

# Rural Land Management Grant

**2023/24**





# ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, which includes the Gunung Willam Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and to Elders past, present and future.

[hume.vic.gov.au](https://hume.vic.gov.au)

# CONTENTS

---

## 1. Grant Overview

1.1	Program purpose	4
1.2	Rural Land Management Grant	4
1.3	Who can apply?	4

## 2. Grant Assessment Criteria

2.1	Property size	4
2.2	Sustainable land management	4

## 3. Rural Land Management Grant Application

3.1	How can I apply?	7
3.2	Application steps	7
3.3	Time-frames	8
3.4	Application approval	8

## 4. Information and Assistance

4.1	Legislation	8
4.2	Council resources	11

## 1. GRANT OVERVIEW

### 1.1 Program Purpose

The aim of the Rural Land Management Grant (RLMG) is to provide landowners/managers with support and incentive to conduct sustainable land management activities across their property. This includes noxious weed control, pest animal control, erosion control and protection and enhancement of native vegetation (if present) and developing habitat/conservation assets by planting indigenous vegetation.

Council and community values healthy rural green wedges within Hume and encourages landowners to implement sustainable land management practices in accordance with the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.

### 1.2 Rural Land Management Grant Who can apply?

The RLMG is provided in the form of a reimbursement to the landowner/manager via cheque or bank transfer following approval of an annual application form. The grant program is offered on a competitive basis and has a limited pool of funding; as a result some eligible applicants may not receive the grant. There is an upper limit of \$2,000 grant funding per property per year.

The grant is offered at \$300 per property plus \$20 per hectare.

### 1.3 Who can apply?

Landowners or occupiers with property larger than 0.4 hectares that is zoned: Green Wedge, Green Wedge A, Rural Living and Farming.

## 2. GRANT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used to assess each property for the grant:

### 2.1 Property size

The property must be 0.4 hectares or more in size. Properties that are smaller than 0.4 hectares will not be eligible to receive a grant. For further information contact Council's Sustainability Engagement Team on 9205 2200.

### 2.2 Sustainable Land Management

Sustainable Land Management refers to the use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term environmental functions. Landowners/managers must seek to manage their land sustainably, including the control of noxious weeds and preventing their spread to neighbouring properties, protecting soils, native vegetation and creeks and managing pest animals.

The Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act) legislates several requirements to ensure land is managed sustainably. This includes preventing the spread of and, as far as possible, eradicating noxious weeds such as Serrated Tussock and Artichoke Thistle and declared pest animals such as rabbits, feral cats and foxes, protecting soils and protecting water resources. Further information about the CaLP Act is included in section 4.1.

**To be considered eligible, a Council Officer must see evidence during their property inspection that the property is being satisfactorily managed in accordance with the objectives of this program. Council reserves the right to offer landholders alternative options if the property is deemed ineligible due to lack of evidence towards sustainable land management practices.**









### 3. RURAL LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

#### 3.1 How can I apply?

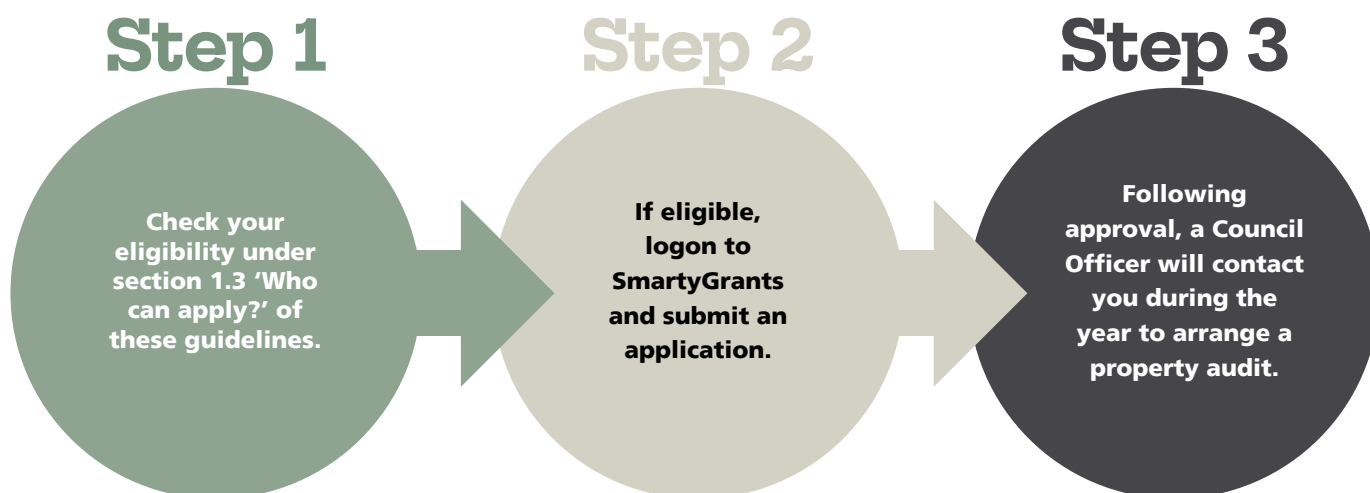
Applicants must complete an annual application form by the due date to be eligible for the grant. All applicants who submit a fully completed application form will be considered for the grant. Council may also conduct a property visit with the applicant to discuss their land management works. It is a requirement of the grant application that applicants agree to a site visit by a Council Officer. This is an opportunity for landowners/managers to seek any advice or guidance they may need.

**You must be the landowner of the property to be able to submit an application. If you are a land manager (lease or managing a property on behalf of the landowner) you must provide written consent with your application from the landowner to be eligible for the RLMG.**

To apply:

- Complete a application via SmartyGrants, an online grant management portal, from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024.
- Applications can be accessed through scanning the QR code on the back cover of these guidelines or Council's webpage :  
<https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Grants-awards-and-funds/Rural-Engagement-Program>
- Approval of the application form will occur in accordance with the eligibility criteria. This may include a property visit from a Council Officer.
- Payment via cheque or bank transfer will occur after approval of the application form and will be provided to the landowner/manager within **two months** of applying.

#### 3.2 Application steps:



### 3.3 Time-frames

Time-frame	Activity
1 July 2023	Applications open.
1 July 2023-31 May 2024	Applications assessed, property visits organised and conducted.
31 May 2024	Applications close.

### 3.4 Application approval

Council reserves the right to not approve applications due to insufficient land management works on the property.

## 4. INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

### 4.1 Legislation:

#### Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

The main legislation covering noxious weed and pest animal management in Victoria is the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act). Under this Act species of plants and animals can be declared as noxious weeds and pest animals.

One of the main objectives of the CaLP Act is to protect primary production, Crown land, the environment and community health from the effects of noxious weeds and pest animals. The CaLP Act defines roles and responsibilities and regulates the management of noxious weeds and pest animals.

In relation to their land, a landowner must take all reasonable steps to:

- avoid causing or contributing to land degradation which causes or may cause damage to land of another land owner
- conserve soil
- protect water resources
- eradicate regionally prohibited weeds
- prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds
- prevent the spread of, and as far as possible eradicate, established pest animals.









## Planning and Environment Act 1987

This Act sets up a system of planning schemes to regulate the use and development of land in Victoria. Clause 52.17 outlines the requirement for a permit to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation, unless the removal is exempt under the planning scheme that applies to the land.

### 4.2 Council resources

A range of resources and information is available to assist applicants. Information can be found on Council's website at [hume.vic.gov.au](http://hume.vic.gov.au). For all enquires contact the Sustainability Engagement Team on 9205 2200 or email [ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au)

### Land & Biodiversity Guidelines

Council's Land & Biodiversity Guidelines is a resource to assist in the management of rural land and the conservation and protection of natural environmental values. It includes such topics as:

- weed and pest animal management
- effective grazing
- managing soil erosion
- fire management
- managing native vegetation, revegetating and establishing windbreaks.

### Directory of Service Providers

Council's Directory of Service Providers is an up to date list of local contractors and suppliers that service the Hume area. Contractor services include such things as weed control, pest animal control, fencing, revegetation, slashing and farming maintenance/assistance. Suppliers include farm supply stores and plant nurseries. Council provides this list as a service and does not recommend or guarantee the standard of works provided.

### Priority weeds and pest animals

Council's WEEDeck is a waterproof durable weed identification guide that covers the priority weeds in the Hume area.

### Hume's Rural Environment Team

#### Cassandra Borg

Senior Rural Engagement Officer  
[cassandrab@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:cassandrab@hume.vic.gov.au)

#### Amanda Ngo

Conservation Project Support Officer  
[amandan@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:amandan@hume.vic.gov.au)

#### Anne Fitzpatrick

Rural Engagement Officer  
[annefi@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:annefi@hume.vic.gov.au)

#### Manni Skopellos

Rural Engagement Officer  
[mannis@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:mannis@hume.vic.gov.au)

# HumeLink

Hume City Council's  
multilingual telephone information service.  
**General enquiries: Telephone 9205 2200**

للمعلومات باللغة العربية	9679 9815
معلومات باللغة العربية	9679 9809
Za informacije na <b>bosanskom</b>	9679 9816
Za informacije na <b>hrvatskom</b>	9679 9817
Για πληροφορίες στα <b>ελληνικά</b>	9679 9818
Per avere informazioni in <b>italiano</b>	9679 9819
За информације на <b>српском</b>	9679 9820
Para información en <b>español</b>	9679 9821
<b>Türkçe</b> bilgi için	9679 9822
Muốn biết thông tin tiếng <b>Việt</b>	9679 9823
For other languages...	9679 9824



## Rural Land Management Grant Guidelines 2023/24

**Hume City Council**  
1079 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows  
PO Box 119, Dallas, Victoria 3047  
9205 2200  
[hume.vic.gov.au](http://hume.vic.gov.au)

