

Greater Sydney Community Landcare Grants

Round 4 – 2017

<p>1. Project summary</p>	<p>Grants are available for community groups and landholders in the Greater Sydney region to undertake projects to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and improve the quality of their local environment, • manage their natural resources sustainably, and; • build community awareness, participation, skills and knowledge in caring for their environment, including Aboriginal knowledge and participation. <p>This programme is being delivered by Greater Sydney Local Land Services (LLS) with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.</p>
<p>2. Project details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants of \$5,000 - \$30,000 will be provided to community groups and individuals for projects that meet at least one of the programme objectives detailed below. • Funds can be spent over an 18 month period. Successful applicants will need to enter into agreements with LLS within 14 days of receiving an offer for funding. • Projects must be completed by March 2019. • Community groups, not using a sponsor organisation, can include a 5 percent administration fee in their grants to assist with reporting and other administrative costs. • Community groups and individuals can only submit one application in Round 4. <p>You should contact us to discuss your proposal prior to submitting your application.</p> <p>Please contact your local LLS officer or Vanessa Keyzer, Regional Landcare Facilitator on (02) 4724 2118 or vanessa.keyzer@lls.nsw.gov.au.</p>
<p>3. Who can apply?</p>	<p>The following groups and individuals can apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Care' groups such as Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare and Rivercare groups • 'Friends of' and other community environment groups • Farmers, producers and their groups including industry groups • Indigenous communities and organisations • Individual land managers <p>Please note: Local and State government cannot apply. Council or NPWS supported Bushcare groups can apply, however the application and project must be driven by the applicant. Council or NPWS can act as a sponsor to manage funds only.</p>
<p>4. What activities are not eligible for funding?</p>	<p>Funding may not be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that are the legislative or regulatory responsibility of state or local governments or private land managers • Activities that are required to be undertaken as part of a development approval under federal, state or local government legislation • Activities that involve the planting of species that are not endemic to the local area or that could become environmental or agricultural weeds near the project site • Activities that are primarily for the purpose of beautifying or improving amenity, for example, landscaping or picnic tables • The production or purchase of promotional clothing, equipment or merchandise • The purchase or hire of major capital items that are considered to be part of the land managers or organisations responsibility • Retrospective activities

<p>5. Programme procurement</p>	<p>LLS will implement this programme through a competitive three stage process. Decisions on which EOIs will be funded and the level of funding will be made according to the selection criteria (listed in Section 8. Project selection criteria).</p> <p>LLS encourages the use of partnerships with other organisations for project delivery where appropriate.</p>
<p>6. Programme objectives</p>	<p>Projects must deliver on ONE of the following strategic objectives. Applicants need to pick the objective that best suits their project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Projects that aim to maintain and improve ecosystem services through sustainable management of local and regional landscapes. Activities funded may include weed and pest control, bush regeneration, erosion management, fencing, plant propagation and revegetation, actions that protect threatened species, development of management plans, community participation and engagement activities and training that contribute to the protection and restoration of ecosystem function, resilience and biodiversity.</p> <p>• Projects that aim to build community awareness, participation, skills and knowledge in caring for their environment, and/or the adoption of sustainable farming and fishing management practices, in particular Aboriginal knowledge and participation. Activities funded may include the delivery of workshops, training courses, awareness raising events, booklets, signage, media and other activities designed to build awareness, improve skills and knowledge and/or promote the conservation and management of the local environment.</p>
<p>7. Timeline for Round 4</p>	<p>Expressions of Interest (EOIs) open on Monday 1 May 2017. There will be a three stage application process.</p> <p>Stage 1: Complete the online EOI form accessed through the LLS website.</p> <p>Please discuss your EOI with your local LLS officer or Vanessa Keyzer, Regional Landcare Facilitator on (02) 4724 2118 early in the EOI period.</p> <p>You are required to provide the contact details for the land manager/owner in your EOI. Please ensure you discuss your project with the land manager/owner and obtain their permission for the project works BEFORE submitting your EOI to LLS.</p> <p>EOIs close at 5pm, Monday 5 June 2017. EOIs received after the closing date will not be considered.</p> <p>Stage 2: EOIs will be assessed against the selection criteria. Shortlisted applicants will then work with an LLS officer to discuss the EOI and develop a detailed project for assessment including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project description, budget and map, • Risk assessment, • Expected outputs and • A Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan. <p>Stage 3: Detailed projects will then undergo final assessment against the selection criteria. Please note that shortlisting does not guarantee projects will be funded.</p> <p>Applicants will be notified of their success or otherwise by September 2017.</p> <p>Successful applicants will need to enter into agreements with LLS within 14 days of receiving an offer for funding.</p>

8. Project selection criteria	<p>Successful projects will be selected using the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Community ownership: The extent to which the project is supported by the local community and will actively generate community support and participation. 2 Understanding scale: The extent to which the project will result in local environmental benefits or engagement of local community. 3 Evidence-based decisions: The extent to which the applicant has sought appropriate advice (including from LLS) and consulted with relevant stakeholders and is implementing best practice techniques. 4 Risk management: The applicant has considered risks to project delivery, safety and the environment and identified appropriate controls. 5 Collaboration: The extent to which the project engages partners, landholders and local communities, as appropriate. 6 Value for money: The extent to which the project demonstrates good value for money. 7 Investment benefit - public vs. private: The project has a high public environmental benefit or for on-ground works on private land a contribution from the land manager will compensate for any private benefit obtained. 8 Monitoring, evaluation and improvement: The applicant has considered monitoring, evaluation and reporting for the project outcomes.
9. Project roles	<p>The Applicant will be required to take full responsibility for implementation of all aspects of the proposed project including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall project management, • Collaboration with other organisations and the community, as necessary • Implementation of all aspects of any on-ground works (including site management, subcontracting, employment and supervision of staff, supply of material and equipment, and Work Health and Safety). • Ensuring that the project complies with all relevant State and Australian Government legislation and compliance with any relevant internal or external data licence agreements. • Promotion of the project, • Monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes, • Reporting to LLS, and • Ongoing maintenance of the project works. <p>LLS will be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of general information, contract administration during the development and implementation of the project through a nominated contact person. <p>The Sponsor, if applicable, will be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entering into an Agreement with LLS on behalf of the Applicant and undertaking financial management and financial reporting.
10. Project reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress reports will be required following completion of certain tasks and milestones. • A final report will be required at completion of the project. All projects must be completed and final reports submitted to LLS by March 2019.
11. Publicity	<p>All media releases, publications, signs or promotional materials produced throughout the project must acknowledge the contribution of Greater Sydney Local Land Services and the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.</p>

12. Lodgement of online applications

The online EOI form can be accessed through the [LLS website](#). Or please copy and paste this link into your browser:

<http://greater-sydney.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/financial-assistance/community-landcare-grants>

Please note:

- **The online form cannot be saved** – we encourage you to complete your EOI offline and then copy and paste the information into the online form prior to submitting. An editable version of the online form is available on the LLS website.
- If your project includes on-ground works such as bush regeneration, you will need to complete a basic map of where your project activities will occur. LLS has developed a simple online mapping tool for you to use. Alternatively, if you already have a map of your project activities you can upload this with your EOI.
- To access the online mapping tool please use this link: <https://goo.gl/55UzGY>
- A budget template has been developed in Excel for you to provide a detailed budget for your project. Please refer to instructions in this template prior to completing and uploading your budget.

If you have any questions or issues submitting your EOI please contact your local LLS officer or Vanessa Keyzer, Regional Landcare Facilitator on (02) 4724 2118 or vanessa.keyzer@lls.nsw.gov.au.