

OCOC Landscape Scale Grants Guidelines for Applications

Purpose of grant:

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA is focused on strategic partnerships to improve catchment health and climate resilience through measures that support wetland cultural knowledge, health and connectivity in the agricultural landscape of the Greater Grampians. The Our Catchment Our Communities (OCOC) Landscape Scale grants are to enable Landcare groups to work together on on-ground landscape scale projects to improve sustainable agricultural practice in the OCOC focus region (green area figure 1). These grants aim to improve stewardship and build on the legacy of the previous OCOC program. They will fund changed land management practices, pest and weed management, hydrological restoration/investigation, fencing and revegetation alongside other key environmental management actions with a particular focus on wetlands, including seasonal herbaceous wetlands.

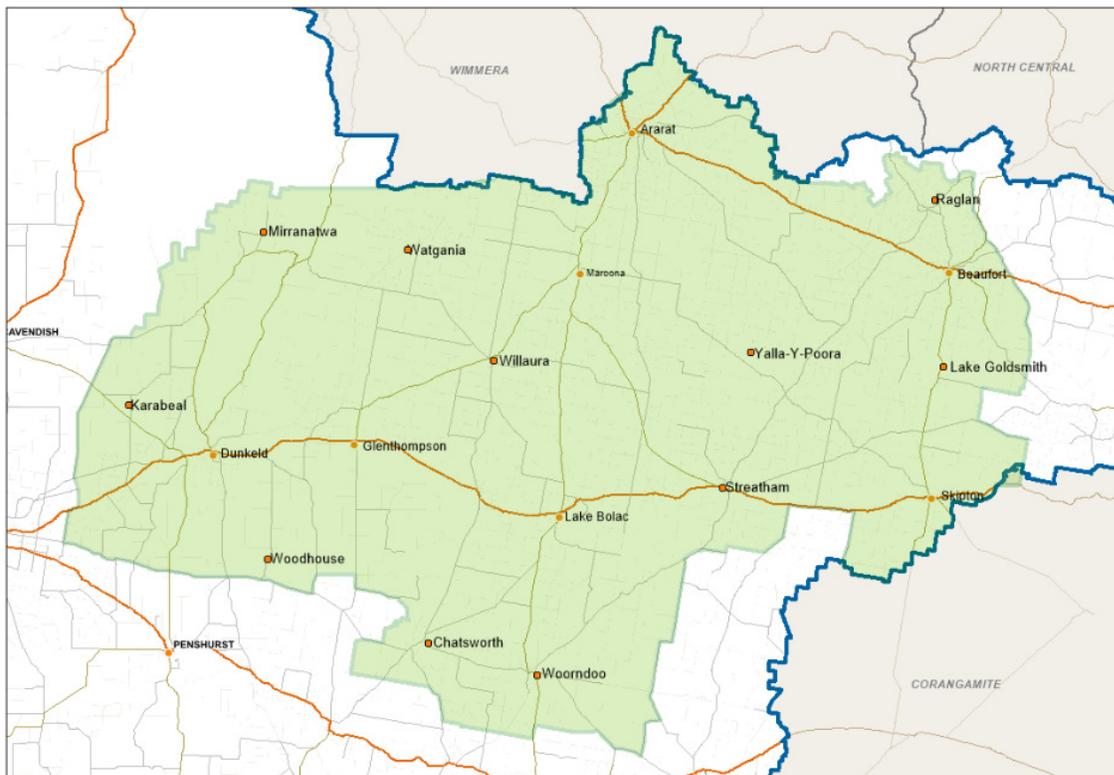


Figure 1. The Our Catchments Our Community Glenelg Hopkins CMA focus area (green) eligible for the OCOC Landscape scale grants



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The grants will be for projects of up to two years (finishing by 31st May 2024) for a maximum of \$80,000 GST exclusive. Collaboration of multiple Landcare groups across the focus region is encouraged.

The grants aim is to build on the legacy of the previous OCOC program. Examples of the types of projects that could be undertaken through this funding include:

- Improve community knowledge and understanding of the cultural importance of wetlands
- Implement the recommendations from the 2020 OCOC Wetland Spatial study, particularly management of wetlands for improved landscape connectivity and improving our knowledge of the distribution of growling grass frogs
- Improve farmer engagement and support farming practice change for wetlands and cropping using insights from social science which includes the outcomes of Behaviour Works Australia 2020 study and 2021 Zoos Victoria 'Connect Understand Act' training
- Improve and support the uptake and use of precision agriculture for sustainable cropping e.g. use of wetland layer to prevent crop input into wetlands
- Assess what wetlands can contribute to Integrated Pest Management on farms
- Improve wetland knowledge and management for biodiversity conservation

This list is not absolute and other projects will be considered.

The outputs that will be funded as part of the projects are:

- *Agricultural practice change*: area in hectares over which agricultural practices have been established, modified, maintained or removed. These practices can be groundcover, chemicals, cropping, nutrient management and other practices. Please note this needs to be the result of a direct investment input not just engagement events.
- *Non-woody weed and pest animal (herbivore and/or predator) control*: area in hectare where control implemented
- *Native indigenous vegetation planting*: area in hectares planted
- *Cultural assessment*: area/location assessed, this can be walks on country, identifying areas of cultural interest around wetlands etc.
- *Engagement events*: the number of events and participants at workshops or field days.
- *Written or visual publications*: these can be one off or greater frequency and the target audience needs to be identified

Eligible project management component– no more than 15% of total project budget

Any wetland hydrological restoration will need an approved implementation plan from Glenelg Hopkins CMA.



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Out of scope activities:

On-ground works on or around wetlands outside of the OCOC project focus area are deemed out of scope. Works that could cause adverse effects on wetland function or integrity or are not aligned with environmental best practice will not be considered for funding under this project.

Engagement events that do not support NRM knowledge sharing or highlight environmental achievements, current projects and innovations will not be considered for funding.

What will not be funded

- Amenity and beautification projects
- Boundary fencing
- Barbed wire fencing
- Non-indigenous vegetation
- Vegetation corridors less than 10 metres wide. Minimum project width of 10 metres is required (minimum 10 metres from the top of the bank in riparian areas)
- Purchase of capital items over \$3,000
- Project management or administration costs that collectively total more than 15% of total funding requested
- Computers, laptops, and smartphones
- Purchase of goods for competitions, prizes, giveaways, vouchers, or alcohol
- Any other action of activity determined by the Assessment Panel through the assessment process to be an inappropriate or unsuitable use of the funds.

Eligible Landcare Groups

These grants are available to community based Landcare groups working within the OCOC focus region (see map). Eligible Applicants: must be an incorporated body, community based, not-for-profit Landcare group or network or other volunteer community environmental organisation such as "Friends of..." etc.

Ineligible Applicants: Proprietary limited companies, committees of management, individuals, non-government organisations (NGOs) and government authorities.

More than one project grant application can be submitted by a group/network.



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How to apply

- Provide a description (<1000 words) of the proposed project and the activities you are seeking funding for.
- Provide a simple timeline of the stages/milestones of the project, demonstrating completion of the project by **31st May 2024** and provision of the final report before **30th June 2024**.
- Provide a budget, both in-kind and funds requested, and a short description of each activity.
- Provide a risk assessment for delivery of the project and how it will address any potential conflicts of interest.
- Provide a MERI plan outlining how project outputs and outcomes will be measured
- Groups can submit more than one application or be a partner in more than one application.
- Complete application form and submit to tenders@ghcma.vic.gov.au **13th June 2022**.
- The OCOC Project Manager will be available to provide general advice on activity eligibility and the application process. The OCOC Project Manager will remain removed from the assessment process.
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- Applicants may be contacted by the grant assessment panel for clarification and/or refinement of the grant application

Indicative grant timeline	
Applications open	6 th May 2022
Applications close	13 th June 2022
Applications assessed	14 th June 2022
Outcome notification	20 th June 2022
Contracts signed	15 th July 2022
Projects completed	31 st May 2024
Final report submitted	30 th June 2024

Criteria

Applications will be assessed by an assessment panel against the following criteria:

- Extent to which the project builds on previous OCOC work or studies across the OCOC focus area.
- The area (Ha) that will, through direct investment, have improved agricultural practice
- The number of Landcare groups involved and area of focus region covered
- Is the proposal practical and appropriately planned
- Experience in managing and delivering large grants and shows a capacity to deliver in the required timeframe.



- The adequacy of the risk assessment for delivery of the project and how it will address any potential conflicts of interest.
- Demonstrates good value for money, including realistic costs and a clear justification for requested budget items.
- All proposed on-ground works are to DELWP output data and delivery standards (DELWP v3 2021 and DELWP v2.1 2015).

All selection criteria are weighted equally.

Cultural Heritage

All Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects in Victoria are protected by law under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. It is against the law to disturb, damage or destroy an Aboriginal cultural heritage place or object.

As part of the Grant process all proposed activities in areas of cultural heritage sensitivity (generally but not exclusively on waterways) will require that a cultural heritage search is undertaken, to identify if registered cultural heritage places or objects exist in the works area. The cultural heritage search will be undertaken by CMA before any letters of offer are made.

Where registered cultural heritage is found to be present, proposed activities must be modified or moved so that disturbance or damage does not occur, or a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) developed. Further advice will be sought from the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party (Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation or Wadawurrung Aboriginal Corporation) or First Peoples-State Relations (formerly Aboriginal Victoria).

Landowner Support

You will need to list landowner details (name and address) in your application for all private properties where on-ground works will be taking place. If your application is successful, you will be required to confirm that you can provide, upon request, evidence of private landowner's consent for on-ground works to take place.

Reporting Requirements

A mid and end of financial year project report will be required, with Glenelg Hopkins CMA providing relevant templates.

Occupational Health and Safety

You must have a safe system of work in place for your project to protect the health and safety of your group, volunteers and anyone else on the project site. You can find resources on OHS tailored to community groups on:

- Victorian Landcare Gateway
- Victorian Workcover Authority



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If Your Application is Successful

If your organisation is successful then you will have ten working days after receipt of the letter of offer, including the funding agreement, to submit your organisation's signed funding agreement, and any other documentation outlined in the letter of offer. If the documentation is not submitted within this timeframe, the funding may be reallocated to other projects.

Successful applicants will receive payment once all paperwork has been completed and submitted.

Funding Conditions

Successful applicants are required to:

- Enter into a funding agreement with Glenelg Hopkins CMA.
- Be responsible for meeting contractual obligations to deliver the project by 31st May 2024, and submit the final report by 30th June.
- Adhere to all relevant legislation including Occupational Health and Safety requirements
- Acknowledge the CMA and Victorian Government funding in publications and promotions.

Monitoring of performance and project delivery will occur regularly over the course of the contract. GHGMA can cancel the contract at any time due to under performance.

Reports from the previous OCOC program referred to above are:

Curtis, J., Meis-Harris, J. (2020). Cropping and wetlands in south-west Victoria: Exploring opportunities for cropping and wetland protection to co-exist on private land. BehaviourWorks Australia, Monash University.

DELWP (2021) DELWP Output Data Standard, core standard for Natural Resources Management Reporting. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Victoria State Government. [DELWP Output data Std v3.0 Final Web Approved 1.pdf \(water.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Farrington L, Cranswick R, Elotrovic E and Kerr G (2020). Wetlands Spatial Analysis. Report for Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Nature Glenelg Trust, Mount Gambier, South Australia.

For further information or copies of these reports please contact:

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