

# Habitat Grants Scheme Funding Guidelines

## Background

The City of Burnside is committed to conserving and managing local biodiversity and wildlife habitat. Council actively manages its Hills Face reserves, creek lines and urban biodiversity sites by controlling invasive plants, encouraging natural regeneration, and revegetating with local native species. At the same time, it manages fuel loads to prevent wildfire. These actions protect and enhance habitat for local native fauna and other valuable species such as koala.

Council also liaises with other land management authorities within the council district such as National Parks, to enhance habitat on other government owned land.

However substantial potential exists for private landholders to contribute to regional habitat enhancement, particularly on 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.

In 2024 Council has established a trial grant scheme to assist private landholders to undertake habitat improvement projects.

## Aim

To encourage land management for habitat and biodiversity, with added benefits for bushfire fuel reduction, on larger private landholdings within City of Burnside.

## 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 (including koala).

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 the Councils Biodiversity Nursery:
  - Contractor costs for planting and initial maintenance.

- Purchase of<sup>1</sup> guards and stakes etc.
- See Appendix 2 for species that will be supported for planting.

## City of Burnside Environmental Sustainability Strategy

### **What will not be funded?**

- Tools and equipment purchase.
- Works conducted by contractors not experienced in biodiversity works.
- Fencing.
- Activities that damage or degrade remnant native vegetation, or trees protected under the *Planning, Development, and Infrastructure Act 2016*.
- Planting of non-indigenous species or provenance (all plants to be obtained from the Council's Biodiversity Nursery).
- Planting of trees intended for harvesting (eg woodlots etc).
- 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.
- 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 (eg salaries, operational costs etc).
- Retrospective payments where costs occurred prior to the grant assessment.
- Activities and purposes primarily associated with, and for the benefit of, a commercial organisation (eg landscaping for a business).
- 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 on who can get a grant (below).

### **How much?**

- Grants of up to \$4,000 per property are available to eligible landholders.
- There is limited funding available in 2024.
- Applicants will be required to provide matching cash funding contribution to the project to be considered eligible. In-kind contributions of labour by the landholder are considered additional and are not included in calculation of matching funding.

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<sup>1</sup> Some plants may be obtained from the Burnside Biodiversity Nursery but stocks are limited.

## Who can get a grant?

Eligible individuals and organisations shall:

- Own a property within the City of Burnside, that is at least 0.5 hectare in area. An allotment that is less than 0.5 hectare but is part of a larger holding equal to or greater than 0.5 hectare, and managed as a single property will be eligible.
- Provide proof of ownership at the time of application.
- Provide evidence of explicit approval given by the owner to conduct any works on the property regarding the grant, if not the owner of the property.

Not eligible are:

- Commonwealth Government, State Government, Local Government and/or 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 be in 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 extend 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.

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

## Timeframes

Applications open: March 2024. We encourage applications before the end of May in time for planting season.

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

Applications will close when 2024 funding has been fully allocated.

Grant acquittals due: November 2024.

Reimbursements: December 2024.

## 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?

Projects successful in this funding round 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.

You will be expected to acknowledge Council's grant in any publications or publicity relating to the project funded by the grant.

## How to apply

1. Applicants **MUST** contact Council's Conservation and Land Management team to discuss their project **BEFORE** completing an application:
  - email [burnside@burnside.sa.gov.au](mailto:burnside@burnside.sa.gov.au) (attention: Conservation and Land Management Team); or
  - phone 8366 4200.

2. Complete an application using the online application tool available from our website: [burnside.sa.gov.au/funding](https://burnside.sa.gov.au/funding), see also example application, and provide:
  - A site map showing the proposed activities (hand drawn or annotated aerial photograph).
  - Site photos.
  - Proof of ownership (eg council rate notice).
3. During assessment, eligible applicants will be visited by Council's Conservation and Land Management Officer to inspect on-ground conditions of the proposed activities.

## Further Information

[City of Burnside Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#)

[City of Burnside Conservation & Sustainability](#)

## Other Funding Programs

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

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

## Appendices

### 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.

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

[Forests and Woodlands of the Adelaide Plains 1836](#)

- *Acacia melanoxylon*
- *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](#).

Please contact Council on 8366 4200 or [burnside@burnside.sa.gov.au](mailto: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 20 m of assets (properties and structures), and only plant pockets of shrubs that can be separated by low fuel areas.

## Appendix 4: Example Application Form

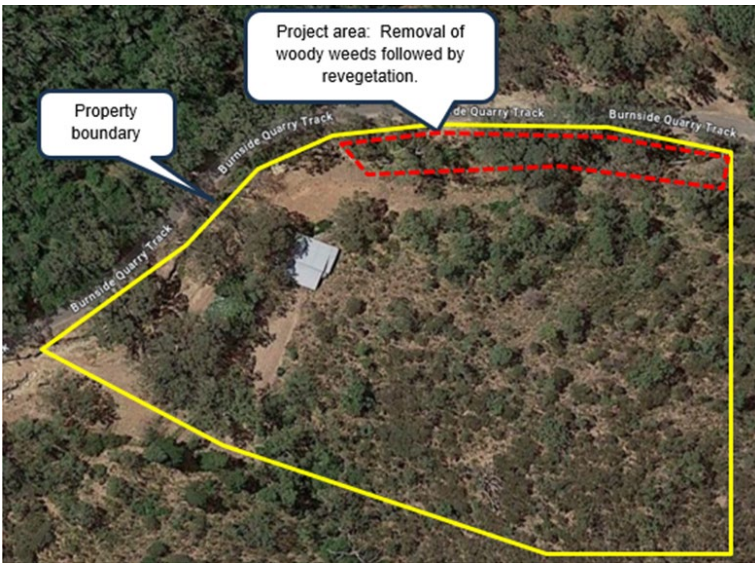
Your Details	
<b>Applicant Name(s)</b>	Jay Citizen
<b>Applicant Address</b>	10 Burnside Quarry Track, Burnside Hills SA 5065
<b>Applicant Phone 1</b>	83664200
<b>Applicant Phone 2</b>	
<b>Applicant Email</b>	<a href="mailto:habitat@burnsidehills.com.au">habitat@burnsidehills.com.au</a>
<b>Project Site Address</b>	10 Burnside Quarry Track, Burnside Hills SA 5065
<b>I/we own the project site</b>	Yes
<b>Upload proof of ownership</b>	Council-rates.pdf
<b>Total area of landholding</b>	1 ha
<b>Area of project subject to this application (may only be a portion of the total landholding)</b>	500 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Description of the proposed activity for funding and how it will benefit habitat for native fauna</b>	<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 as per PIRSA guidelines 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 SA Blue Gums and Golden Wattles 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	
<b>Weed Control - Woody Weed Species 1</b>	

<b>Woody weed species to be controlled</b>	Olive
<b>Control Method</b>	Drill and Fill
<b>How will debris be disposed?</b>	Large ones will be left standing onsite, smaller plants will be cut and disposed by trailer to green waste dump by contractor.
<b>Weed Control - Woody Weed Species 2</b>	
<b>Woody weed species to be controlled</b>	Italian Buckthorn
<b>Control Method</b>	Basal Bark spraying, followed by cutting to ground level 2 months after spraying.
<b>How will debris be disposed?</b>	Pile burnt by contractors on site, with appropriate permits from City of Burnside.
<b>Revegetation - Species 1</b>	
<b>Species</b>	Eucalyptus leucoxylon ssp. leucoxylon
<b>Number</b>	10
<b>Source (nursery)</b>	Provenance Indigenous Nursery
<b>Local Provenance</b>	Yes
<b>Total Cost (inc. GST)</b>	30
<b>Revegetation - Species 2</b>	
<b>Species</b>	Acacia pycnantha
<b>Number</b>	10
<b>Source (nursery)</b>	Trees For Life
<b>Local Provenance</b>	Yes
<b>Total Cost (inc. GST)</b>	30
<b>Total Number of Species</b>	20
<b>Revegetation Total Cost (inc. GST)</b>	\$60.00
<b>Fuel Control</b>	<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.</p> <p>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>



	We (the landholders) will undertake regular spot spraying of weeds. Contractors will be engaged to undertake the seasonal brushcutting.
<b>Costing - Activity 1</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	Woody weed control
<b>Timeframe</b>	May & June 2024
<b>Quantity</b>	66
<b>Units</b>	contractor person hours
<b>Who will do the work</b>	Woody Weed Removal Services Inc.
<b>Total Cost (inc. GST)</b>	4,000
<b>Cost to be contributed by applicant (inc. GST)</b>	2,000
<b>Funding sought from City of Burnside (inc. GST)</b>	2,000
<b>Costing - Activity 2</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	Plant purchase
<b>Timeframe</b>	August 2024
<b>Quantity</b>	20
<b>Units</b>	plants
<b>Who will do the work</b>	Provenance Nursery and Trees For Life
<b>Total Cost (inc. GST)</b>	60
<b>Cost to be contributed by applicant (inc. GST)</b>	60
<b>Funding sought from City of Burnside (inc. GST)</b>	0
<b>Costing - Activity 3</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	Purchase of coreflute tree guards and stakes
<b>Timeframe</b>	August 2024

<b>Quantity</b>	20
<b>Units</b>	guards and stakes
<b>Who will do the work</b>	Arborgreen Inc.
<b>Total Cost (inc. GST)</b>	100
<b>Cost to be contributed by applicant (inc. GST)</b>	50
<b>Funding sought from City of Burnside (inc. GST)</b>	50
<b>Costing - Activity 4</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	Planting of trees with stakes and guards
<b>Timeframe</b>	August 2024
<b>Quantity</b>	20
<b>Units</b>	plants
<b>Who will do the work</b>	The landholder
<b>Total Cost (inc. GST)</b>	0
<b>Cost to be contributed by applicant (inc. GST)</b>	0
<b>Funding sought from City of Burnside (inc. GST)</b>	0
<b>Total Cost (inc. GST)</b>	\$4,160.00
<b>Total cost to be contributed by applicant (inc. GST)</b>	\$2,110.00
<b>Total funding sought from City of Burnside (inc. GST)</b>	\$2,050.00
<b>Additional information</b>	

<p><b>Attach a basic site map of the project site</b></p>	
<p><b>Attach 2 photos of the project site</b></p>	<p>Woodyweedsite.jpg Wideshotofsite.jpg</p>
<p><b>Have you checked the project site for remnant native vegetation (including native grasses)?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>Please list indigenous species found on the project site</b></p>	<p>Eucalyptus leucoxyton ssp. leucoxyton, Acacia acinacea, Rytidosperma racemosum, Olearia ramulosa.</p>
<p><b>Have you sought guidance from a land management professional in preparation of this project?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>Please provide their name and organisation</b></p>	<p>Jo Smith, Burnside Landcare.</p>
<p><b>Declarations</b></p>	
<p><b>Land Owner(s)/Applicant Declaration</b></p>	<p>I/we have discussed this application with Council's Conservation and Land Management Team.</p> <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>
<p><b>Approved Applications</b></p>	<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>