

# Natural resource management partnership grants guidelines 2022-23



Hunter Local Land Services is supporting public land managers and Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) in the Hunter region to implement Australian Government priorities in natural resource management (NRM).

The NRM partnerships grants support organisations to restore and protect important habitats, including areas impacted by Black Summer Bushfires 2019-20 or associated refugia.

The grants program will support projects that:

- improve habitat quality or reduce threats for target species or vegetation through on ground works\*  
*\*note, all projects must have on ground works component*
- support training or educational activities
- engage or involve landcare groups
- support Aboriginal employment or on the job mentoring or training programs
- fire management (ecological, cultural or asset protection)
- planning (including associated flora or fauna surveys, cultural heritage assessments).

This grants program is being delivered by Hunter Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the Bushfire Recovery Package for Wildlife and their Habitat.



# NRM partnership grants 2022-23

<b>Funding source</b>	National Landcare Program, Bushfire Recovery Package for Wildlife and their Habitat
<b>Grant type</b>	Targeted, Competitive
<b>Application open</b>	16 January 2023, 10:00 am
<b>Applications close</b>	20 March 2023, 6:00 pm
<b>Outcome</b>	Within 3 weeks after closing date
<b>Funding agreement and requirements</b>	Land Management Agreement, 12 months implementation*, at least one progress report (payment milestone), one final report, nominated maintenance period *up to 6 months additional delivery time frame for LALCs
<b>Total program</b>	\$250,000 (minimum available in 22/23, future programs to be determined)
<b>Grant funding</b>	\$30,000-50,000 per grant *plus 20% for LALCs
<b>General eligibility (see overleaf for other conditions)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be within priority areas and for priority species/habitats or vegetation.</li> <li>• Public land managers and LALCs eligible only.</li> <li>• Must implement eligible activities only.</li> <li>• All projects must include an on ground work component.</li> <li>• Must include maintenance activities.</li> <li>• Must include in kind/cash contributions.</li> </ul>
<b>Criteria for assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant must have met all eligibility requirements.</li> <li>• Projects benefit broader community, including Aboriginal employment or capacity building, or engagement or involvement with community, such as Landcare.</li> <li>• Conservation benefits-activities will support important or threatened vegetation or native fauna to the Hunter region and align to recovery plans, or other technical advice or plans.</li> <li>• Value for money-such as in kind, cash or other contributions.</li> <li>• Risk management-demonstrate risk management and ensure project success.</li> <li>• Maintenance-proposed maintenance activities and duration is appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Grants approval</b>	Healthy landscapes manager, Hunter Local Land Services
<b>Publishing</b>	All successful granted projects will be published on the NSW Government grants and funding finder <a href="http://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding">www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding</a>
<b>Lodging applications</b>	Electronically to: <a href="mailto:incentives.program@lls.nsw.gov.au">incentives.program@lls.nsw.gov.au</a> In writing to: Private Bag 2010, Paterson NSW 2421
<b>Where to get assistance</b>	<p><b>Main contact for application submissions support</b> Abbey Henry <a href="mailto:abbey.henry@lls.nsw.gov.au">abbey.henry@lls.nsw.gov.au</a> or 0487 560 109.</p> <p><b>Technical advice/confirm priority species/listed vegetation</b></p> <p><u>Mid Coast/Manning Great Lakes</u> Rye Gollan <a href="mailto:rye.gollan@lls.nsw.gov.au">rye.gollan@lls.nsw.gov.au</a> or 0468 325 125.</p> <p>Whitney Ridgeway (LALCs) <a href="mailto:whitney.ridgeway@lls.nsw.gov.au">whitney.ridgeway@lls.nsw.gov.au</a> or 0427 012 648.</p> <p><u>Lower Hunter</u> Eva Twarkowski <a href="mailto:eva.twarkowski@lls.nsw.gov.au">eva.twarkowski@lls.nsw.gov.au</a> or 0437 056 978.</p> <p>Toby Whaleboat (LALCs) <a href="mailto:toby.whaleboat@lls.nsw.gov.au">toby.whaleboat@lls.nsw.gov.au</a> 0429 303 765.</p> <p><u>Upper Hunter</u> Catherine Conroy <a href="mailto:catherine.conroy@lls.nsw.gov.au">catherine.conroy@lls.nsw.gov.au</a> or 0427 578 937. Allison Warry (LALCs) <a href="mailto:allison.warry@lls.nsw.gov.au">allison.warry@lls.nsw.gov.au</a> or 0437 008 259.</p>

# Priorities of the program

This program aligns with priorities of the Australian Government's National Landcare Program (and Bushfire Recovery Package for Wildlife and their Habitat).

It intends to provide additional support to priority action for the following species (and their habitats) or locations. In particular areas that were impacted by Black Summer Bushfires 2019-20 and associated key refugia sites, or other important habitat areas within the targeted sub-catchments areas.

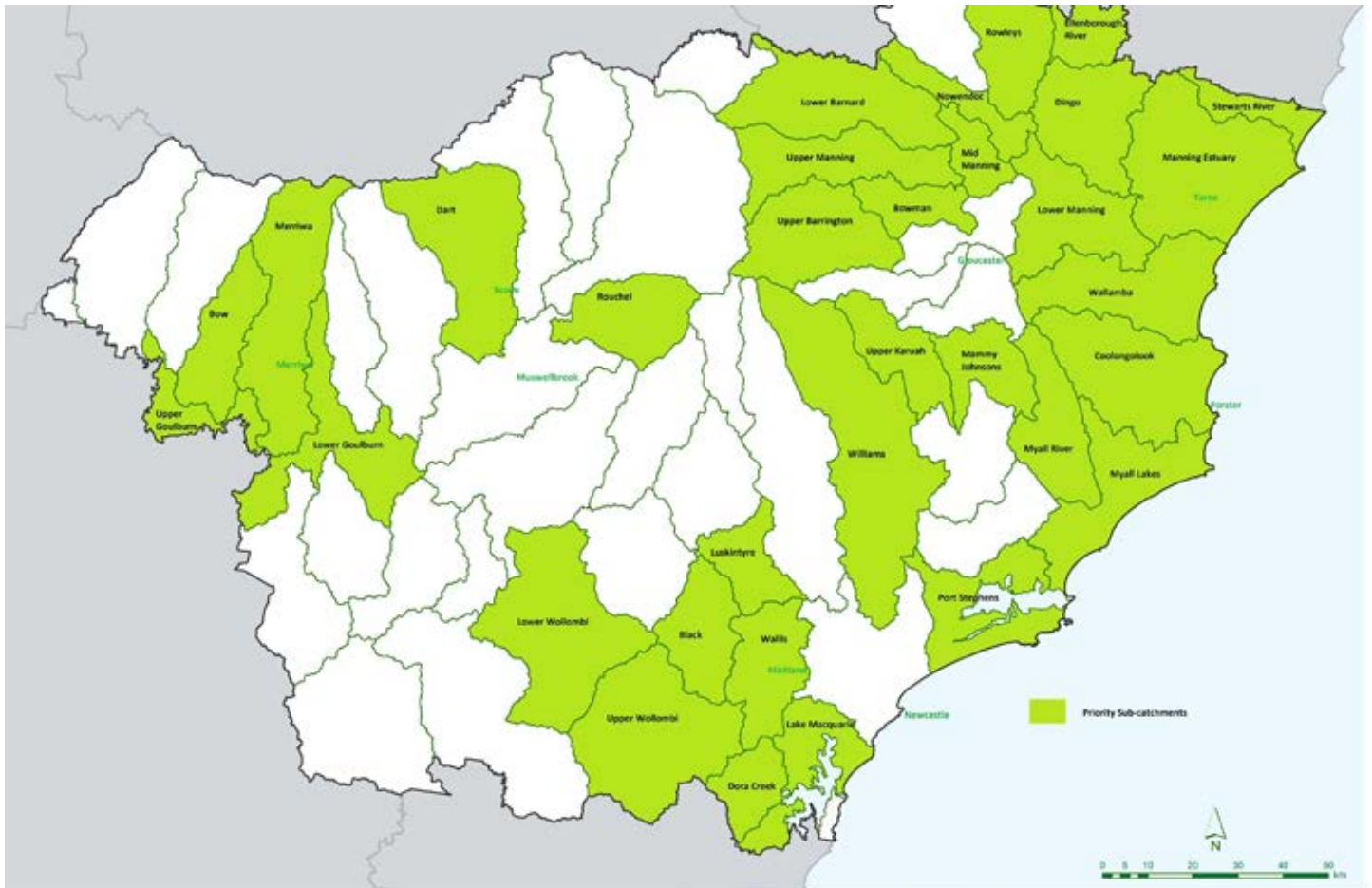
## Priority species:

- Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby
- Glossy Black-Cockatoo
- Greater Glider
- Grey-headed Flying-fox
- Koala (within areas of regional koala significance)
- Long-nosed Potoroo
- Manning River Helmeted Turtle
- Platypus
- Regent Honeyeater
- Swift Parrot
- Spotted Tailed Quoll.

## Priority listed vegetation:

- Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland
- Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest
- Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia
- Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia
- Coastal Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) Forest
- White Box Yellow Box Blakelys Red Gum and derived native grasslands.

More information on our priority programs and resources can be found on the Local Land Services website [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter/projects-and-programs/NRM-biodiversity](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter/projects-and-programs/NRM-biodiversity)





# Eligibility criteria and conditions

Make sure you are eligible to apply. All of these standard conditions apply to this program.

## Grant eligibility

- The project must be within the Hunter Local Land Services region.
- Must be a local government, National Parks and Wildlife, NSW State Forests, Crown Lands, Local Aboriginal Land Council to be eligible.
- Only one application per organisation, per district (Mid Coast, Upper Hunter, Lower Hunter).
- Projects must be within priority sub-catchments.
- Projects must have an on ground work component to the project.
- Funds sought can only be used for eligible or activities (see page 5).
- Applicant must demonstrate they meet the priorities of the program.
- Applicant must submit a photo and map photo of the proposed site with their application.

## Funding, insurances and other conditions

- Applicant must contribute cash or in kind contributions (no limit).
- Applicant must be able to complete proposed works within 12 months (or otherwise agreed) time frame. LALCs are granted additional 6 months delivery (either requested in the application or as a variation to project during implementation).
- A progress report in 15 June 2023 and 15 December 2023 is a requirement of all applicants.
- A final report within 12 months (or other agreed LALCs only) will be required on completion.
- Applicant must be willing to enter into a land management agreement for the duration of the project, including the nominated maintenance period.
- Applicant must hold (or be willing to obtain) \$20 million public liability/legal liability insurance for the duration of the project (this is the onus of the applicant, and not able to be funded via the grant).
- Applicant must not have previously received Local Land Services, Catchment Management Authority or other funding for the same proposed works in this application (unless the work is complementary and not duplicating existing works) or be required to complete works as part of an on title agreement (such as set asides or Biodiversity Conservation Trust agreements).
- Applicant must not have overdue or incomplete interim or final reporting obligations\*, for any existing funded grants through this program through Local Land Services National Landcare Program funds prior to submitting a new application (\*at the time of submission).

- The proposed activities must be consistent with local, NSW and Australian Government regulations and legislation, this includes any disturbance to listed vegetation of which a permit is required.
- No funding of retrospective works (unless otherwise agreed).
- Applicant must have paid all current Hunter Local Land Services financial obligations (e.g. rates, long term grazing permits) prior to receiving a funding agreement and any conflict of interest is declared with your application.
- LALCs may apply for project funds plus 20% for administration and project management. I.e. \$40,000+ 20% administration = \$48,000).
- Pest animal control must submit data to FeralScan, target species-feral cat, fox, pig, deer only.
- All fauna records recorded into BioNet.
- Local native provenance plants are to be used only.
- Recognition of Australian Government funding on all publications, videos or signage.

## Grants assessment

You must meet all eligibility criteria and conditions to be able to be assessed under the program.

Assessment is based on a panel consisting of an assessment panel (manager, team leader and external panelists), scoring each application against the criteria identified.

Applications are ranked, and then recommended for funding based on available funding. Applications may not be recommended-and feedback will be provided. Contracting is intended to be completed in April 2023, and a progress report by 15 June 2023, and follow up on site or online progress meeting.

Payment will be paid in full at contracting stage.



## Successful grant requirements

### Key considerations and contracting

- Applicants are required to make reasonable in-kind contributions to the project through in-kind labour and/or cash during the project period (implementation and maintenance periods). There is no minimum or maximum in-kind amounts.
- Reasonable maintenance activities and durations are required to be identified in the proposal. There is no minimum or maximum maintenance timeframes.
- Successful applicants will be required to enter into a land management agreement with Hunter Local Land Services for the duration of the project.
- The agreement will detail the applicants' responsibilities for the project including what works must be completed, completion dates and maintenance requirements.
- Works must be delivered within 12 months from the funding agreement date (although can be completed earlier) and a final report submitted at this time.\*\*
- Successful grantees will receive funding in full on contracting and milestone 1. Submission of WHS plans, Insurances and other related documents.
- Organisations are encouraged to engage landcare groups or volunteers.
- Organisations are encouraged to employ or mentor or train Aboriginal communities or Aboriginal teams to be involved or lead aspects of the project.

### \*\*Local Aboriginal Land Councils

- Projects can be nominated for up to 18 months in the submission OR Extensions to the proposed 12 month project may be given for up to an additional 6 months.
- May also incorporate up to 20% for administration/project management costs against the total funding sought.



## Eligible use of funding

The NRM partnerships funds can be applied to by relevant public land managers or LALCs in the Hunter region. As a guide, grants between \$30,000-50,000 (ex GST) are available to successful applicants for the following activities:

- bush regeneration, assisted natural regeneration or targeted transformer weed control\*
- revegetation or associated seed collection\*
- fencing or protective barriers\*
- habitat augmentation or structures\*
- interpretive signage
- flora and fauna monitoring or assessment
- fire management (ecological, cultural or asset protection based)\*
- erosion control\*
- pest animal control (supported by threat abatement plans for target species)\*
- cultural heritage assessments
- traditional custodian practices
- associated planning (such as vegetation plans, cultural burn plans, connectivity assessment planning or other)
- engagement, training or mentoring activities
- administration and project management (LALCs only).

\*considered as on ground work activities.

## Funding Constraints

- Only one application per organisation per district (Mid Coast/Manning Great Lakes, Lower Hunter or Upper Hunter).
- Limited funding available, projects may be approved for funding, limited projects will be funded within the 22-23 funding. Projects could be endorsed for future funding opportunities where appropriate).
- Funding allocations may be negotiated with successful applicants.
- Applicants will not be eligible if they have an existing incomplete or overdue report for projects funded under this program.

## Reporting requirements

At least 2 progress reports (one written and one verbal/on site update) and one final report.

Submission of evidence such as photo points, photo records, fauna data, map of works, pest control outcomes, copies of plans or assessments, subcontracting arrangements.