



## Landholder Environment Grants

*These guidelines should be read in conjunction with council's [Community Grants Policy](#) and [Environment Levy Policy](#). It is also highly recommended that you consult with the LEG Tips for a Successful Application prior to commencing your application. You can view these documents at [www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)*

Sunshine Coast Council has a strong history of partnering with the community to achieve the environmental goals set out in council's strategies, plans and policy positions, including:

- **Environment & Liveability Strategy 2017**
- **Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan 2017.**

Landholder Environment Grants (LEG) provide financial assistance for private rural landholders to undertake on-ground projects on their properties. The purpose of the grants are to protect and enhance the natural assets and biodiversity of the Sunshine Coast, and promote ecologically sustainable management of the region's environmental values.

Sunshine Coast rural landholders are invited to submit expressions of interest for assistance to undertake environmental works on private property.

### Eligibility

#### Who can apply?

Private rural landholders of the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area, who have satisfactorily met all acquittal conditions of previous council grants are eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted by the landholder. Landholders can apply for only one grant per round. A single application must only address one project.

#### Projects eligible for funding

Projects must be on privately-owned rural land within the Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area. Landholders can apply for assistance to carry out natural resource management activities such as:

- fencing to restrict stock access to significant areas of native vegetation, wetlands or waterways
- installing off-stream stock watering points and stock crossings
- revegetating degraded areas and establishing native vegetation corridors and buffer zones
- reducing sediment and nutrient runoff on farms
- controlling environmental weeds to rehabilitate native vegetation areas
- modifying existing fencing to make it more wildlife friendly (note that installation or modification of boundary fencing is not eligible).



The following costs are eligible for funding:

- purchase of materials such as herbicide, tubestock, mulch, and fencing materials
- costs to engage a suitably qualified and experienced contractor
- hire of specialised equipment which is essential for the completion of the project

Other activities may be considered after consultation with a Conservation Partnerships Officer during the site visit.

### Projects not eligible for funding

Works or activities that:

- are not on private land
- are a condition of a council or state government development approval
- have previously received council funding
- are the legal responsibility of the landholder, eg. control of restricted matter, (ie invasive plants in Categories 1, 2, 5, 6 & 7, Schedule 2, Part 2) in the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, property rates and approval fees
- are for control of free floating and submerged aquatic weeds
- installation or modification of boundary fencing
- are the normal responsibility of the landholder (eg upgrades, maintenance or repairs to property infrastructure such as dams, weirs, drains, fences and tracks)
- contravene any local, state or commonwealth legislation or policy
- are focussed on providing private or scenic amenity eg landscaping
- involve projects on urban properties
- multiple projects on one property in a single application.

The following costs are not eligible for funding:

- your own or a relative's labour
- claiming wages for employees
- the purchase, servicing and/or associated costs of equipment (eg fuel, oil)
- reimbursement for works or purchases that have already been undertaken prior to submitting an application
- weed management activities in production or domestic areas (eg orchards, pastures, crops, gardens, lawns or around dwellings)
- contractor fees for the purposes of planting tubestock granted from another council incentive program (eg Land for Wildlife)
- maintenance of projects established with previous Landholder Environment Grant funding
- consultancy fees, work reports or administration fees
- herbicides that are restricted from use on the Sunshine Coast.



### Priority is given to projects that:

- will achieve cost effective on-ground outcomes
- have high ecological value
- have at least a matching landholder contribution
- will deliver benefits to the wider community
- demonstrate commitment to maintaining the work into the future

### Low priority is given to:

- projects that are not cost-effective or do not demonstrate sufficient planning.

## Funding details

As funds are limited and it is anticipated that many worthwhile projects will be submitted, applications seeking a modest amount of funding are more likely to be successful.

Applicants may apply for up to \$15,000 assistance towards their project.

The delivery of the Landholder Environment Grants program is subject to annual budget allocations.

### Landholder contribution requirements

To be eligible for assistance, a landholder will need to contribute to the project. The landholder contribution can be cash, in-kind or a combination of both.

**Cash contributions** are where the landholder pays for materials and/or labour with their own money.

An **in-kind contribution** is where the landholder contributes their own physical labour, the use of their own machinery, or project materials (eg fence posts, herbicide, mulch).

This is calculated over the life span of the project up to acquittal (usually 12 months from receipt of grant funds) and within the project area.

- in-kind contributions are valued at \$43.30/hour for the landholder's labour
- when calculating in-kind contributions for use of your own materials, equipment and/or running costs, you should use reasonable market prices for materials and reasonable market hire rates for machinery

The proposed funding amount and landholder contribution should be discussed with a Conservation Partnerships Officer during the site visit.

\$ Amount requested from Council	Landholder Contribution
Up to \$5,000	Priority will be given to projects with at least a matching landholder co-contribution. Matching co-contribution may be any combination of in-kind or cash.
\$5,000 - \$10,000	Landholder must at least match funding amount being requested from council <u>and</u> at least 25% of that matching amount must be in the form of cash.
\$10,001 - \$15,000	Landholder must at least match funding amount being requested from council <u>and</u> at least 50% of that matching amount must be in the form of cash.





## Application

Expression of Interest (EOI) Forms and Application Forms are available at [www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/grants](http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/grants) and must be submitted by the closing date.

The Landholder Environment Grants application is a three-stage process;

### 1. Expression of Interest (EOI)

Applicants must submit a Landholder Environment Grants Expression of Interest form during the expression of interest period to be eligible to apply.

### 2. Site Visit

Upon receipt of the EOI, a Conservation Partnerships Officer will contact the applicant to arrange an on-site visit to discuss the project and provide advice.

### 3. Online application form

Following the site visit, applicants must complete an online application form that reflects what was agreed upon during the site visit.

Quotes are required for all items over \$1000 and must be included with your application.

A property map, showing the location and extent of project activities must be included with your application.

If you are unable to upload your documentation, it can be delivered to a council office, emailed to [grants@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:grants@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au), or posted (no later than 5.00 pm) on the closing date.

Landholder Environment Grant applicants may start their project as soon as they submit their application, but need to be aware that funding is very competitive and council cannot guarantee that the application will be successful.

## Assessment

Landholder Environment Grants are assessed by a panel which includes council staff with expertise in natural area management.

## What are the grant conditions, if successful?

Successful applicants must:

- claim funds within 2 months of notification, unless written permission for an extension has been obtained from council
- use funds for the purpose for which the grant was awarded, unless written permission for a variation has been obtained from council
- allow council officers to conduct an on-site visit to inspect the progress of the project, if requested
- obtain all appropriate permits, approvals and insurance relating to the project for which the grant has been awarded
- allow council to use photographs and marketing material relating to the project in the promotion of council's grants and funding programs
- provide council, upon request, with information on the progress of the project
- complete the project within 12 months of receiving council funding
- submit an acquittal form (including receipts) within eight weeks of the project completion date, as nominated in the application.



Successful applicants who fail to comply with any of the above conditions may have their council grant funding offer withdrawn or may not be eligible for future council funding.

### How will I find out if my application is successful?

All applicants, both successful and unsuccessful, will be notified of the outcome via email. Part-funding may be offered.

### Acquittal

Once the project has been completed, applicants are required to complete an online acquittal form detailing the outcome of their project and how they have expended the funds.

Copies of invoices or receipts are to be included with the acquittal as evidence of expenditure and should match the approved items. Acquittals are due within eight weeks of project completion.

A refund of grant funds may be requested when expenditure falls short of the funding amount, or if funds are spent on items not approved.

Applicants will not be considered for further funding from council where previous acquittal conditions have not been met.

### Applicant Support

For further information or help completing on-line applications, please contact council's grants team:

- (07) 5420 8616
- [grants@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:grants@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

**Note:** Office hours are 8.30am – 4.30pm, Monday – Friday (excluding public holidays).

If you do not have your own computer, you can access a computer at any of council's libraries at no cost.

Please let us know if you have difficulty speaking English and we can organise an interpreter to assist you.

**Sunshine Coast Council**  
[www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)  
[mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)  
T 07 5475 7272 F 07 5475 7277  
Locked Bag 72 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560

