

Scholarship application process

Applicants must complete an application form and include supporting documentation by the due date to be considered for funding. A Council Officer may contact the landholder to discuss their application and if needed arrange a property visit to discuss an application as part of the approval process.

If a property owner or occupier has more than one eligible property, an application must be submitted for each property.

How can I apply?

- Applications open on 1 July each year and remain open until the end of the financial year, unless total available scholarship money has already been allocated.
- Properties can only receive one scholarship per financial year.
- Applications must be completed through Council's online portal, known as Smarty Grants.
- Online applications can be accessed through Council's website: <https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/REP>
- All supporting documents must be provided as part of the application. This includes a quote from the desired consultant outlining proposal of assistance and costings.
- Council will contact you to arrange a property visit to assess your application if needed.

Contact Us:

Sustainability Engagement Team

Phone: 9205 2200

Email: ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au

Website: hume.vic.gov.au

Useful Hume City Council Resources

A range of resources and information is available to assist applicants. Information can be found on Council's page at hume.vic.gov.au. For all enquires contact the Sustainability Engagement Team on 9205 2200 or email ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au.

Birds of Hume Field Guide

Directory of Service Providers

Fauna of Hume Field Guide

Hume City Council WEEDeck weed ID guide

Land and Biodiversity Guidelines

HUME CITY COUNCIL

Agricultural Assistance Scholarship



The objective of the Agricultural Assistance Scholarship (AAS) is to enable agricultural landholders to seek on farm advice from external consultants to assist with sustainable agricultural practices. The scholarship should encourage landholders to explore alternative agricultural businesses that are resilient to the ongoing challenges rural landholders face within Hume's rural landscape.

Program Purpose

The Agricultural Assistance Scholarship (AAS) supports Hume's rural community by assisting with fees associated with employing specialised consultants to offer on-farm advice around sustainable agriculture and agribusiness related activities.

The AAS will be administered via payment of 80 per cent of consultancy fee, up to a maximum of \$1,500 (GST exclusive) per successful application to put towards fees associated with employing Agricultural Consultants.

Who can apply?

Landowners or managers with property that is zoned:

- Green Wedge, Green Wedge A,
- Rural Living
- Farming outside the urban growth boundary
- Rural Conservation,
- Special Use
- Rural Living

Eligible Activities

Council will fund a range or combination of activities for on-farm advice from a professional consultant. All activities must be for the purpose of assisting landholders to implement sustainable agricultural practices and explore alternative agricultural businesses that are resilient to the ongoing challenges within the rural community. This includes but not limited to:

- Soil health
- Succession planning
- Leadership development, coaching and mentoring
- Water portfolio management
- Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)
- Agricultural land capability assessment
- Agribusiness start up

One of the contributing factors of the challenges rural landholders face are impacts of climate change are likely to have a detrimental impact on biodiversity and land use in Hume. These include extreme weather conditions (eg. storms, flooding), increased frequency and intensity of drought and bushfires, reduction in water availability and new and emerging pest weeds and animals.

Priority will be given to applications that seek professional advice that supports sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation.

