

Clean Coastal Catchments

Working with growers to keep sediment and nutrients on farm and out of coastal waterways, while supporting profitable and sustainable agriculture

Grants for on-ground works - landholder guidelines

Project background

The Clean Coastal Catchments Project (CCC) is funded under the NSW Government's Marine Estates Management Strategy.

The Strategy's vision:

A healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.

The NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy has identified agricultural diffuse source pollution as a priority threat to water quality and the Marine Estate. This project will help farmers in intensive coastal agricultural industries to:

- better manage nutrient inputs and runoff to become more productive and profitable.
- reduce their impact on water quality and the marine estate.
- improve the long term economic and environmental sustainability of intensive agricultural systems in coastal NSW.
- increase export market access and social licence to operate through improved land and water stewardship.

Grants for on-farm works

Blueberry, blackberry, raspberry and greenhouse vegetable growers within the North Coast region are eligible to apply for this grant.

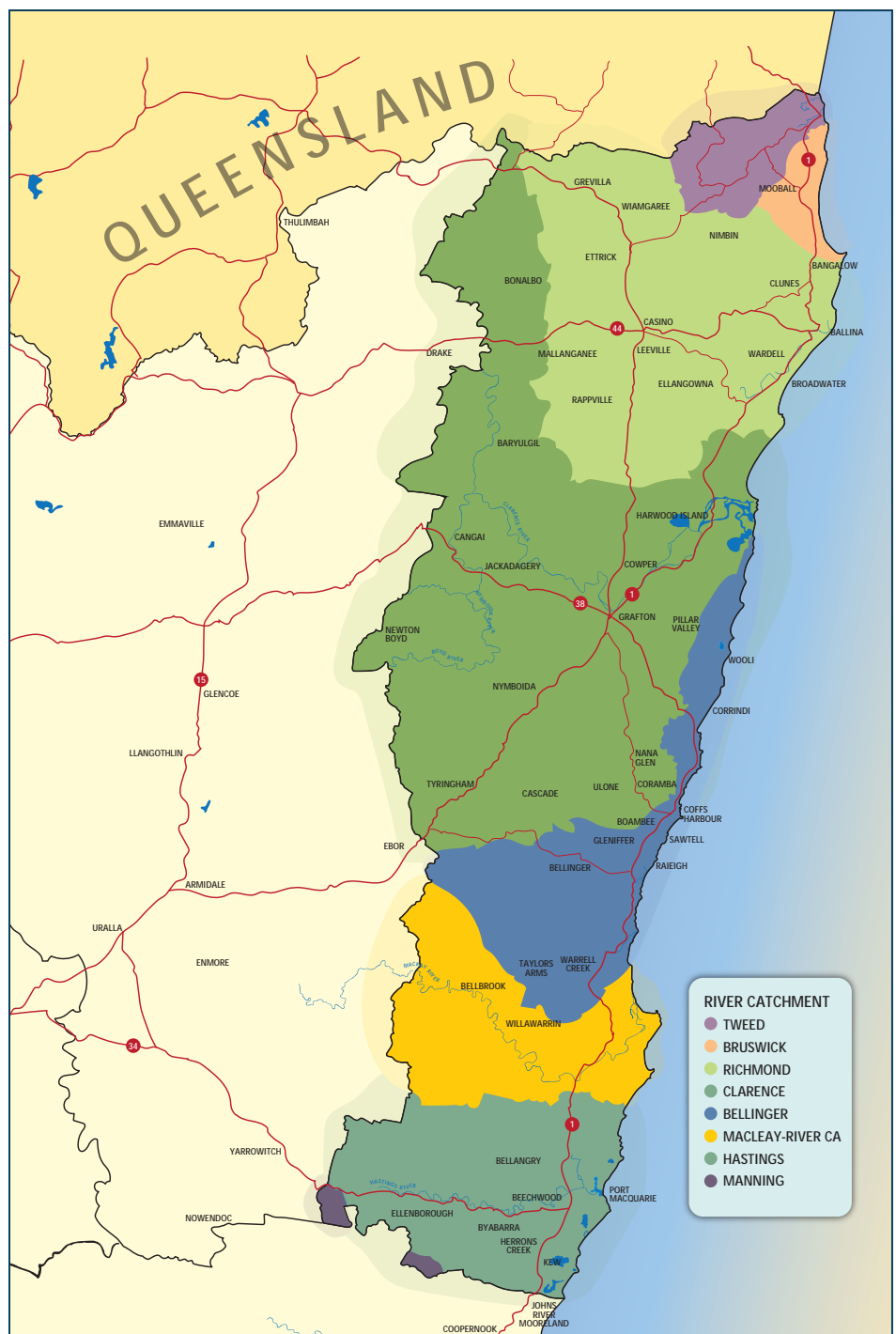
If you are unsure whether your property is within the project area please call:

Melinda Simpson on
0447 081 765 or
Julie Dart on 0427 007 501.

Eligible project area

The following map indicates the eligible project area which encompasses all areas of the North Coast region.

If you are unsure whether your property is within the project area, please call Melinda Simpson on 0447 081 765 or Julie Dart on 0427 007 501.



Activities eligible for funding

Activities that are eligible for CCC grants include:

- irrigation/fertigation system retrofits/upgrades that improve water use efficiency
- water treatment/re-use/recycling systems
- riparian / perimeter re-vegetation or buffer zones to filter water runoff from farm land
- erosion control including structural works and re-vegetation
- grass filter strips
- application of compost and mulch
- construction of nutrient detention ponds, artificial wetlands and filter ponds
- construction of diversion banks and contour banks to control run-off
- modified fertiliser use to reduce nutrient loss/run-off

Activities not listed above that are likely to achieve reductions in the movement of nutrients from a farm may also be eligible for funding. These activities will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please note that proposing an eligible activity does not guarantee that your application will be successful. Your project will be assessed against the essential criteria in this document. It will need to meet a minimum benchmark and be compared with other applications.

Activities ineligible for funding

Activities that are not eligible for CCC grants include:

- boundary fencing
- replacement of vegetation (solely for biodiversity) at sites where this change will not lead to a reduction in nutrient exports
- works that are considered the normal obligation of a landholder (e.g. weed control), repairs and maintenance
- activities related to consent conditions on pre-existing Development Applications or other Local, State or Federal Government Orders
- existing works where expenses have already been incurred

Size of grants

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be available.

Landholder contributions

Landholders will be required to provide financial or in-kind contributions towards projects. The value of contributions will be used to prioritise the allocation of grants. Higher contributions will be viewed more favourably. In kind contributions could include the provision of labour or the use of machinery. Maintenance costs of the project in the future can also form part of landholder contributions.

The following table provides an indication of how some common activities should be valued for their in-kind contribution.

Item	Unit	Rate	Comments
Labour – General	hour	\$30	Labour for tasks in the field, supervision, planning and other activities associated with your project
Post Hole Digger	day	\$150	Approximate local market rate to hire
Hand held post hole digger	day	\$75	Approximate local market rate to hire
Star post driver	day	\$30	Approximate local market rate to hire
Slasher	day	\$140	Approximate local market rate to hire
Brush Cutter	day	\$70	Approximate local market rate to hire
Pump	day	\$125	Approximate local market rate to hire
Chainsaw	day	\$110	Approximate local market rate to hire
Actual costs	n/a	n/a	Actual cost of equipment purchase or hire
Other costs incurred			
Travel	km	\$0.55	Cost of travel including transport of materials, travel to and from site for work that is specific to the project
Actual costs	n/a	n/a	Actual cost of purchase (eg. tools)

How to apply for a grant

Applying for a grant through CCC is a simple process and you will be guided through it by a project officer.

The steps involved are:

1. Read these guidelines to see if you and your proposed works are eligible
2. Complete an Expression of Interest form and submit by the **21 December 2020** to:
 - email:** julie.dart@lls.nsw.gov.au or
 - mail to:** Julie Dart, 24-26 Mulgi Drive South Grafton NSW 2460
3. **Applications are then assessed against Essential Criteria detailed in this guide and if deemed eligible the following steps will occur:**
 - a) A Hort360 on farm assessment is carried out with a CCC project officer
 - b) Hort360 survey results will be reviewed by CCC project staff and provided back to the applicant.
 - c) An irrigation assessment is required for irrigation interventions.
 - d) On ground works proposal is in consultation with a CCC project officer
 - e) Proposal is assessed against Essential Criteria in this guide
4. If approved for funding, a Management Agreement (contract) will be prepared.
5. Once it is signed by CCC and you (and the land owner if you do not own the property concerned) the funds will be delivered and you can begin your project.

Essential criteria

Criteria	Description
Located in the Project Area	The property is within the North Coast region, see map on page 1
Nutrient Export Reductions	The project must aim to reduce the movement of nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) or sediment from a rural property in the North Coast region, see map on page 1.
Successful Completion of Previous Grant Projects	Landholders who received a grant for similar works in the past and were unable to complete the project may not be eligible for funding under CCC
Contributions	Landholders need to provide matching or significant contributions towards projects
Eligible Activity	Project activities should be listed above in the 'Activities Eligible for CCC Grant Funding'. If not, but the activity is deemed likely to result in reductions in nutrient export by CCC, it may still be eligible for funding. Activities listed in 'Activities Ineligible for Funding' cannot be funded through CCC.
Appropriate access to water for irrigation	<p>Appropriate access to water for irrigation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm dam capacity within the maximum harvestable right capacity confirmed by using the Maximum Harvestable Rights Calculator or determination by DPIE Water; • Current Water Access Licence where water is extracted from a creek, river or bore, and/or maximum farm dam capacity exceeds the maximum harvestable right capacity, and appropriate metering is in place.

Hort360

HORT 360 is a computer based, risk assessment tool, which is designed to give you a 360-degree view of your farm business operations. This is a one-on-one facilitated process, where you will be asked a series of questions relevant to your business that will help to determine the level of your farm practices compared to an industry standard. The results of this survey will highlight any practice that is below the industry standard, and you will be advised on what actions can be taken to improve your farm practices.

More information on HORT360 can be found at <https://www.hort360.com.au/>

Aboriginal Heritage

Where a project involves ground disturbance the CCC team will undertake a desktop records search to ensure the works will not impact on any known Aboriginal heritage sites. Should any sites of Aboriginal heritage be identified, this will be discussed with the North Coast Aboriginal Heritage Officer. In most cases no change will be required, however in some cases changes will be necessary. These changes may simply involve relocating affected works to another part of the property or could in rare circumstances involve more significant changes.

Management agreement

In order to receive a grant, all successful applicants will be required to enter into a Management Agreement (contract) with North Coast Local Land Services. The Management Agreement will detail the landholder's responsibilities for the project, such as what works are to be undertaken, completion dates and maintenance requirements.

Works Permits & Licences

Where works are to be conducted within 40 metres of the high bank of a waterway, a permit from National Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) must be granted before work can commence. The cost of obtaining any permit is to be paid by the landholder.

For more information on this go to: [Guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land](#)

Where works are related to irrigation, the landholder must be appropriately licensed for horticultural water use and provide evidence of compliance.

Timeframe

From the time of signing the Management Agreement, landholders will generally have 12 months from the when the funds are received to finish the project. Different timeframes may be negotiated depending on individual circumstances, however all CCC projects will be inspected by June 2021 and an assessment made on whether acceptable progress has been achieved.

Expressions of Interest close on Monday the 21st of December 2020