



# Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Program guidelines 2025



## Acknowledgement of Country

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This resource may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

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# Part 1: About the program

These guidelines provide information on the Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Program (the program) administered by the NSW Environmental Trust (the Trust). The guidelines cover eligible organisations, program priorities, and activities that may qualify for funding. They also explain the application assessment process and what grant recipients can expect if they are awarded funding.

## The NSW Environmental Trust

The NSW Environmental Trust is an independent statutory body set up by the NSW Government under legislation – the *Environmental Trust Act 1998* – to fund various groups and organisations to undertake projects that enhance and protect the State’s environment. The Trust’s main responsibility is to provide and oversee grant funding.

The Trust is chaired by the NSW Minister for the Environment. Its members include an Aboriginal person and representatives from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department); local government; the Nature Conservation Council of NSW; and NSW Treasury. The Trust is administered by the department.

## Implementing the Trust’s Strategic Plan

*NSW Environmental Trust Strategic Plan 2024 to 2029* sets out 3 strategic priorities:

1. **Healthy Country** – enhancing Aboriginal peoples’ role in environmental management by supporting traditional knowledge and practices
2. **Ecosystem and biodiversity restoration** – focusing on species resilience, climate adaptation and ecosystem health
3. **Enhanced environmental management** – strengthening data, connectivity and natural resource management practices to improve holistic environmental outcomes.

These priorities reflect the most critical environmental challenges identified by the Trust and aim to drive meaningful environmental progress. They will serve as a framework to guide the Trust’s grant funding decisions over the next 4 years.

For more information on the Trust’s strategic priorities for 2024 to 2029 see Appendix B.

## Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Program

The Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Program is a competitive grants program funded by the Trust. It supports community and government

organisations to achieve lasting positive impacts on the NSW environment by protecting, conserving and restoring our natural resources.

## Program objectives

The program is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- improve and protect the quality of ecosystems and environmental assets managed by community groups, land managers and stakeholders
- enhance the management of environmental assets by facilitating the development of environmental expertise and stronger partnerships between individuals, community groups, governments, and industry
- provide an appropriate, effective, and sustainable mechanism to deliver government policy, priorities and outcomes.

## Application process overview

### Step 1: Review the program guidelines

- Download and read the program guidelines (this document).
- Refer to the *Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Program* webpage for links to essential resources to support your application, including:
  - *How to develop your project 2025*
  - examples of previously funded projects
  - sample workplan.

### Step 2: Confirm your eligibility

- Check your organisation is eligible (see Part 3: Organisation eligibility).
- Check your proposed activities meet the program requirements (see Part 5: Eligible and ineligible project activities).

### Step 3: Complete and submit your application

- Register and access the Grant Management System through the program webpage.
- Complete and submit your application.
- Record the project reference number assigned to you and use this number in any communication with the Trust.

## Enquiries

NSW Environmental Trust

Phone: 02 8837 6093

Email: [info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au)

Website: [Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation](#)

# Part 2: About this round

## Important dates

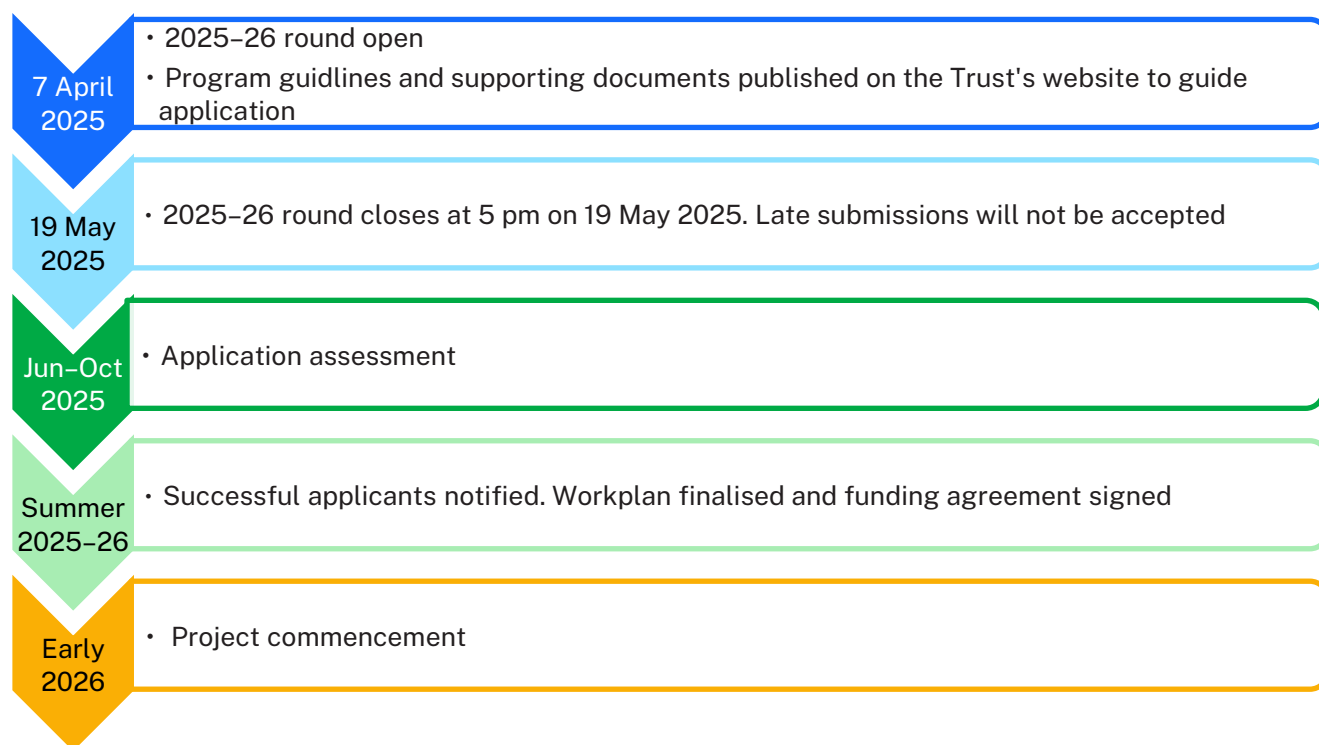


Figure 1 Important dates

## Funding available

The Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Program offers a total of \$4 million in available funding. Each project may receive between \$150,000 and \$350,000, with a project duration of 3 to 5 years.

Table 1 Funding available

Total funding available	Funding per project	Project duration
\$4,000,000	\$150,000 to \$350,000	3 to 5 years

## Application limits

Organisations can submit up to **2 applications**.

Each organisation can receive funding for only one project, unless they are in western New South Wales, in which case they can receive funding for 2 projects.

For more details, see Part 3: [Organisation eligibility](#).



# Part 3: Organisation eligibility

## Eligible organisations

The Trust will fund:

- incorporated associations, community organisations and non-profit organisations
- non-commercial cooperatives
- companies limited by guarantee
- state government agencies and statutory committees
- councils
- regional organisations of councils
- other organisations controlled by local government
- universities (only eligible to apply for funding for projects on their own land)
- local Aboriginal land councils
- registered Indigenous corporations.

## Ineligible organisations

The Trust will not fund:

- individuals
- industry joint ventures
- for-profit organisations
- profit-distributing entities.

## Australian Business Number (ABN)

All applicants must have an active Australian Business Number (ABN) to confirm their eligibility as an organisation.

## Options for ineligible organisations

Unincorporated community organisations can apply for grant funding only if they partner with an eligible organisation, referred to as an ‘external manager’. The external manager must meet the eligibility criteria for community or government organisations and will be responsible for managing the grant funds.

The external manager will sign the funding agreement, oversee the use of the funds, and assist with reporting and other requirements to ensure the project runs smoothly and achieves its goals.

For more information see the Trust's publication *Tips on working with an External Manager*.

## Past performance

When assessing eligibility, the Trust will review applicants' past performance in previous grants and any history of non-compliance with legal or regulatory obligations. If past performance suggests there may be risks to the project's success, applicants may be asked to respond to these concerns, and their response will be considered alongside the application. Special conditions may be added to the funding agreement to address any issues.

## Eligibility for applicants in western New South Wales

The Trust recognises the challenges of delivering projects in remote locations. To promote equitable distribution of grant funding and support projects in remote areas across New South Wales, organisations applying for projects in western New South Wales are allowed to submit 2 applications, both of which may be eligible for funding. This includes organisations in the regions covered by Western, Northwest, Central West, Riverina, and Murray Local Land Services.

# Part 4: Project requirements

## Budget requirements

### GST

If you are registered for goods and services tax (GST), the dollar amounts in your application budget should **not** include GST. GST will be paid in addition to your grant for organisations registered for GST except for government bodies.

If you are not registered for GST and are administering your own grant, the amount requested from the Trust should include any GST which may be payable.

### Consumer price index (CPI)

Budget items must account for estimated increases in the CPI for each project year.

### Salaries

Salaries may be included for project management (for example, project officer). They must not exceed 30% of the total grant amount.

### Oncosts

**Salary on-costs may be included in salary costs**, which include leave loading, workers compensation, payroll tax and superannuation. This must not exceed 26.5% of the salary.

### Project administration

Project-related administration must not exceed 10% of the total grant funds.

### Monitoring

At least 10% of the overall project budget must be allocated to monitoring activities (for example, photo monitoring, mapping, ecological surveys). Monitoring can be done by the grantee or a qualified consultant.

### In-kind contributions

Include all in-kind contributions in your budget against the relevant project activities.

For all in-kind contributions, provide details within the budget description including goods, use of services and facilities, volunteer time, professional services or expertise in the form of staff time, provision of or access to equipment, special materials or material contributions pledged by project partner organisations (including your own) toward the project. Salaries for existing staff can be factored into the project as an 'in-kind' contribution.

## End-of-project financial certification

All non-government organisations must allocate funds for their project expenditure to be certified by an independent certifier at the completion of the project, to be submitted with the final report. We encourage you to investigate the potential costs of financial certification and include this in your budget.

An Australian member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, CPA Australia or the Institute of Public Accountants must certify your financial report and submit a Report on Factual Findings in accordance with Australian Auditing Standard ASRS 4400 *Agreed-Upon Procedures Engagements to Report Factual Findings*. The certifier should not be a member of your organisation.

The certifying accountant should also provide a Report on Factual Findings declaring:

- the financial report accurately reflects income and expenditure for the project
- all payments were supported by adequate documentation to show that expenditure was for bona fide goods and services related to the project
- competitive pricing was obtained for all individual items of expenditure of \$5,000 and over.

For government organisations and universities, your final financial report must be certified by your chief financial officer or a delegate who has the authority to certify expenditure on behalf of the organisation. The final financial report does not need to be independently certified.

Requirements for financial reporting can be found on the Trust's webpage [Financial reporting to the NSW Environmental Trust](#).

## Mapping

You must provide relevant mapping information when applying for funding. Depending on the nature of the project, types of mapping include:

- overall project map – showing an overview of all project sites
- regional context map – demonstrating linkages with other conservation land and/or regional biodiversity corridor
- site maps – showing each project site and areas of proposed works (if sites are known before applying).

## Building sustainable practice into project design

Design your project with long-term sustainability in mind to ensure the benefits continue after funding ends. This involves planning for the maintenance of project outcomes and considering how project initiatives can remain active within the community or environment.

To demonstrate sustainability, consider the following strategies:

- **Community engagement:** foster local ownership and encourage continued support for the project by actively involving community members in the planning and implementation processes.
- **Ongoing funding sources:** identify potential ongoing funding sources, such as additional grants, sponsorships, or community fundraising efforts to sustain project activities.
- **Partnerships:** build partnerships with local organisations, businesses, and government entities to enhance support and resources, contributing to the project's long-term viability.
- **Training and capacity building:** provide training and capacity-building opportunities for community members, empowering them to take over project management and maintenance.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** incorporate processes to monitor the project's impact and adapt strategies as needed for continued success.
- **Communication plan:** develop a clear communication plan to share successes and lessons learnt, further engaging stakeholders and attracting future support.

By focusing on these strategies, you can clearly show your commitment to achieving sustainable outcomes that positively impact both the community and the environment over time.

## More information

For more information on how to complete an application refer to *How to develop your project 2025* on the [Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Program](#) webpage.



# Part 5: Eligible and ineligible project activities

## 2025 priority themes

The program funds restoration and rehabilitation activities that align with the objects of the Environmental Trust Act and the priority themes set out in the *NSW Environmental Trust Strategic Plan 2024 to 2029*.

The strategic plan centres on 3 priorities, each with 4 targeted opportunities. These opportunities reflect the most critical environmental challenges identified by the Trust, in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, and aim to drive meaningful environmental progress.

Grant-funded activities must align with at least one of these priorities:

1. **Healthy Country\*** – enhancing Aboriginal peoples' role in environmental management by supporting traditional knowledge and practices
2. **Ecosystem and biodiversity restoration** – focusing on species resilience, climate adaptation and ecosystem health
3. **Enhanced environmental management** – strengthening data, connectivity and natural resource management practices to improve holistic environmental outcomes.

\*If your project targets the Healthy Country priority theme, it is essential to partner with relevant Aboriginal organisations or stakeholders.

For further details about the Trust's strategic priorities see Appendix B.

## Eligible project activities

Select activities that will directly contribute to your project's goals and align with the program's broader outcomes. Your application will be assessed on how well the proposed activities align with and support the program's outcomes.

Your proposed activities must address critical environmental issues and support the priorities outlined in the Trust's strategic plan (see Appendix B).

### Bush regeneration and assisted natural regeneration

**Bush regeneration** is the practice of restoring and enhancing native bushland by managing invasive plants, encouraging the growth of local species, and improving the health of the ecosystem. The aim is to create self-sustaining environments that need little ongoing human help. This work often involves the community and uses different methods of ecological restoration. The ultimate goals are to improve biodiversity, improve habitats, and strengthen the resilience of native vegetation.

A key part of bush regeneration is **assisted natural regeneration**. This method helps native plants recover naturally in damaged areas. It works by removing barriers to growth, such as invasive plants and soil erosion, allowing native plants to thrive on their own.

All bush regeneration or assisted natural regeneration project activities must:

- follow best practice industry standards, as outlined in *National standards for the practice of ecological restoration in Australia*
- allow sufficient time for natural regeneration from the existing seed bank where possible. If you plan to undertake revegetation, justify the need to plant rather than allowing natural regeneration to occur
- ensure your group's capacity (including any contractors) is sufficient for the scale of proposed works. Plan primary work only in areas where adequate follow-up will be provided within the scope of the same project
- comply with existing regional and local plans of management, environmental studies or assessments
- have a strategy to ensure long-term maintenance of the sites after the funding.

## Bush regeneration contractors

Projects may include the use of contractors to do bush regeneration. Contractors should have relevant qualifications that align with industry standards and apply recognised best-practice bush regeneration techniques. Where possible, contractors should be sourced locally and charge current industry-standard rates for the specific work they perform at the time of engagement.

Refer to [Contractors](#) in this list for further information on procurement of contractor services.

## Canopy connection

To effectively restore and link fragmented habitats, planting canopy trees to create continuous habitat corridors is essential, especially in areas where natural regeneration is insufficient or the habitat is heavily degraded. Habitat corridors enable wildlife movement and genetic diversity, which are critical for the resilience of ecosystems and support of threatened species.

To ensure tree planting leads to meaningful restoration and connectivity:

- **Prioritise habitat corridors:** focus on establishing connected corridors that bridge fragmented habitats. This approach supports safe wildlife movement and ecosystem linkages rather than isolated patches of canopy.
- **Use local provenance plants:** trees and plants used for canopy creation must be sourced locally to ensure they are well suited to the regional climate, soil, and ecosystem, enhancing the success of the project and benefiting native wildlife.

- **Protect from livestock:** planted trees must be fenced off from livestock to prevent grazing and trampling, which can damage young trees and hinder their growth. Protecting young trees helps establish a stable, resilient canopy.

## Capacity building

Capacity building refers to activities that enhance the skills, knowledge and resources of individuals and organisations involved in environmental restoration and rehabilitation. This process aims to empower communities and stakeholders, enabling them to effectively manage and sustain their projects over the long term.

Capacity building may involve:

- **training programs:** workshops, courses or online training modules designed to teach practical skills related to land management, native vegetation restoration, and biodiversity conservation
- **educational workshops:** offering training and information sessions to increase awareness of environmental issues and sustainable practices, empowering community members and stakeholders to contribute to the management of their local environment
- **partnership development:** building networks among stakeholders, including government agencies, non-government organisations, and local communities, to share resources and expertise
- **knowledge sharing:** platforms for exchanging information and best practices, such as seminars, webinars and online resources. This could also include land managers shadowing expert contractors to learn new skills or collaborating on field projects to gain practical insights into effective restoration methods.

These efforts contribute to creating a well-informed community that can effectively undertake restoration and rehabilitation projects, ensuring the sustainability of environmental outcomes in the region.

## Community engagement

Community engagement refers to the active involvement of local communities in environmental restoration and rehabilitation efforts. It emphasises collaboration, fostering relationships, and ensuring community input shapes project outcomes.

Effective community engagement can include:

- **consultation processes:** engaging community members in discussions about project objectives and methods to incorporate their insights and preferences
- **volunteer opportunities:** providing hands-on activities like weeding, planting and monitoring to encourage local participation and foster a sense of ownership over environmental outcomes
- **feedback mechanisms:** establishing channels for community members to express concerns and suggestions throughout the project, ensuring ongoing dialogue and responsiveness.

Through robust community engagement, projects not only achieve greater success but also promote long-term stewardship of natural resources and a culture of sustainability within the community.

## Consultants

Environmental consultants provide expert guidance and support during the planning and execution phases of rehabilitation and restoration projects. Their roles include:

- **Assessment and planning:** they conduct site assessments and environmental impact studies, developing management plans that meet regulatory requirements and project objectives.
- **Technical expertise:** consultants offer advice on best practices for ecological restoration, including habitat enhancement and species selection tailored to the specific environmental context.
- **Monitoring:** they design and implement monitoring programs to assess the effectiveness of restoration efforts, ensuring compliance with both project goals and environmental regulations.

To effectively procure consultancy services:

- **Competitive tenders:** ensure a competitive tendering process by inviting multiple consultants to submit proposals. This helps assess various skills and pricing options.
- **Qualifications and experience:** evaluate the qualifications, experience, and track record of consultants in similar projects to ensure they meet project needs.
- **Contract management:** clearly define the scope of work, deliverables, and timelines in the contract to manage expectations and performance effectively.

## Contractors

Contractors are responsible for the physical implementation of restoration and rehabilitation activities. Their roles include:

- **On-Ground implementation:** they carry out specific tasks such as site preparation, planting, invasive species control, and habitat restoration activities.
- **Project management:** contractors oversee daily operations, coordinate with stakeholders, and ensure projects are completed on schedule and within budget constraints.
- **Collaboration with consultants:** they work alongside environmental consultants to apply technical expertise in the field, ensuring adherence to established plans and protocols.

Key considerations include:

- **Local suppliers:** prioritise local contractors to support the community and reduce transportation impacts.
- **Performance metrics:** set clear performance metrics and monitoring procedures in the contract to assess contractor effectiveness and project success.

## Ecological and cultural burns

Strategic burning may be used for ecological purposes, such as weed control or as part of a cultural burning practice.

Applications should show that relevant fire authorities (such as the Rural Fire Service or NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service) and Aboriginal groups are engaged in planning, especially if cultural burning is proposed. Cultural burns involve traditional Aboriginal methods to support ecological outcomes.

Clearly define the purpose of the burn – whether it is for ecological benefits or for cultural practices aimed at achieving ecological goals. Burns should not be isolated, one-off activities but rather part of a broader fire management strategy. Include details on the burn plan, such as techniques, weed control, target burn intensity, size, season, frequency, and desired outcomes.

## Educational resources and signage

In environmental restoration projects, educational resources and signage play a key role in informing and engaging the community.

- **Educational resources:** these include materials like brochures and online content that explain the project's goals and methods. These resources can help teach people about local ecosystems, native species, and the importance of conservation. They support capacity building efforts by sharing knowledge and skills with community members.
- **Signage:** Signs placed in project areas provide important information to the public. They can explain what the project is about, highlight native plants and animals, and show why restoration is needed. Effective signage promotes community engagement by encouraging local involvement and helping people feel connected to the restoration efforts.

Using educational resources and signage together with other project activities enhances the overall impact of restoration work and encourages sustainable practices in the community.

## Employing project management staff

Project funds can be used to employ project management staff in 2 ways:

- **option 1:** recruit a new staff member with the appropriate skills and capabilities
- **option 2:** use existing staff members who have the capacity to contribute to project work. This option applies if the staff member now has the capacity to take on the project under a new contract or if they are part-time or casual employees being hired for additional hours to complete project work.

Refer to Recruitment, Part 7: Program governance.

Project management means planning and guiding all parts of a project to achieve its goals. This includes setting objectives, organising tasks, allocating resources and tracking progress to ensure everything stays on track. Effective project management



helps ensure the project is completed on time, within budget, and meets the desired outcomes.

Costs associated with project management and coordination activities can account for up to 30% of the total grant funding, including on-costs. Alternatively, a contractor can be appointed to manage the project, as described above under 'Contractors'.

## Equipment hire

Grant funds may cover the reasonable hire costs of equipment essential to the project's implementation. You must seek competitive quotes for hire items, select the most cost-effective option, and provide all receipts with each milestone report.

## Erosion control

Work to protect soil stability can be included in your project. If you're planning erosion control measures, please specify the methods you'll use and list the associated costs in your project budget.

Erosion control must also include follow-up restoration activities. For example, if you're moving soil to change how water flows over the land, make sure to support assisted regeneration or include revegetation afterwards.

Installing 'off-creek' water sources for livestock is allowed, but these should not be located in areas with remnant vegetation.

## Fencing

Install wildlife-friendly fencing to limit access to restoration sites and temporarily protect revegetation areas. Wildlife-friendly fencing helps prevent harm to native species and can be tailored to exclude specific animals.

When excluding herbivores, the installation of fencing must align with ongoing weed control or revegetation activities.

This integrated approach helps maximise the effectiveness of restoration efforts by reducing plant competition and supporting establishment of native vegetation.

For more information see the website [Wildlife friendly fencing and netting](#).

## Habitat creation

Habitat can be created by installing natural or artificial structural habitat for fauna incorporating features that mimic the characteristics of their nesting or shelter habitat. Habitat creation structures (for example, nest or roost boxes) will be funded only when:

- target species are clearly defined
- need for the structures, and how they will assist the target species, is clearly articulated; this includes assessing the requirements of the structure against the availability of appropriate naturally occurring habitat (for example, hollows in trees)
- proposed structures are appropriate for the species' needs

- appropriate technical advice has been sought on the design features for proposed structures
- a monitoring and maintenance plan will be implemented, including triggers for removal or discontinuation (for example, their use by a pest species)
- nest box installation activities are accompanied by native plant community restoration activities.

We recommend using the following guides to plan these project activities:

- [Nest box guide](#) – Wingecarribee Shire Council
- [Learning from nest boxes – monitoring and storing data](#) – Victoria State Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

## Materials

All necessary materials directly tied to project activities are eligible for purchase using grant funds. Consider bulk purchasing materials to obtain competitive pricing.

Receipts for all materials purchased must be provided with each milestone report.

## Monitoring

Bush regeneration and assisted natural regeneration activities must be monitored and reported on annually using the Trust's photo monitoring template, available in the resources section of the webpage [Planning and reporting](#).

For further guidance refer to *Guide to photo monitoring of ecological restoration projects funded by the NSW Environmental Trust*.

## Native seed collection and propagation

Eligible activities include the ethical collection of native seeds, ensuring genetic integrity and local provenance, and the propagation of these seeds for use in rehabilitation efforts.

### Seed collection

- Harvesting seeds from native plant species, ensuring ethical collection practices that protect genetic diversity and the viability of native populations
- Collecting seed in line with local provenance principles, ensuring seeds are adapted to the specific environmental conditions of the restoration area
- Ensuring seed is harvested from healthy and genetically diverse parent plants

### Seed processing and storage

- Cleaning, drying and storing seeds in conditions that maximise longevity and germination success
- Maintaining detailed records of seed provenance and storage conditions

## Seed propagation

- Growing plants for direct planting in ecological restoration projects or for the preservation of rare and threatened species

## Licensing

In New South Wales, seed collection often requires specific permits or licences, especially if activities involve threatened species or occur on protected land. Key licences include:

- **Scientific licence** (section 132C of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*): this is required for activities such as collecting seeds from threatened species, ecological communities, or critical habitats. Applications are submitted to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), which is part of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. The application process includes demonstrating minimal environmental impact and compliance with legislative requirements.
- **Additional permissions:** collecting on council-managed lands or other private or public reserves may require local council approvals or agreements with land managers

NPWS has a specific [licensing portal](#) and detailed guidance to help applicants understand the requirements, which may include annual reporting and adhering to conservation principles.

## Guidelines and resources

Refer to the following resources to ensure best practices in seed collection and propagation:

- *Florabank guidelines*: a comprehensive resource for best practices, covering ethical collection, genetic diversity considerations, and timing. It is especially relevant for preserving ecological integrity during collection efforts
- *NSW conservation management notes*: practical advice for seed collection in New South Wales, including techniques, genetic quality standards, and recognising mature seeds. This resource is particularly helpful for working with local provenance material.

These activities aim to support restoring degraded landscapes, preserving native species and establishing resilient ecosystems. By incorporating best practices and adhering to regulatory requirements, the program fosters sustainable use and management of native plant resources to achieve long-term environmental benefits.

## Partnering with Aboriginal organisations

We encourage all applicants to partner with Aboriginal organisations and stakeholders. The Trust acknowledges the importance and value of traditional Aboriginal knowledge and practices in restoring healthy Country. We encourage opportunities for two-way learning that enhances community wellbeing.

If your project will specifically incorporate Aboriginal knowledge or practices, it is **mandatory** that you partner with relevant Aboriginal organisations or stakeholders, and this needs to be demonstrated in your application.

## Pest animal management

Strategic, long-term control, exclusion and monitoring of feral pest animal species through non-lethal, physical interventions are eligible activities under this grant program. These activities support the recovery of native animal and plant species and are intended to align with pest management plans and the ongoing pest control efforts of the organisation (business as usual activities).

Lethal control methods — including shooting, trapping, or any measures that harm or kill animals — are strictly prohibited.

To ensure effectiveness, pest animal management activities must:

- **Align with Local Land Services (LLS) management plans:** projects should follow established guidelines and strategies outlined in LLS management plans specific to the target pest species, incorporating best practices for control methods and ecosystem recovery.
- **Coordinate with neighbours:** management activities should be conducted collaboratively with neighbouring landholders to maximise impact, regardless of land tenure. Cooperative pest control strengthens habitat restoration and reduces the risk of pest reinvasion.
- **Integrate with native plant community restoration:** all pest animal management activities must be paired with native plant restoration efforts. Restoring native vegetation helps reinforce the control of invasive species by enhancing habitat stability and resilience.

Examples of eligible activities under this program include:

- **monitoring and data collection:** tracking pest population numbers, distribution, and behaviour to better inform management efforts and ensure they remain effective over time
- **installation of pest-exclusion fencing:** building and maintaining barriers, such as perimeter or exclusion fencing, to protect sensitive habitats and prevent feral animal incursion, particularly in areas with high conservation value
- **dam removal or modification:** modifying or removing artificial water sources that encourage pest animals in certain areas, helping to discourage their presence and support natural ecosystem restoration
- **habitat restoration adjacent to fenced areas:** planting native vegetation and restoring plant communities around fenced or managed areas to create self-sustaining habitats that are resilient against pest invasion.

## Revegetation

Revegetation involves introducing local native plant species through methods such as planting tube stock (or more advanced plants), direct seeding, installing brush matting,

or transplanting. These methods are typically used only when there is no viable native seed bank present on site.

For successful revegetation, careful species selection is essential, particularly considering the impacts of climate change. We encourage you to refer to *Climate-ready revegetation – a guide for natural resource managers* for guidance on selecting species that enhance resilience to changing climate conditions. Further information is available in *Good practices in riparian rehabilitation*.

If revegetation is deemed necessary, the following principles **must** be followed:

- **Source plants and seeds responsibly** to preserve genetic diversity, ideally from local sources.
- **Plant at appropriate spacing and diversity levels** that reflect those of the natural or reference ecosystem.
- **Restore all vegetation layers**, including groundcover, shrubs and canopy, to recreate habitat and support a variety of species.

## Seed production areas and orchards

Seed production areas and orchards are dedicated sites designed to cultivate native plant species for use in future restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

When establishing seed production areas for restoration projects, the focus should be on enhancing climate change resilience. This can be achieved by selecting species and provenance carefully, maximising genetic diversity, and ensuring the adaptive capacity of vegetation communities.

Project designs should promote species diversity across different plant strata and connect to long-term regional restoration efforts.

We encourage you to refer to the principles outlined in the *Climate-ready revegetation guide* and the SERA webpage [Seed Production Areas for Ecological Restoration](#).

## Threatened species

Grant funds may be used for on-ground work that directly benefits threatened species by addressing key threats and improving habitat conditions. This includes activities such as restoring habitat, implementing threat-mitigation measures, and supporting actions that align with conservation strategies for these species.

To ensure your project effectively addresses threatened species or ecological communities under NSW guidelines, you must consider the following:

- **Refer to SoS strategies:** the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Program now integrates the Saving our Species (SoS) framework, which has replaced the need for standalone recovery plans. Use the SoS strategies as your primary resource to understand priority conservation actions for your target species or community.
- **Understand species-specific needs:** refer to the Saving our Species website to find information specific to your target species or ecological community. These profiles include threats, critical habitat requirements, and priority management actions.



- **Design evidence-based actions:**
  - Focus on reducing identified threats, such as habitat loss or predation.
  - Implement measures like habitat restoration (for example, tree planting) that directly address the ecological requirements of the species, ensuring alignment with mapped SoS priorities.
- **Select suitable locations:** target areas where the species or community is most at risk, as identified in SoS conservation strategies. This ensures your actions provide maximum ecological benefit.
- **Monitor and evaluate impact:** include robust monitoring to track outcomes, as outlined in the SoS monitoring and evaluation guidelines. This should assess population trends, habitat quality, and the effectiveness of threat mitigation measures.
- **Incorporate ecological communities:** for ecological communities, consider additional complexity in defining management units and selecting indicators for viability. Align actions with strategies for range-restricted or widespread communities based on their conservation framework.

Some activities affecting threatened species and their habitats are regulated under the Biodiversity Conservation Act and require a biodiversity conservation licence. These licences, issued by the department, are required for the following activities:

- **scientific licence:** for research, education, or conservation activities
- **threatened species licence:** to remove or harm a threatened plant or animal, ecological community, or to damage their habitat.

For more information refer to the webpage [Licences for working or living with threatened species](#).

## Track management for conservation

Projects can include improving, repairing or rerouting existing tracks to reduce environmental impact and support conservation goals. These activities should aim to prevent erosion, control access, and protect areas with high conservation value by enhancing track design and guiding traffic along safer routes. Track improvements should be planned to fit naturally with the landscape, reduce habitat disruption and improve visitor safety. They should also focus on protecting the surrounding native plants, animals and sensitive habitats for the future.

## Transport

Transport costs may cover reasonable expenses related to freight, transportation of materials and equipment, and travel costs directly associated with project activities. Eligible transport expenses include fuel, vehicle hire, and transport fares for project staff or contractors.

All transport costs must be essential to the project's delivery, cost-effective and supported by clear budget estimates.

Receipts for all transport-related expenses must be provided with each milestone report.

## Weed management

Grant funding can support weed-control activities that contribute to environmental outcomes, such as facilitating the recovery of native plant species, improving ecosystem function, or protecting threatened species and ecological communities. Projects must focus on addressing environmental issues, rather than economic ones (for example, agricultural production).

Projects should align with the regional strategic weed management plans, which outline both regional and statewide priorities under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. These plans provide guidance on managing priority weeds that threaten local ecosystems. To be eligible, projects must focus on the environmental benefits of weed control, such as reducing the impact of invasive species on native vegetation and wildlife.

The program will not fund weed control that is considered a part of a land manager's statutory responsibility. For example, landholders are expected to manage certain weeds under the Biosecurity Act as part of their general biosecurity duty.

To search for specific weeds and access further information about their management, refer to the NSW Government [NSW WeedWise](#) webpage. This resource provides detailed information on identifying, managing, and controlling invasive weeds in New South Wales, helping you align your project activities with regional and statewide priorities for ecological restoration and rehabilitation.

## Ineligible project activities

### Activities completed outside the funding agreement

Activities carried out before the funding agreement is signed or after the funding agreement has ended are not eligible for funding under this program.

### Administration – non-project related

Operational costs of organisations that are not project specific are not eligible for funding under this program. Project-related administration cannot exceed 10% of the total grant funds.

### Aesthetics, amenity and recreation

Activities focused solely on improving aesthetics, local amenity, or recreational opportunities, such as gardening or grounds management, are not eligible for funding under this program. The Trust's funding is intended to support projects that deliver positive environmental outcomes for New South Wales, with a clear focus on conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of natural ecosystems.

For example, upgrading or constructing tracks solely for amenity or recreation purposes is not eligible for funding. For more information refer to [Track management for conservation](#).

## Capital purchases

Grant funds cannot be used for capital purchases, which are defined as equipment or assets with a long-term useful life and substantial cost, typically retained beyond the duration of the project. This includes purchasing major equipment or assets that have value beyond the project period.

However, small capital equipment purchases are allowed if it can be demonstrated purchasing the equipment is more cost-effective than leasing it for the life of the project. Generally, the cost of capital items should not exceed 20% of the total project budget.

Essential project equipment may still be eligible for funding if leased or rented, as outlined in [Equipment hire](#).

## Changes of land tenure or resource licensing

Expenses associated with activities involving the transfer of land or resource licences (for example, water extraction licences, whether private or public) between landholders are not eligible for funding under this program.

## Core business

Activities that are typically the core responsibility of local or state government authorities or educational institutions are not eligible for funding under this program. The concept of 'core business' can vary between organisations but generally refers to the essential or legal responsibilities an organisation must fulfil.

While the Trust can fund projects that relate to an organisation's core business, it will only support work that goes beyond the organisation's usual duties or day-to-day operations.

In your application, you must demonstrate the proposed activities are not part of your core business. This could include providing evidence of unfunded activities outlined in strategic or operational plans, or activities that fall outside your typical responsibilities.

## Devolved grants

Devolved grants (that is, grants administered by a third party that is not an approved external manager) are not eligible for funding under this program. Grantees are fully responsible for managing and spending all awarded funds.

In cases where a project involves multiple landholders in a catchment or regional scale, with a coordinating grantee overseeing the project, it is considered a partnership project, not a devolved-grant project. In this scenario, the coordinating grantee will be responsible for procurement, payment of contractors, and the purchase of materials for work carried out on landholders' properties, as well as managing the Trust funds.

Lump-sum payments cannot be made directly to project partners or stakeholders for activities on their properties. If activities are to take place on stakeholder land, the grantee must organise, manage and pay for these activities (including contractor labour) directly, without providing funds to the stakeholders.

## Employment of project staff

Salaries of staff not covered under either options 1 or 2 as defined above in [Employing project management staff](#) (see the 'Eligible project activities' section of these guidelines), are not eligible for funding under this program.

## Insurance

The cost of association liability insurance is not eligible for funding under this program.

## Lethal control methods of pest animal management

Lethal control methods — including shooting, trapping, or any measures that harm or kill animals — are strictly prohibited.

Strategic, long-term control, exclusion and monitoring of feral pest animal species through non-lethal, physical interventions are eligible activities under this grant. See [Pest animal management](#) for pest management activities that are eligible for funding.

## Maintenance

Continued maintenance of projects previously undertaken by your organisation are not eligible for funding under this program.

## Project planning

Grant funds cannot be used to fund the development of overarching project plans. However, site management plans that are integral to the project and will be implemented as part of the work may be eligible for funding. See the [Contractors](#) and [Consultants](#) sections for more guidance.

## Research activities

Project activities focused solely on research or data collection that do not directly contribute to on-ground outcomes are not eligible for funding under this program.

Surveys, data collection or mapping (for example) may be carried out to gather evidence required to demonstrate the effectiveness of on-ground works and approved project activities.

## Stewardship, subsidy or incentive payments

Stewardship, subsidy or incentive payments, including monetary compensation to organisations or individuals for maintaining or improving the environmental values of their land, are not eligible for funding under this program.

Payments made as incentives to landholders for environmental stewardship are not permitted under this program.

Trust funds must be managed directly by your organisation or your external manager. All financial transactions must adhere to the approved budget.

## Waste management

Projects that primarily focus on clean-up activities, litter collection, or waste management are not eligible for funding under this program. For more information on waste programs, refer to the *Waste grant programs* webpage.

## Weed management

Project activities that focus on implementing weed control activities covered by biosecurity directions or biosecurity undertakings under the Biosecurity Act are ineligible for funding under this program. These activities fall under the core responsibility of landowners and are enforceable by local control authorities.

Weed control activities aimed at achieving economic outcomes, such as addressing issues that impact primary production, are also ineligible for funding under this program.

For more information, refer to the Biosecurity Act and relevant regional strategic weed management plans.



# Part 6: Application and assessment

## Grant process timeframes

Estimated timing for each stage of the application, assessment and decision-making process is outlined in Table 2.

**Table 2** Grant process timeframes

Step	Timeframe	Process
1	7 April 2025	Applications open in the Grant Management System (GMS).
2	19 May 2025	Applications close.
3	June to August 2025	The technical review committee (TRC) will assess applications and recommend projects for funding.
4	August to October 2025	<p>The Trust will review the TRC's recommendations and make the final decision on which applicants will receive funding.</p> <p>The Trust's decisions are final, and there is no appeal process.</p>
5	December 2025	<p>Successful applicants will be notified by the Trust. The amount granted may be less than the original request, and the funding may be subject to specific conditions. Applicants will then work with Trust staff to finalise project workplans and execute the funding agreement.</p> <p>A summary of each successful project will be published on the Trust's website for public information.</p> <p>Unsuccessful applicants will be notified and are encouraged to contact the Trust for feedback on their application.</p>
6	January to March 2026	<p>Project planning involves reviewing and updating the workplan to ensure the project runs smoothly, is communicated effectively, and has proper reporting in place.</p> <p>This process also includes the signing of the project's funding agreement and making the first payment to the grantee.</p>
7	April 2026	Projects commence.

## Assessment criteria

All applications are assessed by a group of experts known as the technical review committee. This committee consists of individuals with knowledge and experience relevant to the grant program. Each member reviews applications based on the established criteria. After completing their individual assessments, the committee meets to discuss the findings, agree on the rankings of the projects, and decide which projects it will recommend to the Trust for funding consideration.

### Criterion 1

#### **Tangible environmental outcome (scored out of 15 points)**

- Clear explanation of the environmental issue to be addressed
- Demonstrated need for the project, and appropriateness of proposed actions
- The project will make a clear contribution to the Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Program

### Criterion 2

#### **Project activities and outcomes (scored out of 15 points)**

- Activities are aligned with one of the funding priorities identified in the *NSW Environmental Trust Strategic Plan 2024 to 2029*
- Activities are clearly targeted towards achieving proposed outcomes
- Project demonstrates long-term benefits beyond the life of the grant

### Criterion 3

#### **Planning and method (scored out of 15 points)**

- Project delivery is based on thorough planning and clear and appropriate methodologies
- Community involvement, engagement or capacity building is incorporated into the project to contribute to social outcomes
- How well the identified monitoring activities will demonstrate the success of the project
- How well the proposal addresses risk factors that have the potential to jeopardise the achievement of expected outcomes
- Timeframe is realistic for achieving the proposed outcomes
- Likelihood of the project to build community capacity to protect the environment, and strength of collaboration

## Criterion 4

### Capacity to deliver (scored out of 10 points)

- The organisation's or project partners' demonstrated knowledge, skills, and expertise in relevant fields
- Degree of community involvement and how it will be achieved
- Capacity and commitment to undertake and complete the project
- Demonstrated commitment to continuing support of the project outcomes beyond the life of the grant

## Criterion 5

### Value for money (scored out of 15 points)

- Extent to which the budget supports the project objectives and whether it will ensure the viability of the project overall
- The likely environmental benefit of the proposal relative to the amount of grant funds
- The reasonableness of the budget items
- Demonstrated commitment to continuing support of the project outcomes beyond the life of the grant
- Appropriateness of the mix in the total budget between:
  - materials and other direct project costs
  - professional expertise
  - in-kind support or cash contributions from the lead organisation and other organisations

# Part 7: Program governance

## Probity

The Trust prioritises strong governance, transparency, and integrity in both the program and individual projects. All funded projects must comply with the legal and regulatory requirements outlined in the funding agreement, as well as adhere to recognised governance and project management standards. To ensure this, the Trust conducts annual performance reviews, which will include an evaluation of your compliance with the terms set out in the funding agreement.

## Procurement

The Trust prioritises delivering value for money in all projects. This includes ensuring major budget items, like material purchases and contractor engagements, are handled appropriately. Payments for goods and services should be made only after the goods or services have been successfully delivered. Grantees are frequently required to submit invoices for purchased materials and completed contract works to verify the achievement of project milestones.

Expectations about procurement will be outlined in your grant funding agreement.

## Statement of business ethics

All providers of goods and services, including project managers and partners, must adhere to the following principles when carrying out work on the funded project:

- Prevent unethical business practices in relationships.
- Declare any actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

All contracted and subcontracted staff, as well as associated personnel, must comply with the NSW Government's [Business Ethics Statement](#). If subcontractors are involved in the project, they must be made aware of this statement and the Trust's expectation they will comply with it.

## Conflicts of interest

When authorising your application in the declaration section, you will be asked to declare any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest. You should also outline how you will manage them.

All staff and contractors are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest at the beginning of the project and during the project as they arise.

Examples of actual and perceived conflicts of interest include:

- project manager employing their own business to carry out project-related work and using Trust funds to pay for it
- members of the organisation using Trust funds to pay for works on their own properties
- Trust funds being used to pay friends or family for project-related work.

You must put systems in place to manage potential or actual conflicts of interest that may occur during delivery of the project.

## Recruitment

The Trust supports the employment of both new and existing staff with the appropriate skills and capabilities to manage and implement projects, and will fund salaries under the following conditions:

- Additional hours or days for existing staff assigned to a new project are clearly justified.
- Funding is not used to cover salaries that are already accounted for in the organisation's budget or for tasks that fall under its core business (to avoid cost-shifting).
- The recruitment process is in line with the grantee's internal policies.

Staff recruitment should take place only after the grant has been awarded.

## Third-party assistance

We encourage lead organisations to work together with project partners when developing and carrying out a project. However, you should carefully consider any commercial relationships you form. While your organisation can get help from third parties to develop your project and complete your application, the Trust will not cover any costs for this assistance.

The NSW Government is dedicated to ensuring all government-funded opportunities are accessible fairly and transparently. Third parties who help develop an application may bid for Trust-funded work if the grant is awarded. However, as the lead organisation you must show you have avoided any potential or perceived conflicts of interest when hiring third-party contractors. This means you must follow clear, transparent recruitment processes and provide reasons for their selection. It's important that no third party gains an unfair advantage through their involvement in planning the project.

## Privacy

The Trust uses the information provided by applicants to process and assess applications. While applications are not generally made public, they may be disclosed if required by the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act) or another legal obligation.

Additionally, the Trust may share this information for the purpose of evaluating or auditing its grant programs. If there is a need for strict confidentiality due to commercial sensitivity or personal privacy, you should clearly indicate this in your submission.

## Technical review committees

The Trust has a range of technical review committees (TRCs) that support the Trust's Board by recommending applications for approval.

Selection for the Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Program is a state-level, merit-based process. To evaluate grant applications, the Trust appoints an independent TRC specific to each grant program. The committee comprises experts with relevant knowledge and experience, including at least one representative each from community and industry sectors, ensuring a balanced perspective across stakeholders.

Members of the TRC are chosen for their strong backgrounds in natural resource management and environmental restoration, with substantial qualifications and field experience. The TRC's role is to assess applications against established criteria, focusing on the feasibility, impact and sustainability of proposed projects. However, while the TRC makes recommendations, they do not make the final funding decisions. Instead, their evaluations and recommendations are sent to the Trust Board, which then reviews and determines the final approval for funding allocation.

Members of the TRC are required to operate transparently and ethically, maintaining confidentiality and disclosing any potential conflicts of interest. This structure helps to ensure grant selections are fair, evidence-based and aligned with the Trust's conservation and cultural priorities for New South Wales.



# Part 8: Managing a restoration and rehabilitation grant

## Timeline

Successful Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grant Program recipients (grantees) will be notified by December 2025. As a grantee, you will then be required to undertake a project planning process from January to March 2026. Project activities should commence in April 2026.

## Workplan

You must submit a draft workplan as part of your application. This workplan should outline the project's expected outcomes, activities, performance measures, and budget. It serves as a guide for achieving the project's goals, including:

- defining the environmental and project management outcomes to be achieved
- detailing the activities to be carried out, including the timeline for each
- describing how activities will be implemented, monitored and evaluated.

Once a grant is awarded, Trust staff will work with you to further develop your workplan to guide delivery of the project.

A good workplan includes a clear framework for monitoring and evaluation to track environmental progress. It should support ongoing improvements by allowing adjustments based on results (adaptive management). The budget must allocate at least 10% of total grant funding to monitoring and evaluation activities.

## Funding agreement

Before activities commence, your organisation must sign a funding agreement that sets out the terms and conditions of the grant and outlines a schedule of milestones, including reporting and funding instalments. The Trust will send you a draft copy of a standard funding agreement when project planning commences.

The standard conditions of this agreement will not be changed. The Trust may also require additional conditions that are specific to your project. Trust staff will discuss these conditions with you. The final version of the funding agreement will be issued on completion of the project planning process once the workplan has been reviewed and approved.

As a grantee organisation, signing the funding agreement commits you to the following general obligations. You must:

- comply with all conditions contained in the funding agreement
- provide evidence of appropriate insurance coverage on request
- start the project within a month of signing the funding agreement
- seek prior approval for budget changes greater than 10% (while being aware that project administration costs should never be more than 10% of the project costs)
- seek prior approval from the Trust to alter proposed outputs, outcomes or timeframes
- provide milestone reports in accordance with the milestone payment and reporting schedule in the funding agreement
- acknowledge the Trust's support in any promotional materials or public statements about a project, including use of the NSW Government logo in published materials. Further information can be found on the *Funding acknowledgement – Environmental Trust grants* webpage
- prepare for all knowledge gained as part of the grant to be made publicly available; this could be through publishing the final report or promoting the project via other avenues available to the Trust
- understand the standard conditions of the funding agreement cannot be changed at your request.

## During a project

### Reporting

You must submit a milestone report after each stage of work (usually every 12 months) through the online Grant Management System (GMS). The reporting schedule and payment timelines will be agreed upon with Trust staff when the grant is awarded and will be included in the funding agreement.

Milestone reports allow you to assess your progress; update the Trust on activities, achievements, and expenses; and provide evidence of completed work. They also offer an opportunity to evaluate how the project is being implemented and make adjustments if needed (adaptive management).

Each milestone report is reviewed by an external reviewer with relevant technical expertise. If the report shows satisfactory progress, the next grant payment will be authorised, and Trust staff will share feedback. If progress is unsatisfactory, funding may be withheld while you work with Trust staff to address issues and get the project back on track.

The Trust understands that project variations may be necessary, and they can be discussed with Trust staff at any point. Requests for changes can be submitted via the GMS.

## Monitoring

The Trust requires that project activities be monitored effectively and consistently with evidence-based methods. You must include monitoring techniques in your workplan to track progress. The methods used will depend on the type of project, but the following minimum standards are expected:

- **Consistent monitoring:** you must measure how activities are implemented and track progress. At a minimum, photo monitoring and mapping (for example, marking project sites, documenting completed works, and capturing photo points) should be included with each milestone report to show progress.
- **Benchmark or baseline data:** you must establish baseline data at the start of the project, which will serve as a reference for measuring improvements throughout the project.

For more information on appropriate monitoring methods for different types of activities refer to *NSW Environmental Trust's monitoring directory for ecological restoration and social activities*.

## Evaluation

Evaluation should take place annually to assess the project's performance and identify areas where adjustments may be needed. Each milestone report will include standard evaluation questions to support this process. The insights gained from the project's progress should be used to propose adjustments to the workplan and activities, ensuring the project stays on track and meets its intended goals.

## Invoicing

A tax invoice (subject to GST if applicable) is required for each milestone payment at the time the instalment is due.

## Completing a project

Once the project is complete, you must submit a final milestone report through the GMS, summarising achievements against the project's expected outcomes. Like all milestone reports, the final report will be reviewed by an appropriate expert chosen by the Trust. Trust staff will provide feedback on the project, and if the project has met the requirements outlined in the funding agreement, the grant will be formally closed.

For more information visit the Trust's webpage *Information for successful applicants*.

# Appendix A: Links and resources

- [Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016](#)
- [Biosecurity Act 2015](#)
- [Climate-ready revegetation guide](#)
- [Conservation management notes](#)
- [Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation](#) (grant program webpage)
- [Financial reporting to the NSW Environmental Trust](#)
- [Florabank guidelines](#)
- [Funding acknowledgement – Environmental Trust grants](#)
- [Good practices in riparian rehabilitation](#)
- [Government Information \(Public Access\) Act 2009 \(GIPA Act\)](#)
- [Guide to photo monitoring of ecological restoration projects](#)
- [Information for successful applicants](#)
- [Learning from nest boxes – monitoring and storing data \(PDF 716KB\)](#)
- [Licences for working or living with threatened species](#)
- [Monitoring directory for ecological restoration and social activities](#)
- [National standards for the practice of ecological restoration in Australia](#)
- [NPWS native plant and animal licensing portal](#)
- [NSW Environmental Trust Act 1998](#)
- [NSW Environmental Trust Strategic Plan 2024 to 2029](#)
- [NSW Government Business Ethics Statement](#)
- [NSW WeedWise](#)
- [Planning and reporting](#) (NSW Environmental Trust information webpage)
- [Regional strategic weed management plans](#)
- [Saving our Species](#) (program website)
- [Seed Production Areas for Ecological Restoration](#)
- [Tips on working with an External Manager](#)
- [Waste grant programs](#)
- [Wildlife friendly fencing and netting](#)
- [Wingecarribee Shire Council nest box guide](#)

# Appendix B: NSW Environmental Trust strategic priorities 2024 to 2029

## Our mission

Ensure that current and future generations can enjoy a thriving natural environment in New South Wales.

### 1

#### Prioritise healthy Country and recognise and value Aboriginal peoples, their traditional knowledge and practices, and connection to Country

Recognise and demonstrate the value of Aboriginal traditional knowledge and practices and the important role they play in creating healthy Country and supporting wellbeing.

Provide support, resources and opportunities to empower Aboriginal people to connect to and manage Country and enhance community wellbeing.

Create opportunities for Aboriginal people to effectively manage waterways, wetlands and groundwater on Country.

Recognise the value of culturally significant species and the role of Aboriginal peoples in their conservation.

### 2

#### Restore ecosystems and biodiversity

Support native species adaptation, genetic diversity, and resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Mitigate the impacts of urbanisation on waterways and wetlands.

Improve the resilience of ecosystems to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Support restoration of natural flow to improve ecological functions and riparian condition.

### 3

#### Strengthen environmental management

Improve monitoring practices and data management for better environmental outcomes.

Improve cross-tenure connectivity to support holistic ecosystem restoration.

Increase land managers' capacity to improve environmental outcomes and natural resource management practices.

Improve knowledge and understanding of plant and animal diseases to inform management actions.

For more information refer to [NSW Environmental Trust Strategic Plan 2024 to 2029](#).