase, hire or leasing of computer hardware, software or vehicles.
- Day to day operating costs to deliver the project (e.g. rent, electricity, telephone, cleaning etc).
- Consumables (e.g. fuel, oil, batteries etc).
- Incidental expenses and personal items.
- Long-term, ongoing or routine maintenance costs.
- Insurance costs.

- Salaries or wages.
- Works that contravene any local, state or Commonwealth legislation or policy.

Note: grants do not support the purchase of assets (except fixed assets such as fencing, fauna cameras, traps and watering points as detailed above). Ineligible assets include mowers, brush-cutters, whipper-snippers, power tools, hand tools etc. However, grants will support funding towards the hiring of such equipment.

When can I apply?

Applications are open each year in August to apply annually.

Key dates and a link to the online application form is available on Council's website:

www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/community-grants

How do I apply?

Must be lodged via Council's online grants platform, SmartyGrants. If you do not have a computer or access to the internet, please visit one of the Scenic Rim Libraries to use a computer or to access free internet.

Your completed application must be lodged before the close of business on the advertised closing dates. Late applications will not be accepted.

Assessment

Applications will be scored against an Assessment Matrix. An assessment panel will review all applications and provide a formal recommendation to Council for final approval. Applicants must neither canvass nor lobby Councillors/ Council employees about their funding applications during the application and assessment process.

Other matters to consider when making application

Applications will be evaluated on merit against eligibility, assessment criteria, and availability of funds. Although an application may meet the eligibility requirements and assessment criteria, grants are highly competitive. Approval will depend on available funds, the quality of applications, community need and environmental benefit. Therefore, applicants may be fully, partially or not funded.

When will I be notified of the outcome of my application?

Please note the grant assessment and approval process can take up to two months from when the funding round closes, so this needs to be factored into your project planning. Following Council's formal decision and endorsement. It is anticipated that funds and projects will be finalised by the end of each year.

Agreement Conditions there are a number of conditions agreed upon when accepting a grant and partnership with Council. Conditions may include funding amounts, timeframes in achieving project milestones and reporting requirements.

Goods and Services Tax all grant payments are paid exclusive of GST regardless of the tax status of the applicant or organisation (except for Landcare Groups operating within the Scenic Rim region when on Council land). If the applicant is being auspiced, the payment will be made to the auspicing organisation.

Acknowledgement All successful projects will be acknowledged by the Council. You may be asked to assist with media releases regarding your project.

Acquittal / final report submission following the successful completion of your project within 12 months, applicants must complete a final project report submission form and email to mail@scenicrim.qld.gov.au or upload via the SmartyGrants platform. The report is to include achievements, expenditure, project outcomes and any additional relevant information (e.g. photos (after project), receipts etc).

Note: a final report must be submitted prior to applying for any future grants.

Non-compliance with conditions if misuse of funds is determined, grant funding may need to be returned to Council and future applications not accepted.

Privacy statement

Scenic Rim Regional Council is collecting your personal information in order to process your request. The information will only be accessed by Scenic Rim Regional Council for Council business related activities. Your information is handled in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009* and will not be given to any other person or agency unless you have given permission or we are required by law.

More information

For more information relating to the Community Environmental Grants program, contact council on 07 5540 5111 or alternately email mail@scenicrim.qld.gov.au.

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