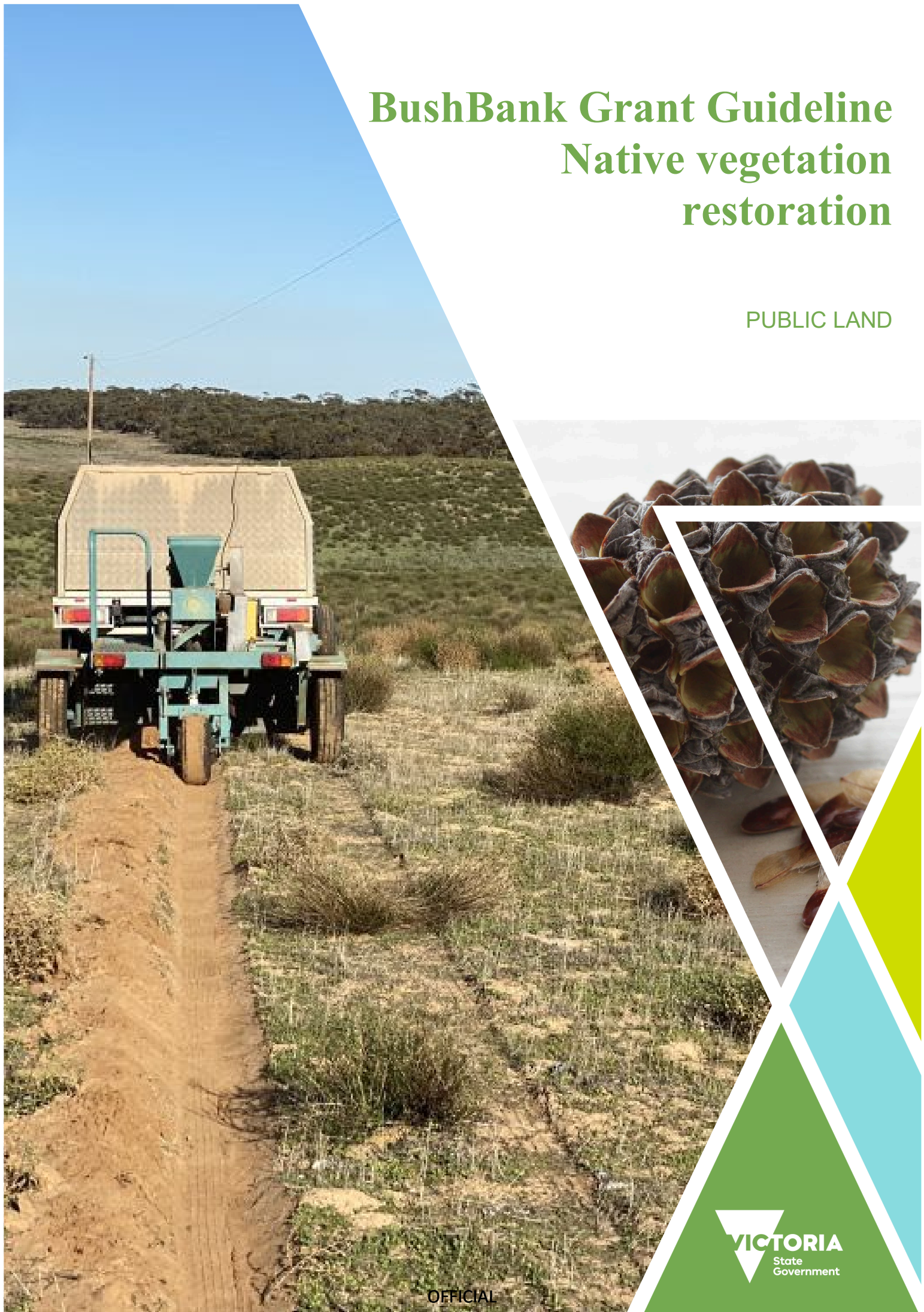


# BushBank Grant Guideline

## Native vegetation restoration

PUBLIC LAND



OFFICIAL

Photo credits:

- Direct seeding machine seeding a site in the Mallee: credit Gareth Lynch, DEECA
- Drooping She-oak *Allocasaurina verticillata* seeds: credit Richard Boon, DEECA

### Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



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# Introduction

The Victorian Government's \$77 million BushBank program is Victoria's most ambitious restoration program, addressing climate change and supporting wildlife as it restores more than 20,000 hectares of land across Victoria.

## BACKGROUND

BushBank will contribute towards Victoria's goal of net zero emissions by 2045 and is listed as an action in the *Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector emissions reduction pledge*.

BushBank will help achieve the *Protecting Victoria's Environment Biodiversity 2037* goal that 'Victoria's natural environment is healthy' by contributing towards revegetation and permanent protection targets.

The objectives of BushBank are to restore native vegetation to:

- improve habitat for threatened species and biodiversity
- increase carbon sequestration and storage
- capitalise on the increased levels of interest and investment in carbon projects
- support First Peoples' self-determination.

## THIS GRANT OFFER

The Victorian Government is offering grants for suitable projects that achieve the objectives of the BushBank program. Projects will restore public land, which can include freehold land within public ownership.

Public land is an important asset for all Victorians. It supports the delivery of essential government services, protects sites of environmental and cultural value, and provides recreational opportunities for community.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

Grant applicants must:

- be an incorporated or statutory entity (including governmental, not-for-profit or private entity) with financial systems in place for receiving, managing and acquitting government funding

Projects will restore public land through planting. Public land is Crown land and freehold land in public ownership, including freehold land owned by the Victorian Government, a Victorian Government agency, a public entity, a statutory authority, or a municipal council.

- have expertise and experience in delivering successful native vegetation restoration projects with a good track record in delivering projects to a high standard on time and within budget – expertise and experience can be demonstrated through partnerships
- be the land manager, landowner or have landowner or land manager consent, as applicable
- have appropriate systems, processes and procedures in place to identify and manage risk that complies with all relevant laws and regulations including the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* and *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017*
- have appropriate systems, processes and procedures to ensure good governance, and a high standard of quality assurance for project delivery
- the funding agreement will specify minimum insurance requirements and coverage values, including but not limited to public liability insurance (\$10 million minimum) and personal accident insurance cover to safeguard any volunteers and participants involved in the funded activities.

Private individuals are not eligible to apply.



Applicants who do not have adequate insurance, are not incorporated or registered as a not-for-profit, or otherwise do not meet the eligibility criteria above, will need to partner with another group or organisation, known as an auspice, that does meet the requirements.

The auspice will be required to enter into a contract with DEECA and will be legally responsible for the project and handling of project funds.

Written consent to enter into this arrangement from a relevant financial delegate or authority within the auspice organisation must be provided with the application.

# Project eligibility and requirements

## PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Projects must meet **all** the following criteria:

- align with BushBank objectives
- be delivered on public land, which includes Crown land and freehold land owned by the Victorian Government, a Victorian Government agency, a public entity, a statutory authority or a municipal council.
- have a minimum extent of 20 ha of land to be restored (see 'restoration extent' below for further details)
- meet the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's (DEECA's) planting specifications (see 'planting specifications' below for further details)
- include the planting of woody plants to provide the greatest carbon outcomes
- restore ecological vegetation classes (EVCs) that can achieve 'forest cover' – having 20 per cent crown cover at a tree height of at least two metres across an area of at least 0.2 hectares (as defined by the Emissions Reduction Fund). This may be achieved by:
  - establishing and maintaining native vegetation by planting trees, shrubs and other plants to achieve forest cover on cleared or degraded land that is not at forest cover and will not otherwise naturally regenerate
  - increasing canopy cover on degraded land that meets the criteria for forest cover but is significantly lacking woody structure and diversity according to the relevant EVC
- be maintained indefinitely following the completion of the funded project
- be protected from development and land uses that will impact the restored native vegetation into the future
- not be subject to frequent fuel management or pose unacceptable increased bushfire risk to communities, e.g., not be located within an asset protection zone or bushfire moderation zone – projects may be subject to a fire risk assessment during project assessment.

**Projects that only propose weed control or pest control will not be considered.** However, weed and pest control can be included in

combination with other actions to restore woody native vegetation.

Projects can be implemented over a single year or up to a maximum of five years.

Projects can include novel or innovative approaches to achieve restoration.

## CAN MY PROJECT GENERATE CARBON CREDITS?

Yes, provided the requirements of the grant can be met. Requested financial support must be proportionate to the amount of carbon credits generated and this must be detailed in the application.

Crown land can only be used to generate carbon credits when all the following can be met:

- there is an existing mechanism to enable ownership of carbon credits
- the requirements of the relevant Crown land act can be met
- the Crown land manager will retain the carbon rights for their own use.

Where third parties wish to access the carbon right on Crown land, a third-party Carbon Sequestration Agreement under the *Climate Change Act 2017* must be established with the Secretary to DEECA. This is a separate process, and such projects will not be considered in this grant offer.

If you have a project that delivers good biodiversity and carbon capture outcomes but does not meet one or more of these eligibility criteria, contact the BushBank team at [bushbank.program@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:bushbank.program@deeca.vic.gov.au) to discuss your project suitability. Some flexibility may be possible when projects support cultural values, provide blue or teal carbon outcomes, or deliver innovations.



## RESTORATION EXTENT

Cost effectiveness is improved as the extent of restoration increases. As a result, the minimum extent of restoration for a single project is 20 hectares.

These 20 hectares may comprise multiple restoration patches and a combination of assisted regeneration, supplementary planting and/or revegetation provided:

- any isolated restoration patch not connected to another patch of existing native vegetation has a minimum extent of 5 hectares
- any connected restoration patch (i.e., abutting existing native vegetation) has a minimum extent of 1 hectare and the combined extent of the restoration patch plus existing native vegetation patch is at least 5 hectares
- any patch to be restored through revegetation has an area to perimeter ratio of at least 20, or when adjacent to existing native vegetation the combined area has an area to perimeter ratio of at least 20. The area to perimeter ratio is calculated by dividing the area (metres squared) by the perimeter (metres).

## PLANTING SPECIFICATIONS

Planting must accord with the minimum standard for revegetation and supplementary planting detailed at Appendix 1 *Native vegetation gain scoring manual v2* (DELWP 2017) and *Management Standards for Native Vegetation Offset Sites* (DELWP 2019). This is equivalent to Best Practice or EVC Multi Strata planting standard in the *DELWP Output Delivery Standards: for the delivery of environmental activities* Version 2.1 (DELWP, 2015).

Planting should consider the inclusion of future climate provenances as per the *Revegetation plant provenance information sheet*.

Planting must align with the appropriate bioregional EVC benchmarks and follow the species diversity and density requirements as specified in the gain scoring manual and management standards for at least the Canopy Trees, Understorey Trees, Large Shrubs and Medium Shrubs. Small Shrubs and Large Tufted

Graminoids should be planted where there is a high chance of survival.

These resources are available from the DEECA website:

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation>

<http://www.deeca.vic.gov.au/output-data-and-delivery-standards>

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/bioregions-and-evc-benchmarks>

[https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0036/489159/Revegetation-plant-provenance-information-sheet\\_final.pdf](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0036/489159/Revegetation-plant-provenance-information-sheet_final.pdf)

Projects generating carbons credits from environmental plantings under a verified carbon standard will need to meet the requirements of the relevant method. Should there be any incompatibility between the DEECA planting standard and the carbon method requirements, the BushBank team will work with applicants with the aim of agreeing to a standard that meets BushBank and carbon credit requirements. BushBank requires biodiverse planting aligned with the EVC.

## REVEGETATION AND WATER CONSIDERATIONS

To reduce negative impacts and enhance co-benefits, applicants should:

- avoid larger revegetation works (i.e. where revegetation exceeds 10 per cent of the property) within the Gippsland Plantation Investment Program and within declared irrigation districts
- consider the impact on water availability across different catchment areas when 10 per cent of the property will be revegetated (spatial information is available from BushBank to assist).

## PROJECT PLANS AND NATIVE VEGETATION RESTORATION PLANS

Restoration and management activities must accord with the *Management Standards for Native Vegetation Offset Sites* (DELWP 2019).

Project plan and native vegetation restoration plan templates will be supplied to successful applicants. Restoration plans will include at least:

- site preparation works required to ensure success
- planting specifications - direct seeding or tube stock; timing; species lists; planting densities and survival targets that accord with the DEECA gain scoring manual
- management actions required during the project period and beyond to maintain the vegetation
- monitoring and evaluation.

The grant recipient will be responsible for ensuring restored sites are well-managed and that restoration is successful. Restoration must be undertaken by, or supervised by, persons with suitable experience in those activities. As far as possible service providers should be locally based, and enterprises owned by First Peoples should be preferred. Registers of Aboriginal business can be found at <https://business.vic.gov.au/business-information/aboriginal-business-support/victorian-aboriginal-business-directory> (lists not exhaustive).

## TRADITIONAL OWNER SELF-DETERMINATION

DEECA supports the self-determination of Traditional Owners, as set out in *Pupangarli Marnmarnepu 'Owning Our Future' Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy 2020-2025*. Traditional Owners must be engaged as early as possible in the project planning and development to allow meaningful partnerships to be developed.

Formally recognised Traditional Owners and all other Traditional Owner group(s) with an interest in the project should be engaged. Before engaging with a Traditional Owner group, you

should understand the Traditional Owner group's legal status, including whether there is a Recognition and Settlement Agreement under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* or if native title has been recognised under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). Recognition and Settlement Agreements and the corresponding sub-agreements (Natural Resource Agreements and Land Use Activity Agreements) provide Traditional Owners certain legal rights on Crown land. You are also strongly encouraged to read the relevant Country Plan and other relevant strategies before engaging with Traditional Owners.

Formally Recognised Traditional Owners can be found on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS), available at <https://www.aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/victorias-current-registered-aboriginal-parties>. To find details of non-formally recognised Traditional Owner groups in Victoria, visit the Commonwealth Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC). Native Title Agreements and Recognition and Settlement Agreements can be found at <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/your-rights/native-title>.

DEECA can facilitate engagement with Traditional Owners or provide further advice, if required.

## RELEVANT POLICY AND STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

[Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037](#)

[Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry Sector Pledge](#)

[Pupangarli Marnmarnepu 'Owning Our Future' Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy 2020-2025](#)

The [Local Jobs First Policy](#) (LJF) applies to all grants awarded under this program valued at over \$1 million in regional Victoria, or over \$3 million in metropolitan Melbourne and state-wide activities.



# Funding

## FUNDING DETAILS

The total funding available for this grant offer is **\$5 million over five years**, to be allocated across successful projects. Projects can commence in 2023/24 or 2024/25 and be delivered over a maximum of five years.

There is **no specified funding limit for individual projects** and the funds allocated and number of projects funded will depend on the project costs and benefits assessed against the set criteria.

If suitable projects are not identified, the total funding allocation may not be committed in this grant round.

## ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Applicants able to demonstrate financial and in-kind contributions will score more highly.

A minimum of matched funding at a ratio of 1:1 (financial and/or in-kind) is preferred. Financial contributions from other State Government funding will not be counted towards the matched funding amount.

## WHAT ACTIVITIES MAY BE FUNDED?

The following types of activities may be funded for eligible projects:

- Engagement and partnerships with Traditional Owners
- Planting
- Stakes and guards
- Exclusion fencing
- Seed collection
- Seed propagation
- Plants (seeds and seedlings)
- Weed control
- Pest control
- Ripping
- Watering
- Supplementary replacement planting to achieve planting standards

- Monitoring and maintenance of restored vegetation
- Contractors and project delivery staff (with an essential role in delivering on ground restoration actions, including project design and planning, on-ground actions, monitoring and reporting)
- Project management (staff time to manage project, including project coordination, communication and evaluation, administration costs – must be less than 10% of total project budget).

In all cases, you will need to demonstrate that all expenditure, especially for contractors, training, and project management, is essential to the success of the project, and that the amounts requested are commensurate with the overall project.

When developing budgets, you should ensure that activity costs (such as materials and contractor charges) are fully costed, including GST.

## WHAT WON'T BE FUNDED?

The following activities will not be funded:

- activities located outside the State of Victoria
- any illegal activity
- native vegetation and threatened species offsets or offset activities (such as to meet a condition of a permit)
- insurance
- routine or ongoing maintenance activities
- recurrent operating costs, for example rent and utility costs, and/or activities establishing expectations of ongoing funding
- activities that are already funded through another fund source (note: your project can build on the success of past or existing projects, but the grant must fund additional activities that would not occur without this funding)
- activities that are not focused on restoration/revegetation for biodiversity and carbon storage
- any other action or activity determined through the assessment process to be an inappropriate or unsuitable use of the funds.

## PROJECT PLANNING

Engaging with Traditional Owners, project planning and project resourcing can take considerable time. Include realistic timeframes and cost estimates when phasing your budget to accommodate these actions.

Successful projects will enter into a Funding Agreement to deliver the extent (hectares) of restored land detailed in your application. Carefully consider the extent that you will be able to deliver – do not include the whole land parcel, only the hectares that will be actively restored through planting. If the extent reduces during implementation this will require a variation to the Funding Agreement and may result in a variation to the Funding Amount.

# Application assessment

## ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Applicants' responses will be assessed in five steps.

### STEP 1: ELIGIBILITY SCREENING

All applications will be screened by DEECA against the eligibility criteria.

Applicants or projects that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not proceed to Step 2.

During this step, DEECA may in its absolute discretion:

- reject any applicant's response that does not include all the information requested or is not in the format specified
- after concluding a preliminary assessment, reject any applicant's response that in its opinion is unacceptable
- disregard any content in an applicant's response that is illegible, and will be under no obligation to seek clarification from the applicant
- disqualify an incomplete applicant's response or evaluate it solely on the information submitted.

### STEP 2: APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

All applications deemed eligible will be assessed independently by members of a government assessment panel using the assessment criteria detailed in the table below. These assessments will be compiled to inform the panel recommendation (step 3).

### STEP 3: PANEL RECOMMENDATION

The assessment panel will meet to discuss the projects, their individual assessments and agree on a **final value for money recommendation** that considers:

- the assessment criteria – outcomes in each part must be assessed as meeting a minimum standard to be recommended as value for money, and each part will be considered as follows:
  - Part 1: the project's risk – greater expertise and experience of the applicant and lower risk projects will be favoured; all projects

must demonstrate that risks can be reasonably managed

- Part 2: how the project enables self-determination – it is expected that all projects will demonstrate self-determination outcomes, aligned with *Pupangarli Marnmarnepu 'Owning Our Future' Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy 2020-2025* – projects providing the greatest opportunities for self-determination will be favoured.
- Part 3: the project's benefits' scores – higher scores will be favoured over lower scores and biodiversity and carbon outcomes will be weighted more strongly than broader project benefits.
- the impacts to catchment water availability (particularly within the Gippsland Plantation Investment Program and declared irrigation districts), with lower impact projects favoured
- bushfire risk to communities – projects that are considered to unacceptably increase bushfire risk to communities will not be recommended
- the restoration extent – larger extents will be favoured over smaller extents
- project cost to BushBank, applicant's contribution and source of additional funding – greater contribution, particularly financial contribution, will be favoured.

### STEP 4: FOLLOW-UP (OPTIONAL)

After evaluating all applicants' responses, and before making a final recommendation to the Minister for Environment, DEECA may without limiting other options available to it, interview applicants about their proposal.

The outcome from this step may be presented to the assessment panel for endorsement prior to submitting the final panel assessment report to the Minister for Environment for approval.

### STEP 5: PANEL REPORT PRESENTED FOR MINISTER APPROVAL

A Panel Report summarising the proposed projects, the panel assessment and panel recommendations will be submitted to the Minister for Environment for consideration and approval.

## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Project risk, enablement of self-determination outcomes and project benefits will be assessed using the criteria below. A minimum standard will be required for each part for a project to be recommended as value for money. In part 3: Project benefits, biodiversity and carbon benefits will be weighted more strongly than broader project benefits – biodiversity benefits (50%), carbon benefits (40%), broader project benefits (10%).

Criteria	Description
<b>Part 1: Project risk</b>	
Expertise and experience of applicant	The degree to which the applicant demonstrates experience delivering successful native vegetation restoration projects (number of projects, size of projects, number of years in the industry, demonstrated success of projects).
Project risks	The degree to which project risks have been identified and can be managed.
<b>Part 2: Self-determination enabled</b>	
Self-determination enabled	The degree to which the applicant has meaningfully engaged with Traditional Owners to enable self-determination in the application and/or will engage with Traditional Owners to enable self-determination in delivery of the project.
<b>Part 3: Project benefits</b>	
Biodiversity benefits	<p>Assessed using a combination of government data and models, the restoration extent and described benefits to threatened species, landscape function and landscape connectivity, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The degree to which the project is in a priority location for revegetation and the revegetation benefit scores across the project area (both can be determined from the spatial data provided and relevant layers in <a href="#">NatureKit</a>).</li> <li>The extent of the restoration (total extent and the extent of each proposed patch) – larger areas provide greater benefits to biodiversity and reduce the impacts of weeds, predators and adverse climatic conditions associated with the perimeter of the restored area. Larger areas also provide greater value for money by providing economy of scale.</li> <li>The degree to which the project has identified and will deliver local biodiversity benefits by building landscape connectivity and improving habitat and landscape function. For example, undertaking extensive planting in degraded areas that have some existing understory vegetation or scattered trees.</li> <li>The degree to which the project will benefit specific threatened species, for example implementing actions within an Action Statement or Recovery Plan, or where there are recent local records of a threatened species for which restored land will provide habitat. There must be a clear and direct link between outcomes for the species and the restoration.</li> </ul>
Carbon benefits	The degree to which the project will deliver increased carbon sequestration. This will be determined from the extent of the restoration and the EVCs to be restored across the project, with reference to the submitted <a href="#">LOOC-C</a> report that provides a site-based estimate of carbon sequestration potential.
Broader project benefits	<p>The degree to which the project generates broader benefits. This includes alignment with relevant plans and strategies, benefits to waterways and wetlands, community involvement including volunteer hours and potential jobs, building partnerships, any in-kind benefits, and other social benefits.</p> <p>The degree to which the project will directly benefit species of cultural significance, as determined by the Traditional Owners.</p>

# Applications

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications are submitted on-line using the Grants Online portal:

- To start an application follow this link:  
<https://deeca.my.site.com/publicform?id=a0hRF0000003CPd>
- To return to a draft application use this link:  
<https://deeca.my.site.com/>

You will receive an application number when you submit an application online. Quote this number in all communications with the department relating to your application.

Files that cannot be attached to your online application (including shapefiles and large documents) must be emailed, in one email, zipping the files if required, to [bushbank.program@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:bushbank.program@deeca.vic.gov.au), quoting your application number.

Make sure your application and supporting files are submitted by 5:00 pm on 4 December 2023

Note: No hard copy applications will be accepted. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

### ATTACHING REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

The following documents must be included with your application:

- Where the applicant is not the land manager or landowner, written consent to undertake the activity from the relevant public land manager or public entity landowner.
- Where an auspice is required, written consent to enter into an auspice arrangement from a relevant financial delegate or authority within the auspice organisation.
- Evidence of other funding sources, if applicable.
- A shapefile accurately depicting the area of land to be restored, created in NatureKit, accessible at <https://maps2.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/Html5viewer/index.html?viewer=NatureKit>, ArcGIS or other spatial software. Restoration extent will inform project assessment and should be

estimated conservatively if the restoration area has not yet been verified on the ground.

- Two PDF maps of the proposed work area showing:
  - the location, road names, the project area (i.e., the areas that will be restored through the project), and the type of restoration (see Attachment 1 for descriptions of restoration types), with recent aerial photography as the basemap.
  - the project area (as per map 1) with the SMP revegetation benefit layer and priority areas for revegetation layer shown underneath
- A LOOC-C report, prepared using the LOOC-C carbon abatement calculator at <https://looc-c.farm/>, showing the project areas and the estimated tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent sequestered per hectare per year (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e per ha/year) using the environmental and mallee planting method (this method provides similar outcomes to the minimum revegetation specifications required under this grant)
- Completed excel Extent, Budget and Risk spreadsheet
- A letter of support or partnership from the relevant Traditional Owners if support has been established.

Supporting documents must be in an acceptable file type, such as Word, Excel, PDF, JPEG, ZIP. The maximum file size for each file is 10MB.

## KEY DATES

Applications open:	10 October 2023
Applications close:	4 December 2023, 5pm
Applicants notified:	March 2024
Activities commence:	During 2023/24 or 2024/25

## INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

If you require assistance submitting your application online, email [grantsinfo@DEECA.vic.gov.au](mailto:grantsinfo@DEECA.vic.gov.au).



## NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing after the assessment process is completed. All decisions are final and are not subject to further review. Unsuccessful applicants can ask for feedback on their application.

## FUNDING CONDITIONS

### FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful applicants must enter into a funding agreement with Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). The Victorian Common Funding Agreement is used for funding agreements with not for profit organisations and Local Government Authorities.

The DEECA Transfer Payment Funding Agreement is used for Victorian public entities, as defined under section 5 of the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

Prior to signing any funding agreement, the applicant may need to provide evidence of appropriate insurance coverage for its operational and business risks with one or more of the following:

- the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority or Liability Mutual Insurance
- an insurer authorised under the Insurance Act 1973 (Cth)
- an insurer approved in writing by the Department.

It is recommended that applicants review the terms and conditions before applying. Information about the Victorian Common Funding Agreement is available on <https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-common-funding-agreement>.

Grant funding cannot be used to fund political campaigning or advocacy activities for political parties.

Approval for appropriate works permit/s from councils or other authorities must be provided prior to or as a condition of funding.

## LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

In delivering the activity grant recipients are required to comply with all relevant Commonwealth and state/territory legislations and regulations, including but not limited to:

- The Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth)
- The Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Vic)
- Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth).

### TAX IMPLICATIONS

Applicants should consult the Australian Taxation Office or seek professional advice on any taxation implications that may arise from this grant funding.

Successful applicants without an ABN will need to provide a completed Australian Taxation Office form 'Statement by a Supplier' so that no withholding tax is required from the grant payment.

### ACKNOWLEDGING THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT

Successful applicants are expected to acknowledge the Victorian Government's support and promotional guidelines (<https://www2.DEECA.vic.gov.au/grants>) will form part of the funding agreement. Successful applicants must liaise with the departmental program area to coordinate any public events or announcements related to the project.

### PAYMENTS

Payments will be made as long as:

- the funding agreement has been signed by both parties;
- grant recipients provide reports as required, or otherwise demonstrate that the activity is progressing as expected;
- other terms and conditions of funding continue to be met.

## MONITORING

Grant recipients are required to comply with project monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the funding agreement. This may include progress reports, site inspections, completion reports and acquittal documentation.

## PRIVACY

Any personal information about you or a third party in your application will be collected by the department for the purposes of administering your grant application and informing Members of Parliament of successful applications. Personal information may also be disclosed to external experts, such as members of assessment panels, or other Government Departments for assessment, reporting, advice, comment or for discussions regarding alternative or collaborative grant funding opportunities. If you intend to include personal information about third parties in your application, please ensure that they are aware of the contents of this privacy statement.

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 and other applicable laws.

DEECA is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. You can find the DEECA Privacy Policy online at [www.DEECA.vic.gov.au/privacy](http://www.DEECA.vic.gov.au/privacy).

Requests for access to information about you held by DEECA should be sent to the Manager Privacy, P.O. Box 500 East Melbourne 8002 or contact by emailing [Foi.unit@DEECA.vic.gov.au](mailto:Foi.unit@DEECA.vic.gov.au).

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Have you:

- read these guidelines carefully?
- checked if you are, or your organisation is, eligible for this grant funding?
- checked if your activity is eligible for this grant funding?
- checked that you would be able to comply with all relevant laws and regulations in delivery of your activity?
- prepared the required supporting documents?

# Glossary of terms

**Extent** is the area of land to be restored, measured in hectares.

**Forest cover** is defined as having 20 per cent crown cover at a tree height of at least two metres across an area of at least 0.2 hectares.

**Public land** is any Crown land or freehold land owned by the Victorian Government, a Victorian Government agency, a public entity, a statutory authority or a municipal council.

**Native vegetation** means plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses. In the BushBank program the aim is to restore native vegetation to the bioregional ecological vegetation class (EVC) with consideration of future climate-ready provenances.

**Native vegetation restoration plan** means a plan that steps out the site-specific ecological restoration activities for a site, including site preparation works, planting technique(s) (e.g. direct seeding or tube stock) and timing, species

selection, planned planting densities and survival targets, threat management, monitoring and evaluation.

**Patch** means a contiguous area of land within a site proposed for restoration.

**Restoration** includes all the following activities:

- **Revegetation**, through planting or direct seeding of land containing no native vegetation (including planting around scattered paddock trees)
- **Supplementary planting** in gaps where there is no or limited chance of natural regeneration within areas of degraded native vegetation
- **Assisted regeneration** where areas are actively managed to facilitate regeneration including through stock exclusion, herbivory control, and pest and weed management, but with no or very limited planned planting.

Attribute information for restoration patches is shown below.

REVEGETATION		
Planned management outcome	Category	Reveg Standard
Vegetation extent	Revegetation / restoration	EVC structure and diversity
Vegetation structure and diversity	Remnant enhanced	EVC multi strata
Heal Country		EVC overstory
		Mixed species
		Assisted Regeneration
		Remnant enhancement

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANTING		
Planned management outcome	Category	Reveg Standard
Vegetation extent	Revegetation / restoration	EVC structure and diversity
Vegetation structure and diversity	Remnant enhanced	EVC multi strata
Heal Country		EVC overstory
		Mixed species
		Assisted Regeneration
		Remnant enhancement

ASSISTED REGENERATION		
Planned management outcome	Category	Reveg Standard
Vegetation extent	Revegetation / restoration	EVC structure and diversity
Vegetation structure and diversity	Remnant enhanced	EVC multi strata
Heal Country		EVC overstory
		Mixed species
		Assisted Regeneration
		Remnant enhancement