



Community Action Grants 2011–12

What are Community Action Grants?

Community Action Grants provide funding to local community-based groups to help them take action to conserve and protect their natural environment. Community Action Grants are part of the Australian Government's \$2 billion Caring for our Country initiative. The 2011-12 Community Action Grants round will provide funding for a broad range of practical on-ground activities that will contribute to Caring for our Country national priorities.

How much funding is available?

This year the Australian Government will provide up to \$5 million in Community Action Grants to support local community groups to protect and improve their natural environment. Groups can apply for a grant anywhere between \$5000 to \$20 000 (GST exclusive).

Who can apply?

Caring for our Country Community Action Grants are targeted towards established local community-based organisations that are successfully delivering projects to support sustainable farming or protect and enhance the natural environment. This includes Landcare, Coastcare, 'friends-of' organisations and other local community-based groups. Community Action Grants support both established and emerging Indigenous organisations. Projects are defined as planned activities, actions or events that may or may not have been funded by the Australian Government.

Your organisation must be a legal entity to apply for Community Action Grants.

If your group is not a legal entity, you should request another organisation sponsor your project and work with them to submit an application on your behalf.

Eligible legal entities include groups that are:

- » an incorporated association
- » a body corporate
- » a company
- » a cooperative society
- » an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander corporation, council or incorporated association, or
- » a duly constituted trust.

Who cannot apply?

The following organisations are **not eligible** to apply for Community Action Grants **other than as a sponsor:**

- » regional natural resource management organisations identified at www.nrm.gov.au
- » NGOs with a national focus (and their state/territory branches), peak industry groups, and/or umbrella bodies
- » all levels of government (Commonwealth, state/territory and local)
- » organisations currently directly operating under state legislation, such as Livestock Health and Pest Authorities, and Committees of Management for crown land reserves.



The following are **not eligible** to apply for or sponsor a Community Action Grants project:

- » individuals
- » organisations that have at the application closing date any overdue reports or acquittals for previous Australian Government NRM funding, including grants under Caring for our Country, the Natural Heritage Trust, Envirofund, National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the National Landcare Program.

Project types

Through Community Action Grants, community groups are able to undertake projects that contribute to the Caring for our Country priorities of biodiversity and natural icons, coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats, and sustainable farm practices. Groups can also seek grants for coordination services to encourage the community to participate in protecting our environment and natural resources.

Community Action Grants will fund activities such as:

- » increasing and improving biodiversity
- » reducing critical threats to native habitats
- » educating farmers in sustainable agricultural techniques
- » reducing the spread and impact of Weeds of National Significance
- » tree planting and other revegetation activities
- » dune rehabilitation
- » holding field days
- » improving land management practices
- » recording and using traditional ecological knowledge

- » restoring endangered ecological communities
- » reducing the impact of vertebrate pest animals
- » increasing wildlife habitat, and
- » encouraging community participation in protecting natural resources.

Changes for the 2011–12 funding round

This year the eligibility requirements for Community Action Grants have been changed to allow a wider variety of local community groups to apply for funding. Community groups who have successfully worked on projects which support sustainable farming or protect and improve the natural environment are now eligible to apply for funding. Go to www.nrm.gov.au for more details about the Grants applicant guidelines.

How do you apply?

The 2011-12 Community Action Grants round will open for applications on Friday 3 June 2011.

You can apply online at www.nrm.gov.au or if you don't have access to the internet you can call the Caring for our Country hotline 1800 552 008 and request a paper copy of the application form.

Go to the Caring for our Country website at www.nrm.gov.au for the Caring for our Country 2011–12 Community Action Grants application form, applicant guidelines and eligibility criteria.

When do applications close?

All electronic applications must be submitted by 5pm EST Monday 1 August 2011.

If you are submitting a hard copy application, it must be postmarked by 1 August 2011.

Further information

Visit the Caring for our Country website at www.nrm.gov.au or if you are unable to access the internet call our toll free hotline on 1800 552 008 to request an application pack.