

Nillumbik Shire Council

LAND MANAGEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM GUIDELINES SUMMARY

About the program

The Land Management Incentive Program offers flexible grants to support a range of integrated land management activities for private landholders and community groups.

Projects relating to land within Green Wedge and Rural Conservation Zones or areas with an Environmental Significance Overlay will be given priority over others. Significant environmental benefit would need to be demonstrated for any project outside these areas.

Three scales of project grants are available:

- 1. Small Scale Projects** - up to \$250*
These grants are intended to assist individual landholders with small scale projects or individual education activities where the over-all cost is unlikely to exceed \$500.
- 2. Medium Scale Projects** – between \$250 and \$2000* to assist individuals or groups of landholders working on strategic and well planned projects, where the over-all project cost is expected to exceed \$500.
- 3. Community Action Group Support Grant** - up to \$15,000
These grants are limited to assist formal groups of landholders working collaboratively on large-scale strategic land management projects affecting multiple properties. Applications of this nature need to be consistent with actions listed in approved strategic documents such as Catchment Management Plans and Biodiversity Plans.

***To be eligible**, all small and medium scale projects will require a matching contribution from the applicant. This contribution can include 'in-kind labour' and/or monetary input. The In-kind labour must be unpaid, it must occur within the same time frame as the LMIP funded project and must directly contribute towards the success of that project. Under these circumstances such labour can be 'valued' at \$25/person hour.

For all grants, priority will be given to applications which address high priority land management issues and show positive ecological outcomes. Projects should demonstrate well integrated and coordinated management techniques and a commitment to maintaining the positive outcomes achieved. Applications from individual landholders for medium scale projects will be more likely to secure funding if the project is identified as a priority action within a property management plan (or similar type of plan) for that property. LMIP grants and Council officer advice is available to assist landholders to develop such plans.



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What we can assist you with

Grant funding is intended to assist with one or more of the following projects components:

Biodiversity fencing - excluding stock from areas of remnant vegetation or waterways. Funding will only be provided for plain wire fencing. Boundary fences and those projects eligible for funding under Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Management Program will not be funded.

Weed control - to control species listed on the Nillumbik Shire Council weeds list, where control is consistent with priorities listed in relevant local or regional strategies (e.g. catchment management plans) and backed up by sound land management and bushland management practices. The control of widespread weeds such as Blackberry will only be funded in situations where that weed is degrading a significant natural ecosystem (funded at a maximum of \$50 per hectare of bushland unless higher costs can be demonstrated by previous records of

expenses). In paddock situations, control of these types of weeds is considered to be the responsibility of the landholder. A separate program is available for the control of Chilean Needle Grass, Serrated Tussock and other stipoid weeds. Contact the Land Management Officers at Council on the contact details below for further information. Weed control will only be funded for a maximum of three years, unless otherwise justified within a Council approved Property Management Plan.

Revegetation using indigenous plants - to assist activities associated with planting indigenous tube stock, direct seeding or promoting natural regeneration.

Educational rebate - a 50% rebate of up to \$250 towards the cost of undertaking approved natural resource management courses such as Property Management Planning or Farm Chemical Users

Courses.

Pest Animal Control - to control pest animals, as part of medium or large scale collaborative projects where the identified pest and the proposed control techniques are consistent with recommendations of approved local strategies and programs.

Non-Standard Items or Activities - to trial new techniques, develop demonstration sites, trials and/or to develop detailed management plans or strategy documents as part of medium or large scale projects. Such items or activities may require the development of service provision agreements or may be dependent on additional funding from external stakeholders.

Grant Acquittal Process

The grants will be assessed on the first basis by a simple application form. Additional project details and a follow-up site visit may then be required, especially for medium and large scale projects.

For application forms* and for further information contact:

Tim O'Donnell
Land Management Officer
Nillumbik Shire Council PO Box 476
Greensborough VIC 3088
Phone 9433 3207
Email tim.odonnell@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

* Application forms are also available on-line at:
[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/Incentives/Land Management Incentive Program](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/Incentives/Land%20Management%20Incentive%20Program)



Land Management Incentive Program Guidelines Summary Terms & Conditions



Terms & conditions of funding under the land protection incentive program (LMIP)

This section sets out the terms and conditions that apply to the Land Management Incentive Program. Only projects that comply with these conditions will be funded.

Funding conditions:

- The applicant agrees to release Nillumbik Shire Council from any claim or claims arising from the agreed works.
- 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/landowner.
- All funding provided shall be used specifically for the purpose and activities set out in the 'letter of success' that will be forwarded to every successful project applicant.
- If it becomes apparent that the project as specified cannot be achieved, the applicant must inform Council's Environmental Planning Unit as soon as possible.
- 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.
- If the project requires entry onto another person's land, prior permission must be obtained.
- Funding for weed control within a property will only be funded for a maximum period of three years unless otherwise clearly justified within a document such as a Council approved Property Management Plan or Catchment Management Strategy.
- 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.
- 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
- 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.

- The applicant agrees that the control of all noxious and environmental weeds is the ultimate responsibility of the owner of the land in question.
- As soon as possible after project completion, the applicant agrees to provide Council with a Works Completed Form (see second last dot point). A simple two page pro-forma will be provided.

Project approval process

- Funding will only be provided where applicants agree to specific grant conditions along the line of those indicated on this page. A Project Agreement Form will be provided. This form will also prompt you for details regarding your preferred method of payment.

Project completion and reporting

- A Works Completed Form will need to be returned to Council by an agreed date.
- After completion, a project inspection **may** be conducted by a Council officer at an agreed time.