

# **Guidelines and Funding Conditions Land Management Incentive Program (LMIP) 2019-20 Grants for Landcare Groups**

## **Guidelines:**

**Grants of up to \$15,000 are currently available for projects where the focus is the protection of local natural resources for the long term benefit of the environment and the community.** Priority will be given to projects that are well targeted and are in line with local plans, strategies and priorities that relate to natural resource management and biodiversity.

Applications will only be accepted when submitted by a Landcare Group (or similar) community group. Private/public organisations, schools and individuals are not eligible to apply.

**Works can occur on private or public land.** However, the project must be driven and managed by the Group that makes the application; not by an individual landholder or private entity. Works on public land will only be funded where the manager of that land fully supports the project, yet can demonstrate that there is a very little chance of funding the project via internal sources.

### **Grant funding can be applied to the cost of:**

- Implementing on-ground works that protect or enhance local natural resources and/or biodiversity (note that this includes contractor costs where specific skills of the contractor are necessary for the success of the project).
- Community engagement or education activities/projects that focus on achieving positive outcomes for the local environment.
  - Note that funding can cover the cost of engaging contractors, where specific skills of the contractor are deemed necessary.

There are no set categories for projects. Each project will be considered in terms of the environmental and community benefits that it aims to provide. In previous years projects have typically included some of the following components:

- Pest plant and animal control
- Fencing to protect areas of high biodiversity from grazing pressures
- Indigenous plant revegetation projects
- The cost of workshops and/or field days ran by the applicant group that demonstrate and educate the community about aspects of sustainable land management.

LMIP funding cannot be used to employ project facilitators (or the like) or to purchase equipment beyond materials that are embedded as on-ground components of works (e.g. fencing).

There is likelihood that Council may not be able to fund the full grant amount that Groups request. So please keep this in mind when you design your application and if possible factor in contingencies for scaling projects back if insufficient funding is available.

LMIP funding can be used to expand the scale and scope of an active project that may already have external and non-acquitted grant funding, however specific conditions apply (see conditions 6, 7 & 8 below).

The following is a list of conditions that apply to this LMIP funding. There is potential to vary the detail and wording of some of these conditions, but any such variation will require specific written approval from Council's Land Management Officer prior to the grant being approved.

### **Funding Conditions:**

*Applications for this funding must be received by 11pm Sunday 19 May 2019. You must submit your application via Smarty Grants (see link provided via email).*

The grant can only be paid after your group has met to approve and formally minute the details of the proposal (including the figure for the total grant requested). If your group is unable to meet prior to application closing date, then please submit your application without the ratifying minutes. However you must follow-up by providing Council with the ratifying minutes by 5pm Wednesday 5 June 2019.

The applicant and all owners of land on which components of this project will occur agree to release Nillumbik Shire Council from any claim or claims arising from the agreed works.

1. The applicant understands that this LMIP funding is intended purely to assist with project delivery and that the responsibility for project delivery and long-term project maintenance rests with the applicant and or landowners involved.
2. The applicant agrees that the control of all noxious and environmental weeds is the ultimate responsibility of the owner of the land in question.
3. The applicant (e.g. Landcare Group or equivalent) will provide a substantial contribution towards this project; where this could be 'in kind contributions' such as volunteer on-ground work provided by group members.
4. In cases where this project is funding works on private land, then the owner of that land must provide financial input that at least matches the amount provided by the grant, unless otherwise stipulated and justified in the application (e.g. where the work will contribute to a very high community/environmental benefit).
5. All funding provided shall be used specifically for the purpose and activities set out in the grant application.
6. The applicant will disclose the details of any other non-acquitted grant funding or recently expended grant funding (i.e. within the past three years) that has been received to undertake works that could be seen to relate closely or overlap with this project.
7. LMIP funding cannot be used to cover the cost of any specific project component or contribution that is already listed as an agreed commitment of any other non-acquitted grant.
8. LMIP funding cannot be used for works or activities that contravene any terms or conditions that have been agreed to in relation to any other non-acquitted grant.
9. If it becomes apparent that the project as specified cannot be achieved, the applicant must inform Council's Land Management Officer or Biodiversity Officer as soon as possible.
10. The grant may be revoked at any time for unsatisfactory work, failure to meet project completion and reporting requirements (see below) or for providing false or misleading information.
11. If the project requires entry onto another person's land, prior permission must be obtained.
12. Any contractor employed to apply agricultural chemicals must be licensed and qualified in accordance with the Victorian Health Act 1958 and Pest Control Operators Regulations 1992 and must hold relevant insurance.
13. All persons using agricultural chemicals as part of this project must hold the necessary permits (e.g. Agricultural Chemical User Permit - ACUP) or be under direct supervision of a permitted user. For more information see the enclosed Agriculture Note from the Department Of Primary Industries (Victoria) – or visit: [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farming-management/chemical-use/agricultural-chemical-use/licenses-permits/acup](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farming-management/chemical-use/agricultural-chemical-use/licenses-permits/acup)

14. The use of agricultural chemicals must be in strict accordance with the product label and the Material Safety Data Sheet for that specific chemical. Some chemicals may have specified handling &/or management requirements such as stock with-holding periods.
15. As soon as possible after project completion and by 5pm on 1 May 2020 at the latest, the applicant must provide Council with a suitable Works Complete Report, or a Progress Report (if works are yet to be fully completed). Council will provide groups with Completion Report / Progress Report templates once grants have been approved.