



# 2017-2018 Community Grants Guidelines



Picnic Point.

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## Part 1 Introduction

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The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (The Authority) administers funding from the State Government and the Australian Government to enable community groups to deliver natural resource management (NRM) projects.

The Authority administers three different funding streams

- Victorian Landcare Grants (State Government)
- Regional Riparian Action Plan Grants (State Government)
- National Landcare Programme Community Grants (Australian Government)

These guidelines provide information to prospective applicants on the type and scope of grants available, eligibility criteria, grant conditions, national and regional priorities, and how eligible applications will be assessed. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read these guidelines before preparing grant applications.

## Part 2 Grant Eligibility – Applicants and Projects

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### 2.1 Applicants

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For a project application to be eligible for consideration and assessment, the applicant must:

- a) Be a 'not-for-profit' community based group.
- b) Be incorporated or operate under the auspices of an incorporated organisation.
- c) Have current public liability (\$10M) and personal accident insurance or operate under the auspices of an organisation that carries such insurance.
- d) Be able to provide a copy of the certificate of currency for public liability and personal accident insurance.
- e) Have no outstanding project report/s relating to previous grants/funding from the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

### 2.2 Project Eligibility as per Government Investment Principles

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For a project application to be eligible for consideration and assessment, the project proposal must meet the following grant program conditions.

- a) Project must demonstrate a clear public benefit.
- b) Grants to Groups/Networks cannot include more than 15% of the grant for project management costs; these costs are to be included within the project budget.
- c) With the exception of the recipient utilising their project management component described above, grants cannot be used to employ support professionals.

- d) Community projects address regional/national priorities through the delivery of on ground works and support for capacity building, community education and engagement.
- e) Grants cannot be used for shooting, poisoning, trapping, explosive or fumigation methods for pest animal control.
- f) When promoting funding it is a requirement that the Victorian or Australian Government is acknowledged as the source of the funding and be badged in accordance with branding guidelines. These guidelines will be provided to funded proponents.

### 2.3 General Conditions specific to all funding streams

- a) Weed control on private land will not be funded unless the activity is preparatory to revegetation works or associated with native vegetation management.
- b) Capital items exceeding a value of \$1,000 will not be funded unless communal benefit can be demonstrated.
- c) Where project grants exceed \$10,000 projects must;
  - Demonstrate at least 50% on-ground works.
  - Have matching contribution (\$ for \$) by applicant (cash or in-kind) and
  - Capacity building projects must be coupled with relevant on-ground works
- d) Fencing is capped at \$5 per meter and must meet standards. (refer to appendix 1)
- e) Groups or Networks with multiple applications for the one funding stream are required to indicate their preferred priority ranking in each application (guidance provided in application form).

### 2.4 General Conditions specific to Regional Riparian Action Plan Grants

- a) Only eligible to Landcare Groups.
- b) Grants are capped at \$10,000.
- c) Works must be on riparian land.
- d) Off stream watering infrastructure capped at \$3,000.
- e) Projects are to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

### 2.5 General Conditions specific to Victorian Landcare Grants

#### **Project Grants**

- a) Landcare Group applications are capped at \$20,000.
- b) Landcare Network applications are capped at 45% of the total allocation.
- c) Projects should align to local and regional NRM priorities as identified in the Regional Catchment Strategy. Refer to Part 3.2 for more information.

d) Projects are to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

### **Maintenance / Start Up Grants**

Maintenance and Start Up Grants are for Landcare Groups and Networks and are designed to fund the start-up costs or maintenance costs of a Landcare Group or Network.

The maximum allocations available are:

- Up to \$500 *per Group or Network* for maintenance
- Up to \$1,000 *per Group or Network* to start up

Restrictions: Groups are not eligible to receive a Maintenance/Start Up grant if they receive a Project grant of more than \$10,000 in the same financial year.

## 2.6 General Conditions specific to National Landcare Programme Grants

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- a) Priority will be given to revegetation projects.
- b) Projects must be completed by **30<sup>th</sup> June 2018**, projects that cannot guarantee completion by this date will not be considered.
- c) Projects should align to the Strategic Objectives and Outcomes of the National Landcare Programme. Refer to Part 4 for more information.
- d) Projects should align to local and regional NRM priorities as identified in the Regional Catchment Strategy. Refer to Part 4.2 for more information.

## 2.7 Reporting Requirements

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Successful applicants will be required to enter into a signed funding agreement with the Authority.

Reporting requirements will be defined in the agreement and are aligned with the Authority's reporting obligations to the funding source.

Templates for reporting will be provided to the funding recipient to guide supply of the required information.

## 2.8 Occupational, Health and Safety

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A safe system of work is required to be in place for your project to protect the health and safety of your group, volunteers and anyone else on your project site.

You can find resources on OHS tailored to community groups at;

Victorian Landcare Gateway: <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/resources/health-and-safety/>

Worksafe <http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-and-prevention/your-industry/local-government/your-legal-duties/volunteers>

## 2.9 2017-2018 Community Grants Process Timeline

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Timing	Activity
21 <sup>st</sup> August, 2017	Call for Expression of Interests
2 <sup>nd</sup> October, 2017	Project proposal submissions due to EGCMA

### Part 3 Assessment Criteria

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Only proponents and projects that meet the criteria listed in Parts 2 will be eligible for assessment. Proponents/projects not meeting these criteria will not be considered.

#### 3.1 General Principles used in assessment

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- a) Is the project timeline clear and defined?
- b) Are costs clearly defined and realistically budgeted?
- c) Applicants history of previous project implementation and completion (if applicable), e.g. reporting, timely applications for variation, project completion and project quality.

Assessment of project proposals will be determined by the following:

#### 3.2 Project Impact (30%)

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How well does the project address the following factors?

- Longevity of impact, e.g. investment security through Landholder agreements.
- Value for money.
- Community/Stakeholder support.
- Public/Community benefit.

#### 3.3 Project Design (40%)

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How well does the proposal demonstrate a well-considered and designed project?

- How well will the proposed approach address the issue?
- Will it address the cause of the problem, rather than the symptom?
- Risks to investment, e.g. seasonality
- How well is the project resourced to complete the project?
- Is the Group/Network appropriately connected to access expertise as required?

#### 3.4 Alignment to Program Priorities (30%)

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The extent to which the project proposal aligns with regional and / or national NRM objectives as described in Part 4 below.

## Part 4 National and Regional Priorities and Objectives

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This section provides applicants with information on priorities and objectives applicable to Community Grants. Applicants must align applications with these.

### 4.1 National Landcare Programme Strategic Objectives and Outcomes

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This section provides applicants with a description of strategic objectives and outcome targets for projects funded through the National Landcare Programme.

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Outcomes	Contribution to national and international obligations
<b>1. Communities are managing landscapes to sustain long-term economic and social benefits from their environment.</b>	Maintain and improve ecosystem services through sustainable management of local and regional landscapes.	Protection and restoration of ecosystem function, resilience and biodiversity; appropriate management of invasive species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or native species.
<b>2. Farmers and fishers are increasing their long term returns through better management of the natural resource base.</b>	Increase in the number of farmers and fishers adopting practices that improve the quality of natural resource base, and the area of land over which those practices are applied.	Sustainable management of agriculture and aquaculture to conserve and protect biological diversity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon stored in soil.
<b>3. Communities are involved in caring for their environment.</b>	Increase engagement and participation of the community including Landcare, farmers and Indigenous people, in sustainable natural resource management.	Build community awareness of biodiversity values, skills, participation and knowledge, including Indigenous knowledge and participation, to promote conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
<b>4. Communities are protecting species and natural assets.</b>	Increase restoration and rehabilitation of the natural environment, including protecting and conserving nationally and internationally significant species, ecosystems, ecological communities, places and values.	Reduce the loss of natural habitats, degradation and fragmentation; protecting or conserving Matters of National Environmental Significance including management of world heritage areas, Ramsar wetlands, natural values of national heritage etc.; reduce the number of nationally threatened species and improve their conservation status.

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### 4.2 Local and Regional NRM Priorities

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This section provides applicants with information on the East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS), particularly those RCS Objectives and Management Actions

that the Authority believes community based environment groups are well placed to contribute to through Regional Community Grants.

<b>RCS Objectives</b>	<b>RCS Management Actions</b>
<b>Land Health</b>	
<p>Maintenance and/or improvement of the productive values and stability of agricultural land and soils in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Gum Plains</li> <li>• Bairnsdale Foothills</li> <li>• Lindenow and Bruthen Flats</li> <li>• Coastal Hills (Johnsonville to Newmerella)</li> <li>• Dargo</li> <li>• Tambo Valley (Bindi to Tambo Crossing)</li> <li>• Buchan Mountain Basin (Suggan Buggan to Buchan South)</li> <li>• Snowy River Flats, and</li> <li>• Snowy Mountain Basin (Deddick to Bendoc, Goongerah).</li> </ul>	<p>Encourage the adoption of best management practices. Maintaining appropriate ground cover.</p> <p>Minimising the threat from erosion.</p> <p>Remediating erosion at high priority locations.</p> <p>Undertake soil testing and encourage appropriate response where remedial action or change of practice is advisable.</p> <p>Encourage appropriate grazing management and species selections and management.</p> <p>Establish perennial vegetation in areas vulnerable to erosion.</p> <p>Assist landholders to adapt to increasing salinity in the lower parts of the Snowy River floodplain.</p>
<p>Improved awareness of the implications of disturbing potential acid sulphate soils by the landholders of the lower Snowy agricultural land.</p>	<p>Survey and map potential acid sulphate soils in the Lower Snowy agricultural land to enable provision of advice.</p> <p>Provide for education of landholders and community on the implications of disturbance of acid sulphate soils.</p>

<b>RCS Objectives</b>	<b>RCS Management Actions</b>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
<p>Improvement of the condition, security, diversity and connectivity of native vegetation in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gippsland Lakes and Hinterland (particularly the Red Gum Plains),</li> <li>• Dargo Mountain Basin,</li> <li>• Tambo Valley,</li> <li>• Monaro Tablelands.</li> </ul>	<p>Establishment and maintenance of areas of native vegetation in the Gippsland Lakes and Hinterland, particularly on the Redgum Plains, with focus on the following: Existing native vegetation patches on the Redgum Plains with potential for connection.</p> <p>Native vegetation where land meets water in riparian, wetland and estuarine environments, e.g. stream corridors, fringing wetlands of the Gippsland Lakes.</p> <p>Areas susceptible to wind erosion.</p> <p>Improve the condition and extent of rare and threatened vegetation communities in the Tambo Valley and on the Monaro tablelands.</p>
<p>Improvement of the condition, security, diversity and integrity of natural ecosystems and the status of threatened species and communities.</p>	<p>Protection and recovery of threatened species and communities, including the following: Manage priority threatened species and communities that require direct intervention to support their recovery.</p> <p>Implement direct interventions where needed, as guided by recovery plans and action statements.</p>

	<p>Improve integration of threatened species and community recovery activities with other land management programs.</p> <p>Support recovery of fauna threatened by fox predation by reducing fox abundance at a landscape scale.</p> <p>Invasive plant and animal programs of surveillance, monitoring and treatment.</p> <p>Implement fire management regimes that promote the resilience and health of natural ecosystems.</p>
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RCS Objectives	RCS Management Actions
<b>Inland Aquatic Ecosystems</b>	
Improvement of the water quality and freshwater flow regime of the Gippsland Lakes.	Reduce nutrient, sediment and pollutant inflows into the Gippsland Lakes, their wetlands, and their tributaries.
<p>Improved knowledge of location, condition and risks to wetlands on the Redgum Plains, Lower Mitchell and Lower Tambo rivers.</p> <p>Maintenance of the condition of wetlands between Lake Tyers and the Snowy River, near the Thurra and Wingan rivers, and east of Mallacoota.</p>	<p>Conduct wetland condition assessments.</p> <p>Conduct invasive plants and animals monitoring, assessment and treatment.</p>
<p>Improvement of the condition, security, diversity and connectivity of wetland and riparian (estuarine and riverine) native vegetation in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Along the Wonnangatta River,</li> <li>• Lower Snowy and Brodribb rivers and Cabbage Tree Creek,</li> <li>• Floodplains of the Combienbar, Cann and Genoa rivers.</li> </ul>	Improve condition of the Upper Mitchell, Upper Tambo, Dargo, Wonnangatta, Lower Snowy and Lower Brodribb rivers; Cabbage Tree Creek; and Cann, Combienbar and Genoa floodplains through partnerships with landholders, stock exclusion, revegetation and invasive plant and animal programs of surveillance, monitoring and treatment.
<p>Improvement of the condition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the waterways in the upper catchment to the Gippsland Lakes, particularly along the Mitchell and Nicholson rivers</li> <li>• the Lower Nicholson and Lower Mitchell rivers</li> <li>• the upstream reaches of the Cann River.</li> </ul>	<p>Complete riparian connection along the Mitchell and Nicholson rivers from their source to the Gippsland Lakes through partnerships with landholders, stock exclusion, revegetation and invasive plant and animal programs of surveillance, monitoring and treatment.</p> <p>Improve condition of the upstream reaches of the Cann River through stabilisation works, partnerships with landholders, stock exclusion, revegetation and invasive plant and animal programs of surveillance, monitoring and treatment.</p>

## Part 5 EGCMA Contact

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### **Further information**

If you have any questions about the Community Grants guidelines, please contact:

**Carolyn Cameron**

Community Projects Officer

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

Phone: (03) 5150 3582

Email: [ccameron@egcma.com.au](mailto:ccameron@egcma.com.au)

## Part 6 Privacy

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Personal information supplied by you and/or contained herein is collected, stored and maintained for the purpose of facilitating and administering this grant process. This information may be disclosed to relevant government organisations or other agencies for the sole purpose of administering the grant for which the information was collected. The information collected is not traded, sold, licensed nor used to commercial marketing purposes. You have the right to access this information. Sites are to be made available for auditing, monitoring or demonstration purposes upon request.

## Part 7 Fencing Standards

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Fencing Standards (from Vegetation Works Standards produced by Department of Land, Water and Planning).

Fence Type	Beef cattle	Dairy cattle	Sheep
Conventional	7 strand plain wire*		
Mesh	Standard 6/70/30 or 7/90/30 ring lock and plain wire*		
Electric	4 strand plain wire with at least 2 electrified strands	3 strand plain wire with at least 2 electrified strands	5 strand plain wire with at least 3 electrified strands

\*a common addition to these fence types (that could prolong their life) involves the installation of an electrified offset wire. The height of this wire should be approximately two-thirds the height of the animal excluded.