

Grassroots Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

The 2026-27 (Round 7) Grassroots Grants opens on 16 March 2026 and closes at 4pm on 11 May 2026. All applications will be managed through the easy-to-use online application portal 'Smarty Grants'.

'Guidelines for Applicants' and the link to the SmartyGrants application site is available on our website at www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/get-involved/grants-and-funding

Projects that may be subject to a Water Affecting Activity (WAA) permit will need to be assessed before works commence. Applications must identify if the project requires a WAA permit. If a permit is required, this will be identified in the Grant Agreement.

All projects need to align with the board's five key priority areas – Climate Resilient Region; Water Management; Sustainable Land Management; Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity; and People and Partnerships.

Who can apply for Grassroots Grants?

Eligibility includes but is not limited to:

- volunteer groups
- non-government organisations
- schools
- progress associations
- peak organisations
- local government
- community groups
- outdoor and recreational groups
- individuals including property owners

As a landholder seeking a grant for works on my property, can I apply?

As an individual you are eligible to apply. However, for your application to be considered for funding you may wish to consider how your project could provide benefit to the broader community, or provide opportunities for them to become involved. Alternatively, you could apply for funding for a not-for-profit project in partnership with a community organisation.

I run a commercial business. Can I apply?

Yes, as long as the project and activities are not-for-profit and meets one or more of the priorities laid out in the Guidelines for Applicants.

What is a legal entity?

An applicant must be a 'legal entity', such as:

- Individuals (also known as natural persons)
- Partnership (made up of two or more individuals)
- Corporations/companies under the Corporations Act 2001 – have a unique ACN and are represented by "Pty", "Pty Ltd" or "Ltd" following the company name
- Associations – incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (have "Inc." after their name)
- Trustees in a trust (e.g. John Smith as Trustee for the Smith Family Trust)
- Local Government – under Local Government Act 1999
- Most Australian universities

What is not a legal entity?

- An unincorporated association or group
- A trust (e.g. Smith Family Trust) however the trustees can be. The trustees may be individuals or companies.
- Businesses/business names
- Some private schools that are incorporated or companies.
- Public schools are NOT a legal entity, however the contract would be with the Minister of Education, Training and Skills, which is a legal entity.

When would I need to have a sponsor?

If you are not a legal entity (e.g. a group of neighbouring landholders banding together for pest management activities) you will need someone, a person or organisation, to be responsible for receiving and managing grant funding and completing reporting.

This could be the local council, or an individual. A sponsor's letter is required as part of your application if you are using a sponsor. Another common example is an unincorporated Friends of Parks group, who would use Friends of Parks Inc. as their sponsor.

Can I purchase equipment to help me undertake on-ground work?

Generally, funding is not provided for the purchase of assets which become the sole property of an individual. You are encouraged to borrow or hire equipment, however, purchase of equipment may be considered if it can be demonstrated that this is essential to the delivery of specified works by a community group for example.

Do I need a Water Affecting Activity (WAA) permit?

You will need to check if your project is a Water Affecting Activity. If a permit is required, this will be identified in the Grant Agreement along with any appropriate conditions and the board will apply a permit exemption as part of the grant approval.

Can I ask for 100% funding or do I have to match it?

You can ask for your project to be fully funded, however it is favourable that volunteer hours or other in-kind support is detailed in the application, along with any cash contributions. Value for money is an assessed criteria.

Will I be able to get an extension for a late application?

No, once the grants close late applications will not be accepted. If however, you are having issues lodging your application for any reason, please call so we can assist.

When will I find out if I've been successful?

It is anticipated that all applicants will be advised whether or not their proposed project(s) were successful by mid July. Grant Agreements will be sent to successful recipients.

When will I receive grant funds?

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be paid up front, on signing of the Grant Agreement, and submission of a tax invoice and vendor form (if required).

For grants over \$10,000, a payment schedule will be negotiated with you, with payments linked to milestones. Examples of milestones are signing the grant agreement, ordering materials, completing a mid-term report or completing the project.

Will I be able to get an extension past my project end date?

Projects can be extended due to seasonal factors and other unforeseen issues. Please discuss this as early as possible with the Community Landscape Officer for your district.

Who can I ask for help with my application?

Community Landscape Officers are the key point of contact for advice and assistance with grant applications. Contact details are included on the guidelines for applicants.

How much is this year's grant round and how much can I apply for?

Individual grants of up to \$20,000 (ex gst) can be applied for. The total funding for the round is \$150,000.

What types of projects can I apply for and what were successful projects last year?

There are a range of projects that can be applied for which includes biodiversity monitoring and protection, revegetation projects, weed control, pest animal control, land management projects, and community capacity building such as workshops and events. To help with ideas, details of the successful previous grant recipients are available on [the board's website](#). Project ideas need to ensure they align with at least one of the board's five key priority areas.

How do I apply?

All applications are completed online through the easy-to-use SmartyGrants portal. If you have any questions, please contact your Community Landscape Officer.

What if I am unable to use the online form?

Please contact your Community Landscape Officer early to work through options to submit the grant.

Can more than one property apply for a grant for a single issue? E.g. widespread weed control

Landscape scale projects are welcomed and where a project such as weed control goes across property boundaries, multiple landholders can apply for funding. This can be for one grant each of up to \$10k or separate grants for each property owner, up to \$10k each. Accredited marksman and operators are likely required for project aerial control works.

What sort of supporting documents should I include?

Supporting documents include support letters from organisations, councils, neighbours etc. It can also include quotes for proposed works, maps of the areas that work will occur, or any plans that you may have related to the works or that align with the works.

Can I apply for a grant if the project is already underway or completed?

No. Payments cannot be paid retrospectively for any work that has occurred before the grant is approved