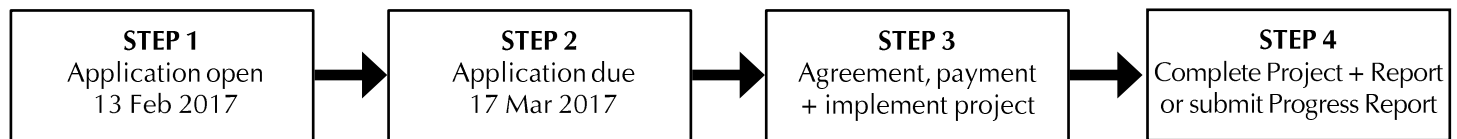


Private Land Conservation Grants Program for Community Bush Regeneration Guidelines

The Private Land Conservation Grant Program is funded by the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife and its partner organisations. It provides small grants to support NSW landowners who have a **conservation protection mechanism on their land**, and for education and training in conservation.

The Private Land Conservation Grants Program recognises and supports landholders for activities which enhance the biodiversity conservation value of their registered properties.

Please read these Guidelines carefully and make sure you complete the **correct application form**. Provide as much information as you can so that your application can be properly assessed. Some applicants may not be in a position to contribute in-kind to the project. However, where possible, landholders are encouraged to provide in-kind contributions to the project, for example in labour, materials, equipment or funds.



WHO CAN APPLY

One application per property per year can be made by landholders (individuals or companies) for Category 1 and Category 2 grants. Individual landholders who are members of the Wildlife Land Trust or Land for Wildlife, and its Regional Delivery Partners can apply for Category 3 grants.

There are three categories of grants under the Program:

Category 1

Funds of up to a maximum of \$5,000 per annum for 3 years are available to landholders who have the highest level of conservation protection on their land:

- Conservation Agreement with the Office of Environment and Heritage
- Trust Agreement with the Nature Conservation Trust
- Registered Property Agreement (in-perpetuity)

Category 2

Funds of up to a maximum of \$2,000 per annum for 3 years are available to landholders who have a lower level of conservation protection on their land:

- Wildlife Refuge
- Conservation Property Vegetation Plan
- Registered Property Agreement (term)

Category 3a

Funds of up to a maximum of \$2,000 per annum for 3 years are available for a training or education proposal by:

- Wildlife Land Trust and / or Land for Wildlife members
- Land for Wildlife Regional Providers
- Trainers / educators on behalf of Wildlife Land Trust and/ or Land for Wildlife members

Category 3b

Funds of up to a maximum of \$1,500 per annum for 3 years are available to landholders who are members of:

- Land for Wildlife
- Wildlife Land Trust

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Projects supported by the Grants Program can be used to:

- maintain or improve the conservation value of land and the local native flora and fauna
- protect and prevent against degradation of habitat
- increase and improve habitat connectivity
- provide landholder training in conservation

The following is a guide only. If you are unsure, email the Grants Manager at grantsmanager@fnpw.org.au or phone 02 9221 1949 for advice.

Funds can be used to buy services, products, tools, equipment and/or materials to protect or improve the conservation value of land covered by an agreement or plan through:

- Bush regeneration, including weed control
- Activities supporting the recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities
- Nesting boxes
- Repairs / replacement of wildlife-friendly conservation related fencing
- Fire management for ecological outcomes
- Feral animal control as part of a **co-ordinated program**

For **Category 3a**, funds can also be used to buy services, products and / or materials to provide training or education in land or species conservation.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Funding **cannot** be used for the following:

- Flora, fauna and cultural surveys by specialist consultants
- Purchase of movement cameras or solar energisers
- Compensation or payments to landholders for their labour and efforts
- Works already funded, including work covered by insurance

- Capital improvements
- Works already completed
- Political lobbying or advocacy
- Legal expenses, rates or taxes
- Activities required or funded under agreements
- Activities required under current legal landholder obligations e.g. control of noxious weeds declared under an order by the Minister of Primary Industries. You can find out what noxious weeds have been declared in your local areas and what you need to do by searching the NSW Weeds Wise database available here: <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>
- Boundary fencing
- Fuel

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed by representatives from partner organisations based on how well projects meet the criteria below.

Category 1, 2 and 3b

- consistency with conservation protection mechanism, management scheme and priority actions
- improvement in quality of the environment
- conservation of threatened native species, populations or ecological communities
- sustainability of projects outcomes
- the project is technically sound and practical
- value for money, for example, budget is appropriate for the project or in-kind contributions are being made
- need for the project relative to other projects
- all other grants have been acquitted

Category 3a

- the extent to which the education / training will improve knowledge and skills in conservation
- the education / training program is well designed and likely to achieve good outcomes
- the education / training program includes handouts and material for participants
- the proposal identifies strategies to attract education / training participants
- whether the project shows value for money, for example, the budget is appropriate to the project and sufficiently detailed, and, where possible, in-kind contributions are being made
- the need for the project relative to other projects
- all other grants have been acquitted

FUNDING CONDITIONS

Successful applicants must:

- spend the grant within the agreed period
- complete and submit a report on their project at the end of the year. If you are successful in securing 2 or 3 years of grant funding, you must complete a progress report on your project each year. Reports should, where possible, include before and after photos
- read and follow the grant kit.

- account for money from the grant by providing copies of invoices and receipts which you will be required to send to the Foundation with your end of year report
- agree to representatives of the partner organisations supporting this Program visiting your project at a mutually agreed time
- agree to Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife representatives visiting the property for auditing purposes, if necessary.

IMPORTANT DATES

Grants Open	Monday 13 February 2017
Applications Close	Friday 17 March 2017
Grants Announced	Friday 2 June 2017
Grant Reports Due	30 June 2018

If you have any questions about the Private Land Conservation Grants Program, please contact the Grants Program Manager at grantsmanager@fnpw.org.au or on 02 9221 1949

FURTHER INFORMATION

For information on Conservation Agreements, Wildlife Refuges or Registered Property Agreements contact the Office of Environment and Heritage
 Phone: 1300 361 967 / 02 9995 5000
 Email: conservation.partners@environment.nsw.gov.au
 Website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/cpp/conservationpartners.htm

For information on Trust Agreements contact Nature Conservation Trust of NSW
 Phone: 02 6365 7543
 Email: info@naturetrust.org.au
 Website: www.naturetrust.org.au

For information on Property Vegetation Plans contact your Local Land Services
 Website: www.lls.nsw.gov.au

For information on the Land for Wildlife program contact the Community Environment Network
 Phone: 02 4349 4756,
 Email: admin@cen.org.au
 Website: www.cen.org.au

For further information on the Wildlife Land Trust program contact Wildlife Land Trust
 Phone: 1800 333 737
 Email: evan@hsi.org.au
 Website: www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au

On 17 November 2016, the NSW Parliament passed the Biodiversity Conservation Bill. Under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act 2016) there are three tiers of private land conservation agreements:

- Tier 1 - *Biodiversity stewardship agreements* – permanent agreements that provide for the protection and management of biodiversity and allow for the creation of biodiversity credits.
- Tier 2 - *Conservation agreements* - permanent or time-bound agreements
- Tier 3 - *Wildlife refuge agreements* - an entry level option for landholders who want to protect the biodiversity on their property but do not wish to enter into a permanent agreement.

Existing private land conservation agreements, including conservation agreements under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and trust agreements under the *Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001* are being carried over and will remain in place.

Arrangements for converting or upgrading existing agreements will be established by the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation*, which will be released for public consultation. Any conversion will be at the request of the landholder.

Landowners with existing agreements are eligible to apply for a grant under this Program.

The Private Land Conservation Program is a partnership initiative of the following not-for-profit organisations and government agencies committed to promoting conservation



Foundation for
National Parks
& Wildlife

Paddy Lee
Foundation



WILDLIFE LAND TRUST
HONORARY SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL



Diversion
Environmental Foundation



Nature
Conservation
Trust



Community
Environment
NETWORK



NSW
GOVERNMENT | Local Land
Services



NSW
GOVERNMENT | NSW
Environmental
TRUST



NSW
GOVERNMENT | Office of
Environment
& Heritage