



Weddin
Landcare

SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS 2024

Grant Guidelines

The Weddin Landcare Small Environmental Grants 2024 aim to assist landholders within the Weddin Landcare District establish or improve native vegetation on their property to reduce the impact of natural hazards by addressing wind and water erosion; providing shade and shelter to livestock, pastures and crops; improving habitat for native wildlife; and increasing biodiversity.

FUNDING

Funding will help cover the cost of trees/shrubs and guards and a portion of fencing, if required. Weddin Landcare will work with applicants to determine project costs and the potential cost-share arrangements. As an indication, funding would cover up to 50% of total project costs to a maximum amount of \$4,000 per project, depending on the project type. Projects that provide value for money will be favoured. Volunteer assistance to help plant the trees may also be sought via Weddin Landcare. Applicants will be responsible for covering the remaining costs associated with the project.

The funding is limited and competitive, which may mean that not all applications will be funded. Applications will be ranked, with the highest ranked projects being negotiated for funding first, until the allocated funding is exhausted.

Trees and guards will be arranged by Weddin Landcare directly through the Weddin Community Native Nursery and other funds eg. for fencing, will be paid to the landholder upon successful completion of the project. A site visit will be conducted to inspect the finished project before final payment is made.

The trees and tree guards are funded by Landcare NSW's People Led Prevention Project.

Landcare NSW's People Led Prevention project empowers communities across regional NSW in developing disaster resilience and preparedness skills. The Disaster Risk Reduction Fund is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for funding, projects will need to meet the following criteria:

- Expressions of interest must be received by no later than 5pm on Friday 12 July 2024;
- Projects must be conducted within the Weddin Landcare District; Ref: <https://weddinlandcare.com.au/resources/>
- Applicants can be individuals, farming businesses and not-for-profit community groups;
- Projects must be able to be completed by 30 September 2025;
- Funding will not be granted to projects that have already commenced;
- Applicants will be required to sign a letter of offer and agree to project-specific management conditions;
- Projects must aim to establish or enhance native vegetation. Eligible activities may include:
 - Direct seeding or revegetation using tube stock of new sites;
 - Enhancement plantings in existing remnants or old tree plantings;
 - Riparian plantings, shelterbelts, targeted plantings to reduce erosion, plantings to improve connectivity (biodiversity/wildlife corridors or stepping stones), or dense prickly plantings for habitat biodiversity;
 - Fencing to protect new plantings or remnant vegetation to encourage regeneration.

PROJECT APPLICATIONS

Landholders are invited to submit an application using the attached form. Forms can be downloaded from weddinlandcare.org/small-environmental-grants-2024. Applicants must ensure they complete all fields on the form or their application may be rejected.

Only one application per individual/business/group will be accepted.



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PROJECT ASSESSMENT

Applications will be assessed by the Weddin Landcare Local Landcare Coordinators and cross-checked by Weddin Landcare Steering Committee Members. Initially, an eligibility check will be conducted. Project applicants that are deemed eligible will then be contacted and a site visit will be conducted to assess the merit of the project and discuss the budget and materials required for the project. A simple matrix will be used to assist in scoring and ranking projects.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Provide multiple benefits eg. address erosion and biodiversity or threatened species;
- Provide value for money eg. have a higher contribution from the landholder;
- Will have positive impacts on the wider area ie. not just for private benefit;
- Apply best management principles.

PROJECT APPROVAL

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in writing and will be required to sign a letter of offer, which will outline the terms and conditions for their individual project. Some of these conditions will include certain management actions, specific to the project.

Applicants will be responsible for obtaining any necessary permits or approvals before commencing works e.g. obtaining written permission from the registered land owner/s, permission from relevant authorities.

MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

- Site preparation for revegetation projects is site specific and will be recommended by Weddin Landcare.
- It is recommended that windbreaks and biodiversity corridor plantings are at least 5 rows of native plants; a minimum of 30m wide; and include at least 70% understorey species;
- Plantings must be fenced or have stock excluded until the trees are established.
- Trees/shrubs will be allocated to ensure appropriate local species are used.
- Tree guards are to be used with tube stock plantings and removed after one-two years.
- Grazing management actions will be recommended for protected areas with periods of exclusion. All grazing will be strategic, aimed at maximising groundcover, diversity, and regeneration of native plants.
- Pest animals and weeds must be controlled to allow establishment/survival of plantings.
- Barbed wire will not be funded as part of fencing materials.

PROJECT COMPLETION

All projects must be completed by no later than 30 September 2025. Upon completion, a site visit will be conducted by a Weddin Landcare Local Landcare Coordinator. Photos of the project site will be taken and a checklist completed. Details of some projects may be used to create case studies to promote Landcare activities.

TIMELINE

The following project timeframes are provided as an indication only

Applications open	3 June 2024
Applications close	12 July 2024
Project assessments	August 2024

Notify applicants	30 August 2024
Project completion	30 September 2025
Final inspections	October 2025