



HUME CITY COUNCIL

Re-Source

Rural Environment Newsletter

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hume.vic.gov.au/resource



Rural Engagement Program

Conserving our Rural Environment (CoRE) grant applications now open 2023/24:

Applications for the Conserving our Rural Environment (CoRE) grant are now open. The grant aims to conserve and improve the natural and environmental assets on private rural property. Eligible landholders, managers and environmental community groups can now apply for a Project Grant (up to \$10,000) for the 2023/24 financial year.

Council will fund a range of activities including on-ground environmental projects, capacity-building activities, and community engagement initiatives, including but not limited to:

- noxious and environmental weed control
- pest animal control
- revegetation
- fencing for stock exclusion / management
- materials and equipment
- property management plans
- flora and fauna assessments
- training and development
- community group activities.

To see the full eligibility criteria, program details and how to apply, visit www.hume.vic.gov.au/REP

If you are a new applicant, or would like a hard copy application, please contact Council's Rural Engagement Team on 9205 2200 or coregrant@hume.vic.gov.au to arrange a property visit to discuss your project.

Applications close Friday 5 May 2023.

Primary Producer Rate Rebate (PPRR) 2023-2025

The Primary Producer Rate Rebate (PPRR) provides a 30% discount on the general rate for demonstrated agricultural businesses on properties over 2 hectares with satisfactory land management and within the green wedge.

Applications are submitted on a 2 yearly basis. Existing PPRR recipients will be notified of the need to re-apply.

New applicants are encouraged to contact Council to have their eligibility assessed before applying.

To view Guidelines and apply for PPRR 2023-25 visit www.hume.vic.gov.au/REP



Draft National Feral Deer Action Plan Released 14 Dec 2022

The draft Plan has been released for a 3-month public consultation period.



The plan approach to reduce the impacts of feral deer by focussing on three goals:

- Stop the spread of large feral deer populations and reduce their impact.
- Control or eradicate small, isolated populations before they spread.
- Protect significant sites and species from the impact of feral deer.

For more information and to download the Plan visit www.feraldeerplan.org.au

Provided your feedback to coordinator@feraldeerplan.org.au or www.feraldeerplan.org.au Consultation closes on Monday 20 March 2023.

Environmental Scholarships

Environmental scholarships support those who live, work or volunteer in Hume to create positive environmental change, by providing financial assistance towards environmental education.

Courses that will be funded include conservation, land management, or environment and sustainability courses. The scholarship can fund up to 80% of course fees to a maximum of \$1500 per applicant. Find out more at www.hume.vic.gov.au/environmental-scholarship

Local Laws review

We have reviewed our local law and have developed the new draft General Purpose Local Law which considered feedback from over 600 residents. Read the draft and tell us what you think before it is presented to Councillors for final consideration and adoption www.participate.hume.vic.gov.au/local-laws-review-2022

City Nature Challenge 2023

Council is participating in the global City Nature Challenge 2023 over Friday 28 April to Monday 1 May. The City Nature Challenge is a global citizen science competition that involves taking photos of and identifying wild plants and animals.

In 2022, we came fourth for the number of nature observations made in the friendly competition amongst 20 other local governments across Melbourne. This Greater Melbourne collective came 33rd in the 445 cities from 47 countries that took part. Get involved to help boost Hume's numbers and increase our knowledge about local biodiversity.

Several iNaturalist training sessions are being held to show people how to make and upload observations of wild plants, animals, and fungi using your device.

- Broadmeadows on Thursday 13 April
- Sunbury on Thursday 20 April
- Online session on Wednesday 26 April

Visit www.hume.vic.gov.au/discover-nature to view the iNaturalist sessions and City Nature Challenge 2023 guided field survey events running on 28 April to 1 May as they are confirmed.

Links to iNaturalist projects:

www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2023-hume-city-council

www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2023-greater-melbourne

Autumn is the time to get plants in the ground

Local indigenous plants adapt to local soils, climate and seasons. View the list of local plants at www.hume.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife

Plants planted in Autumn have the highest chance of survival and the best growth rates. A combination of moist and warm soils is a perfect start for new plants. So don't wait until winter! Planted in Autumn, they have some time to establish their root system before the dormant time over the cold months. When spring arrives, they are ready to take advantage of the optimal weather conditions. Plants planted too late into winter are dormant and don't set down new root systems properly, leading to stunted growth or even complete failure.

Visit a native nursery and learn which plants are suitable for your property.



Loving Grasslands series award win

The Loving Grasslands video series, a collaborative project between Council and local film producer-director-writer Brendan Guerin, has been recognised internationally in India, Spain, Malaysia, Italy and the United States.

Anne Fitzpatrick, Council's Biodiversity Project Officer told us, "Brendan reached out to us last year having been inspired to propose the series while working in Council's bush crew in 2020-21, in a role funded by Working for Victoria during the COVID downturn.

"Hume contains remnants of natural temperate grasslands and grassy eucalypt woodlands that once covered one third of Victoria but have now been reduced to just 1% of their original distribution.

"Funded through our Rural Community Engagement program, this four-part series captures the stories of some passionate farmers within Hume's green wedge who have incorporated biodiversity conservation into their farming systems to achieve both production and biodiversity conservation aims.

"Since launching the series in December 2022 Loving Grasslands has gained interest from the

Australian Teachers of Media who propose to create a study guide to accompany the series as a teaching resource to schools and libraries.

"It has been a rewarding project to be involved in offering inspiration and excitingly being picked up as an education resource for future generations."

Watch the video series at www.hume.vic.gov.au/loving-grasslands



Rural Management Workshops – Autumn and Winter



Environmental Connection Day

Come along to the Homestead Learning and Community Centre, Roxburgh Park on **Saturday 18 March, 10am – 1pm.**

- Activities/workshops
- Information on environmental sustainability, connection with nature programs & activities

Register to attend www.hume.vic.gov.au/environmental-connection-day

Biosecurity workshop

The City of Whittlesea, Nillumbik Shire Council and Hume City Council will be running a free workshop on property biosecurity and animal health for rural residents on **Thursday 30 March 2023, 7pm – 9pm at the Kirrip Community Centre, Wollert East.**

This workshop will cover:

- the importance of biosecurity
- what would happen in the event of an emergency animal disease outbreak
- principles of good biosecurity
- how to develop a biosecurity plan and places to look for resources.

Save the date in your calendars and email agribusiness@whittlesea.vic.gov.au to be notified when bookings are available.

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/peri-urban-property-biosecurity-tickets-523180836967

Meet a Rural Engagement Officer - Drop-in sessions

Council Rural Engagement Officers will be available to advise and answer questions on land management. Drop into a session below.

- **Wednesday 29 March, 10am – 2pm**
Anne Fitzpatrick
Sunbury Global Learning Centre
- **Saturday 1 April, 9am – 1pm**
Manni Skopellos
Craigieburn Global Learning Centre
- **Tuesday 18 April, 4pm – 8pm**
Cassandra Borg
Sunbury Global Learning Centre

Agricultural Chemical Users Permit course

Council will be facilitating an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit Standard Course which instructs participants in the correct use, storage and transport of herbicide and pesticides. The course authorises the permit holder to purchase and use agricultural chemicals. If you would like to attend this course, please email ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au to register your interest.

Land Management Planning Workshop

Explore the vision you have for your property, understand your land capability and plan activities that will help you to manage your property and fulfill your vision.

Further information contact ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au

Equiculture course

Register for the self-paced, subsidised course for horse owners. Normally \$125, but only \$25 for Hume residents. For further information visit equiculture.net or contact the Rural Engagement Team ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au to register and receive your discount coupon.

Mulching Days 2023

Tree Mulching days are a free service available to Hume residents to dispose of tree branches and occur regularly throughout the year.

Visit www.hume.vic.gov.au/mulching to see upcoming mulching days.

Gardens for Wildlife

The next Gardens for Wildlife events is opening shortly – check out the website for further details www.hume.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife



Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, which includes the existing family members of the Gunung-William-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 Elders past, present and future.

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