

Habitat Restoration Grants

Funding Guidelines

Background

The City of Burnside manages reserves for the enhancement of local biodiversity and for wildlife habitat. Council controls invasive plants, promotes natural regeneration, revegetates areas with local native species, and manages fuel loads to mitigate bushfire risk.

Private landholders can make significant contributions to the enhancement of regional habitat, particularly larger landholdings in the hills face area. Many species of fauna require large areas of suitable habitat and connections to move safely through the landscape.

Aim

Habitat Restoration Grants (HRG) support landholders in the City of Burnside to create habitat and enhance biodiversity on private property, through woody weed removal and supplementary planting with appropriate species. Additionally, the program contributes to bushfire risk mitigation through fuel reduction.

What will be funded?

A limited number of small grants are available to reimburse private landowners for up to 50 per cent of costs for approved projects to enhance habitat for local fauna.

Eligible items include:

- Woody weed control:
 - Contractor costs for removal, treatment and/or disposal of woody weeds using appropriate methods.
 - See Appendix 1 for species and treatment techniques that will be funded.
- Revegetation with local native species obtained solely from Council's Local Native Plant Nursery:
 - Contractor costs for planting and initial maintenance.
 - Purchase of guards and stakes etc.
 - See Appendix 2 for species that will be supported for planting.

What will not be funded?

- Tools and equipment purchase.
- Works conducted by contractors not experienced in biodiversity works.
- Fencing.

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- Activities that damage or degrade remnant native vegetation, or trees protected under the *Planning, Development, and Infrastructure Act 2016*.
- Planting of non-indigenous species; all plants must be obtained from the Council's Local Native Plant Nursery to ensure appropriate species of local provenance are used.
- Planting of trees intended for harvesting (e.g., woodlots).
- Projects that create unacceptable bushfire fuel hazards (see Appendix 3 for recommendations on managing fuel loads).
- Projects on land not owned by the applicant (including road verges), unless explicit approval is granted in writing by the landowner. Importantly, in such cases, Council must be satisfied that the landowner's support of the work will be ongoing.
- Projects on land that is for sale.
- Projects which will need ongoing external funding.
- Projects or initiatives which duplicate existing Council services or those provided by other organisations.
- Costs associated with the running of an organisation (e.g., salaries or operational costs), other than direct work on the restoration of habitat.
- Retrospective payments where costs occurred prior to the grant assessment.
- Applicants that have received sponsorship or in-kind support from Council in the same financial year for a similar project.
- Also refer to the details for further eligibility (below).

How much?

Key eligibility criteria and grant amounts are published each Financial Year on Council's website and may be updated throughout the year to meet Council's operational requirements. The current webpage that includes these details is:

<https://www.burnside.sa.gov.au/Environment-Sustainability/Conservation-Sustainability/Habitat-Restoration-Grants>

- See Council's website for grant amounts available to eligible landholders.
- If City of Burnside has previously provided a Habitat Restoration Grant to the property, the eligibility criteria, grant conditions and maximum grant amount available may vary from the initial grant (see Council website).
- **Recipients are required to provide matching cash funding contributions** to the project. In-kind contributions of labour are not included in costs.
- Council allocate limited funding to this grant program each Financial Year. Once this funding has been used, no further funding will be available until the following Financial Year (pending Council's budgetary allocations and processes). Applicants are encouraged to discuss funding availability with Council staff before applying.

Timeframes

Applications open: See Council's HRG webpage for opening and closing dates.

Applications will be assessed as they are received, and funding allocated to projects that meet the criteria and provide value for money.

Grant acquittals due: March in the Financial Year when the grant was awarded, unless a grant is awarded later in the Financial Year (in which case the grant acquittal date will be negotiated with the landholder)

Reimbursements: April-June in the Financial Year when the grant was awarded.

Who is eligible for a habitat restoration grant?

Eligible individuals and organisations that:

- Own a property within the City of Burnside, that is at least the size stipulated on Council's Habitat Restoration Grant webpage.
- Provide proof of ownership of the property.
- If not the owner of property, the applicant must provide evidence of explicit approval given by the owner to conduct any works on the property.

The following are ineligible:

- Any government authorities or organisations.
- Applicants with outstanding debts such as rates, fees, or charges to the City of Burnside.
- Applicants with an overdue or unsatisfactory evaluation/acquittal report to the City of Burnside.
- Applicants who are in legal conflict with Council.
- Applicants whose services or products are perceived to conflict with Council's responsibilities to the community and/or the goals of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
- Applicants involved in any illegal activities.
- A purpose, or purposes, where the core funding responsibility normally rests with the State or Federal Government.

How will it be assessed?

Your application will be checked against the eligibility criteria. If eligible, the proposed activity will be ranked according to the following criteria:

- Meets the aims of this grant to conserve, manage and expand suitable habitat for local fauna and flora.
- Value for money.
- Appropriate techniques, plant species and provenance to be used.
- Contractors appropriately qualified and experienced.

- Achievable within the timeframe.
- Fuel management considerations are met.
- Commitment to ongoing management and maintenance.

Council reserves the right to modify the lists of items that will or will not be funded prior to grant approval.

Council reserves the right to modify any terms, conditions of the Habitat Restoration Grants at any time.

If your application is not supported, Council will provide feedback on request.

Responsibilities of successful applicants

- It is the responsibility of the landholder/proponent to ensure that all contractors engaged comply with appropriate work health and safety and have appropriate insurance and licenses.
- Obtain itemised tax invoices for the agreed works for the grant acquittal.
- Protect all indigenous species of plants and animals.
- Protect trees covered under the *Planning, Development, and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

What else do you need to know?

Successful applicants will be eligible for reimbursement of agreed costs after completion of the project. No advance funding will be available.

Reimbursement of agreed costs will only be on receipt of valid tax invoices for purchase of goods or services as agreed in the grant agreement.

Funding allocations as per the grant agreement that are not acquitted within the specified period of the grant being awarded will be forfeited.

The City of Burnside reserves the right to withdraw grant funding when the spirit of the funding agreement has not been complied with.

Grantees are expected to acknowledge Council's grant and support in any publications or publicity relating to the project funded by the grant.

How to apply

1. Applicants MUST contact Council's Conservation Programs team to discuss their project BEFORE completing an application,
 - Email burnside@burnside.sa.gov.au (attention: Conservation Programs) or
 - phone 8366 4200.
2. Complete an application using the online application tool available from Council's website: <https://www.burnside.sa.gov.au/Habitat-Grants>, (see also example application in Appendix 4) and provide:

- A site map showing the proposed activities (hand drawn or annotated aerial photograph).
 - Site photos.
 - Proof of ownership (e.g., Council's rate notice).
3. During assessment, eligible applicants will be visited by Council's Conservation Officer to inspect on-ground conditions of the proposed activities.

Further Information

[City of Burnside Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#)

[City of Burnside Website - Conservation & Sustainability](#)

Other Funding Programs

[City of Burnside Community Grants and Quick Response Grants](#)

[Green Adelaide Grass Roots and Cooler, Greener Wilder Grants](#)

Appendix 1: Woody Weed Species

- Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*)
- Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* sp. agg.)
- Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*)
- Brooms including Cape Broom (*Genista monspessulana*), English broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Flax-leaf Broom (*Genista linifolia*).
- Desert Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolius*)
- European Olive (*Olea europaea*)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
- Italian Buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*)
- Any Weeds of National Significance <https://weeds.org.au/>

[More information on Declared Pest Plants](#)

[Information on treatment techniques](#)

Appendix 2: Local Native Species

All plantings under this grant must be of local native species grown from local provenance seed or propagation material. To ensure this outcome, all plants for grant-funded planting must be obtained solely from Council's Local Native Plant Nursery. An indicative list of species is provided below.

Trees: species should be chosen to represent the appropriate Pre-European Vegetation Association.

[Forests and Woodlands of the Adelaide Plains in 1836 – a Native Vegetation Planting Guide](#)

- *Acacia melanoxydon*
- *Acacia provincialis** (riparian only)
- *Acacia pycnantha*
- *Acacia retinodes*
- *Allocasuarina verticillata*
- *Banksia marginata*
- *Callistemon sieberi** (riparian only)
- *Callitris gracilis*
- *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*
- *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* ssp. *leucoxylon*
- *Eucalyptus microcarpa** (south of Stonyfell only)
- *Eucalyptus porosa** (north of Stonyfell only)
- *Eucalyptus viminalis* ssp. *viminalis*
- *Pittosporum angustifolium*

Shrubs and Understory: Any species that is provided through the [City of Burnside Local Native Plant Giveaway](#).

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Please contact Council on 8366 4200 or burnside@burnside.sa.gov.au with any questions about appropriate species.

Appendix 3: Managing Fuel Loads

General principles that can be used to minimise fuel loads in asset protection areas:

- Eradicate all woody weeds and other invasive exotic plants.
- Control high biomass herbaceous weeds (eg Mustard, Scabious, Thistles) and feral perennial grasses (Rice Millett, Feathergrass) during the growing season and before fire danger season.
- Brush-cut grassland areas prior to the onset of fire danger season.
- Manage excessive amounts of fallen debris or standing dead woody material eg twigs and fallen branches (dead trees and logs are often minimal fuel and provide important habitat for native fauna).
- When revegetating with local native species:
 - Allow access for management and fuel reduction activities and regular fuel breaks.
 - Do not create dense vegetation but aim to create a scattered open woodland canopy.
 - Regularly canopy-lift trees to separate ground fuel from canopy fuel.
 - Avoid shrub and tree plantings within at least 20m of assets (properties and structures), and only plant pockets of shrubs that can be separated by low fuel areas.

Appendix 4: Example Application Form


Your Details	
Applicant Name(s)	Chris Citizen
Applicant Address	Depot Conyngham Rd 6 Conyngham Street GLENSIDE SA 5065
Applicant Phone 1	9999 999 999
Applicant Phone 2	
Applicant Email	burnside@burnside.sa.gov.au
Project Site Address	Depot Conyngham Rd 6 Conyngham Street GLENSIDE SA 5065
I/we own the project site	Yes
Total area of landholding	1 hectare
Area of project subject to this application (may only be a portion of	500 m2

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the total landholding)	
Description of the proposed activity for funding	<p>A 50 m long x 10 m wide strip of land adjacent to our northern boundary will be cleared of woody weeds, carefully preserving the existing SA Blue Gums and other indigenous species. Woody weeds will be treated with appropriate chemicals by licensed contractors to ensure they do not regrow.</p> <p>Following disposal of the debris and treatment of any grassy and herbaceous weeds that regenerate, we will plant appropriate local native species at wide spacing in the same area.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor and maintain this site to prevent woody weeds from re-establishing, herbaceous and grassy weeds taking over, and ensure the planted trees survive the first summer by watering every week with 5L of water each.</p> <p>Control of woody weeds will increase fauna habitat by allowing natural regeneration of the existing native plants, together with replanting of wide spaced indigenous trees.</p>
Habitat Details	
Weed Control - Woody Weed Species 1	
Woody weed species to be controlled	Olive
Control Method	Drill and Fill
How will debris be disposed?	Large ones will be left standing onsite, smaller plants will be cut and disposed by trailer to green waste dump by contractor.
Weed Control - Woody Weed Species 2	
Woody weed species to be controlled	Italian Buckthorn
Control Method	Basal Bark spraying, followed by cutting to ground level 2 months after spraying.
How will debris be disposed?	Pile burnt by contractors on site, with appropriate permits from City of Burnside.
Revegetation - Species 1	
Species	Eucalyptus leucoxylon ssp. leucoxylon
Number	10
Source (nursery)	Council's Local Native Plant Nursery
Local Provenance	Yes
Total Cost (inc. GST)	0
Revegetation - Species 2	
Species	Acacia pycnantha
Number	10
Source (nursery)	Council's Local Native Plant Nursery
Local Provenance	Yes
Total Cost (inc. GST)	0

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Total Number of Plants	20
Revegetation Total Cost (inc. GST)	0
Fuel Control	<p>The majority of woody weed debris will be disposed of by removal to green waste or onsite pile burning, with appropriate permits from City of Burnside, thus lowering standing biomass fuel load. Resulting grass and herbaceous weed growth will be managed by spot spraying of large biomass weeds such as Rice Millet and Mustard during the growing season, followed by brush cutting of the entire site prior to fire danger season.</p> <p>We (the landholders) will undertake regular spot spraying of weeds. Contractors will be engaged to undertake the seasonal brushcutting.</p>
Ongoing Management	Combine with question above.
Costing - Activity 1	
Activity	Woody weed control
Timeframe	May & June 2024
Quantity	66
Units	contractor person hours
Who will do the work	Woody Weed Removal Services Inc.
Total Cost (inc. GST)	4,000
Cost to be contributed by applicant (inc. GST)	2,000
Funding sought from City of Burnside (inc. GST)	2,000
Costing - Activity 2	
Activity	Purchase of coreflute tree guards and stakes
Timeframe	August 2024
Quantity	20
Units	guards and stakes
Who will do the work	ABCD Greening Co. Inc.
Total Cost (inc. GST)	100
Cost to be contributed by applicant (inc. GST)	50
Funding sought from City of Burnside (inc. GST)	50

Costing - Activity 3	
Activity	Planting of trees with stakes and guards
Timeframe	August 2024
Quantity	20
Units	plants
Who will do the work	The landholder
Total Cost (inc. GST)	0
Cost to be contributed by applicant (inc. GST)	0
Funding sought from City of Burnside (inc. GST)	0
Total Cost (inc. GST)	\$4,100.00
Total cost to be contributed by applicant (inc. GST)	\$2,050.00
Total funding sought from City of Burnside (inc. GST)	\$2,050.00
Additional information	
Attach a basic site map of the project site	
Attach 2 photos of the project site	20230905_113931.jpg 20230620_112729.jpg
Have you checked the project site for remnant native vegetation (including native grasses)?	Yes

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Please list indigenous species found on the project site	Eucalyptus leucoxylon ssp. leucoxylon, Acacia acinacea, Rytidosperma racemosum, Olearia ramulosa.
Have you sought guidance from a land management professional in preparation of this project?	Yes
Please provide their name and organisation	Jo Smith, Burnside Hypothetical Landcare.
Declarations	
Land Owner(s)/Applicant Declaration	<p>I/we declare that the information given on this form is complete and correct.</p> <p>I/we have read, understand, and agree to the Funding Guidelines of this grant program.</p> <p>I/we consent to the release of information in this application (excluding personal details) for non-commercial public information purposes.</p> <p>I/we consent to the release of information for Council to discuss this application with other government organisations operating similar landholder assistance programs.</p> <p>With reasonable notice provided, the City of Burnside's representative may enter my property to inspect and verify grant proposals, related works and before approving final payment of the grant. No staff will enter private property without explicit permission from the property owner.</p>
Approved Applications	<p>I/we understand that the City of Burnside will pay a fixed grant amount for approved works and/or materials after receiving and reviewing a completed claim form with 'before and after' photographs and original tax invoices that have been paid by me/us, the landowner.</p>