

# NSW Heritage Grants 2023-25 funding round

## Frequently Asked Questions and guidance

### General questions

Question	Guidance
<p><b>What grants are available?</b></p>	<p>Funding is available under five grant categories</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New \$1 million Activating State Heritage Grant (with PitchFest 30 November)</li> <li>2. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Grants- for management documents and works at declared Aboriginal Places</li> <li>3. Caring for State Heritage – for management documents and works to items on the State Heritage Register</li> <li>4. Community Heritage Grants–for community engagement projects (does not need to be linked to a specific site)</li> <li>5. Local Government Heritage Grants – for councils to identify, conserve and promote heritage in their area (combines Heritage Advisor /Small Heritage Grants and Studies plus additional uses)</li> </ol> <p>In addition the Emergency Works grants are open year round for declared Aboriginal Places, items on the State Heritage Register or items with an interim heritage order (under current 2021-23 Guidelines)</p>
<p><b>Where are the funding guidelines?</b></p>	<p>The funding guidelines are on our <a href="#">website</a> under each category name. There are separate Guidelines for each category.</p> <p>They have more detail on eligibility and how applications will be ranked.</p>
<p><b>Where can I find the application form?</b></p>	<p>Access the application forms from our <a href="#">website</a>.</p> <p>Decide which category to apply for then click the “Submit your.... Application in SmartyGrants”</p>
<p><b>How do I apply?</b></p>	<p>There are two different application forms under Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Grants and Caring for State Heritage Grants depending on the type of project you are applying for.</p> <p>From the website you will be directed to the SmartyGrants online grants management system to start your application. You will need to register online if you have not used SmartyGrants before. Registration is free and easy.</p> <p>Application forms can be previewed in full before starting.</p>

Question	Guidance
<b>Will all eligible applications be funded?</b>	No. This is a competitive funding round. If the round is oversubscribed applications will be scored against the assessment criteria and ranked.
<b>When will I know if I have been successful?</b>	<p>The successful Activating State Heritage Grant will be announced 30 November 2022.</p> <p>Announcements of successful projects under other categories will occur around April /May 2023. The outcome of the Local Government Heritage Grants may be made sooner.</p> <p>All applicants will receive written notification on the outcome of their application.</p>
<b>When can I start my project?</b>	<p>Projects will start from July 2023.</p> <p>The Activating State Heritage Grant project will start from January 2023.</p>
<b>Can I apply for a project that I have already done?</b>	<p>No – we do not fund retrospective / completed projects.</p> <p>Some planning and staged work is acceptable before submitting an application.</p>
<b>Will there be another opportunity to apply for heritage grant funding in 2023?</b>	<p>No, there will <b>not</b> be another funding round called in 2023. The next found round will open in late 2024.</p> <p>This funding around is for projects to be implemented during the two-year period from July 2023 – June 2025.</p> <p>However, Emergency Works for SHR items and Aboriginal Places is open year-round to address issues caused by unexpected events. The Emergency Works funding guidelines are also on our website. There is no due date for Emergency Works applications, you can apply for this funding all year around.</p>
<b>Can I apply for more than one grant?</b>	<p>Yes. If you have more than one project, complete a separate application for each project. Each project should be independent and not reliant on other applications being successful.</p> <p>Each grant category has its own application(s) based on the project activity.</p>
<b>I am having a technical problem with the Smarty Grants application form</b>	<p>SmartyGrants is the online portal for applications.</p> <p>They provide a help desk for technical /IT issues on application forms and if someone is having access issues.</p> <p><a href="https://smartygrants.com.au/">https://smartygrants.com.au/</a></p>
<b>Who can apply? Am I eligible to apply for a grant?</b>	Each of the funding guidelines explain who is eligible and not eligible to apply. Different types of projects have different eligibility.

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<b>Can the State or Federal Government apply?</b>	State and Federal Government agencies are not eligible to apply for any of our grants.
<b>What types of projects are eligible?</b>	<p>Different activities and projects are eligible under different categories.</p> <p>Each of the funding guidelines explain the eligible activities. Different types of projects have different eligibility and some projects can only occur on particular heritage sites.</p> <p>Refer to our Grants team for specific questions.</p>
<b>What are my chances of getting funded?</b>	<p>Funding is limited, and we cannot fund all eligible projects.</p> <p>Most categories of applications go through an assessment and prioritisation process. The funding guidelines explain the assessment criteria and what will be prioritised.</p>
<b>Do I need to provide matched funding?</b>	In some cases, yes, depending on the type of project and applicant. Refer to the funding guidelines for each category.
<b>What is the total pool of heritage grants funding?</b>	<p>There is over \$5 million available over two years.</p> <p>There are different funding amounts within categories. Refer to the table below.</p>
<b>Where can I find other grants if I'm not eligible?</b>	All NSW Government grants are advertised through the NSW Government Grants and funding website <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding">https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding</a>
<b>Where can I get more information?</b>	<p>If you have read the Guidelines and these FAQs and have not found the answer to your question contact us.</p> <p>Heritage NSW</p> <p>Phone: 02 9873 8500</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au">heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au</a></p>

## Types of heritage listing and heritage approvals

Question	Guidance
<p><b>How do I know if a place is on the State Heritage Register or a declared Aboriginal Place?</b></p>	<p>Check the <a href="#">State Heritage Inventory</a>.</p> <p>All types of heritage listings are included on the State Heritage Inventory.</p> <p>Add your suburb or town in the drop down and click “View Results”. In Map View items are shown as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• red are declared Aboriginal Places,</li> <li>• blue are listed on the State Heritage Register</li> <li>• brown are listed on a Local Environmental Plan (not eligible for funding).</li> </ul> <p>In Statutory List View items are shown as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 1 are declared Aboriginal Places,</li> <li>• Section 2 are listed on the State Heritage Register</li> </ul> <p>Section 3 are listed on your Local Environmental Plan or relate to State government agencies (not eligible for funding).</p>
<p><b>How do I nominate my place for the State Heritage Register?</b></p>	<p>See the information for <a href="#">how to nominate</a> for the State Heritage Register</p>
<p><b>My item is local heritage, is it eligible?</b></p>	<p>No, the grants do not directly fund local heritage items.</p> <p>We support councils through the Local Government Heritage Grants to assist with local heritage outcomes.</p> <p>Councils may run a small grants program for local heritage items with those funds.</p> <p>Check your Council’s website to see if they have a grant funding round open.</p>
<p><b>Does my project need an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit?</b></p>	<p>You may need a permit under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> to do works or activities.</p> <p>See the <a href="#">information on our website</a> at or contact us for more advice.</p> <p>Applying for a permit is separate process to the grant application process.</p> <p>You can include the cost for any permits in your grant project budget.</p>

Question	Guidance
<b>Does my project need a works approval or does an exemption apply?</b>	<p>You may need separate approvals or permits under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> to do works or activities, or they may qualify for an exemption.</p> <p>See the <a href="#">information on our website</a> at or contact us for more advice.</p> <p>Applying for these approvals and permits is separate process to the grant application process.</p> <p>You can include the cost of any approval in your grant project budget.</p>

## How are grant decisions made?

Question	Guidance
<b>How will the Activating State Heritage Grant be awarded?</b>	<p>At Stage 1 – eligibility will be checked</p> <p>At stage 2- the top applications will be decided</p> <p>At stage 3 – a PitchFest is held (30 November 22) and the Judging Panel makes the decision on the day.</p>
<b>How are decisions made for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Grants, Caring for State Heritage Grants, Community Heritage Grants?</b>	<p>An initial eligibility check is made by the Grants team</p> <p>A heritage expert will do a quick check for general suitability of the project</p> <p>The Heritage Council’s Grants and Sponsorship Advisory Committee will rank applications and make recommendations to the Director Customer Services</p> <p>The Director will make the decision on projects to fund.</p>
<b>How will the Local Government Heritage Grant be decided?</b>	<p>All eligible councils will receive \$25,000.</p> <p>Matched funding depends on ABS data and there is an attachment in the Guidelines to show who has to provide.</p> <p>The Manager Incentives and Engagement will decide these grants.</p>

## Extra detail on Local Government Heritage Grants

Question	Guidance
<p><b>Does council have to use the Local Government Heritage Grant for a single activity or stick to the activities indicated in the application?</b></p>	<p>No. The grant category has been changed to give Councils more flexibility.</p> <p>It is up to Council to decide how to allocate the funding across local heritage activities in its LGA. The funding guidelines give some advice on what type of activities are allowed.</p> <p>Council will report back at the end of each year on how the funds have been used to achieve heritage outcomes.</p>
<p><b>Do Council's need to spend 50% of the Local Government Heritage Grant in each year?</b></p>	<p>No. The grant category has been changed to give Councils more flexibility.</p> <p>You will be paid the grant in two payments, but it does not matter when your expenditure occurs in the 2 year period.</p> <p>You will receive 50% of the funding paid up-front once the funding agreement is executed.</p> <p>You will be asked to report on progress and expenditure in mid 2023 but the final report on activities undertaken and expenditure by May 2024 will be used to calculate the final grant payment.</p>
<p><b>Can council open the next (2023-24) small grants program before 1 July 2023?</b></p>	<p>Yes. Council can open the next small grants round to allow the successful projects to commence at the beginning of the 2023-24 financial year. This pre-planning is allowed.</p>

## More detailed information

Question	Guidance
<b>Do I have to own the SHR site/AP to apply for funding?</b>	The applicant does not have to be the owner, however permission from the owner/s or custodians is required. The Guidelines have more information on additional requirements.
<b>What multi-site listings are ineligible?</b>	<p>You cannot have a joint application relating to two or more individual State Heritage Register listed items or Aboriginal Places- such as a string of individually listed properties along a street.</p> <p>You cannot apply for funding for one individually owned building within a larger listing (such as a whole town), unless that building is also individually listed.</p> <p>A landscape or precinct within a single listing may be eligible.</p>
<b>Can I use in-kind, donations or other grants towards the matched funding?</b>	<p>Non-financial contributions are allowed as part of your contribution if they were noted in your application.</p> <p>If successful, all non-financial contributions will need to be accurately documented in your grant acquittals and will need to be considered reasonable.</p> <p>Any donations or other grant funding must be declared in acquittals.</p>
<b>Why is there a suitability check and what does it mean?</b>	<p>Heritage NSW staff will do a quick check to identify any projects that do not appear appropriate for the specific Aboriginal Place or State Heritage Register listed item. Projects that have a negative impact on the site's heritage significance will be identified and not proceed to the next stage of assessment.</p> <p>HNSW staff will also identify applications where the content of Community Heritage projects doesn't appear to have a historical basis, or the sources or support for the project may impact the accuracy of the content. They will also consider if the project could have a negative impact on heritage values, or to community cohesion and wellbeing.</p>
<b>Will I need a heritage specialist to oversee the project?</b>	<p>We want to ensure the quality of your work.</p> <p>Where you are undertaking any works to a State Heritage Registered item we recommend that you involve a heritage specialist with suitable expertise and experience in the planning and implementation of the project. If you are successful, you will need a heritage professional to oversee the project and to certify the works. The level of oversight will be impacted by the complexity of the project.</p> <p>You can include these costs in your project budget.</p>
<b>Why don't you allow funding to a site recently acquired or leased from Government?</b>	Generally the condition of a site, and works required have been factored into the sale price or lease arrangement through a public/open process.



Question	Guidance
<p><b>What sort of exceptional circumstances can be considered?</b></p> <p><b>(not applicable for Activating State Heritage Grant)</b></p>	<p>We cannot always anticipate every situation that may arise. We reserve the right to progress applications that may not fully meet the eligibility criteria, if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a project meets the objectives of the program</li><li>• the particular circumstances related to the eligibility criteria are unusual and not as anticipated when preparing the guidelines</li><li>• a project appears to have exceptional merit based on the assessment criteria – particularly in terms of heritage benefit.</li></ul> <p>We will outline why any decision has been made.</p>

## Key dates – Activating State Heritage Grants

<b>Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (EOI) -Open Call</b>	
<b>EOI application submission opens</b>	9am, Saturday 10 September 2022
<b>EOI application submission closes</b>	12 noon, Wednesday 5 October 2022
<b>All EOI applicants notified of outcomes. Successful projects invited to Stage 2</b>	Friday 14 October 2022
<b>EOI application submission opens</b>	9am, Saturday 10 September 2022
<b>Stage 2 -Invitation Only</b>	
<b>Stage 2 application submission closes</b>	12 noon, Friday 4 November 2022
<b>All Stage 2 applicants notified of outcomes. Successful finalists invited to Pitch Fest</b>	Thursday 17 November 2022
<b>Stage 3 – PitchFest Event - Invitation only</b>	
<b>PitchFest- live event, participate either online or in person. Successful project announced</b>	Wednesday 30 November 2022
<b>Project Implementation</b>	
<b>Successful project starts</b>	2023
<b>Successful project complete and grant acquitted</b>	mid-late 2025

## Key dates -All other categories

(except for the emergency works grants which are open all year round)

Phases	Key dates
<b>Funding round opens for application submissions.</b>	9.00am, Saturday 10 September 2022
<b>Funding round closes.</b>	12 noon, Friday 2 December 2022
<b>Applications are reviewed by Heritage NSW.</b>	December 2022 to March 2023
<b>Applicants notified and successful projects announced.</b>	April/May 2023
<b>Projects to start.</b>	Saturday 1 July 2023
<b>Projects to be completed and grants fully acquitted.</b>	Thursday 15 May 2025

## Key features of each category

### Activating State Heritage Grant - State Heritage Register listed item only

Only 1 successful application

Project/Activity type	Funding level (ex GST)	Co-contribution
<b>Activation works – to increase usage and public benefit</b>	\$1 million	Matched funding required

### Aboriginal Cultural Heritage – declared Aboriginal Place only

Project/Activity type	Funding level (ex GST)	Co-contribution
<b>Heritage management document</b>	Maximum \$30,000	For Local Government a matched funding contribution is required.  No matching funding is required from other applicants.

Project/Activity type	Funding level (ex GST)	Co-contribution
<b>Heritage works project</b>	Maximum \$80,000	For Local Government a matched funding contribution is required.  No matching funding is required from other applicants.

### Caring for State Heritage – State Heritage Register listed item only

Project type	Funding level (ex GST)	Co-contribution
<b>Conservation management document</b>	Maximum \$30,000	Matched funding required
<b>Works project</b>	Maximum \$150,000	Matched funding required

### Community Heritage – projects that engage people in heritage stories

Project type	Funding level (ex GST)	Co-contribution
<b>Community Engagement projects</b>	Maximum \$50,000	Not required

### Local Government Heritage Grants – only Local Government can apply

	Funding level	Co-contribution
<b>Flat amount allocated</b>	\$25,000	Variable – based on ABS data – see back of Guidelines