

HUME CITY COUNCIL

Conserving our Rural Environment Grant

Guidelines 2026-2028



hume.vic.gov.au

 **HUME**
CITY COUNCIL



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, as the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders past, present and future.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Grant Overview	1
1.2 Who is eligible?	1
2. FUNDING CATEGORIES	2
2.1 Category 1 - Connecting Nature	2
2.2 Category 2 - Land Stewardship	3
2.3 Category 3 - Trust for Nature	4
2.4 Summary of Funding Categories	5
3. GRANT SELECTION CRITERIA	7
4. ELIGIBLE GRANT ACTIVITIES	9
5. HOW TO APPLY	11
5.1 Grant Payment Pathway	12
5.2 Specific Category Requirements	13
5.3 Timelines	15
6. NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME AND FUNDING AGREEMENT	16
6.1 Responsibilities for CoRE Grant Recipients	16
6.2 Responsibilities of a Contractor or Supplier	16
7. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	17

1. Introduction

1.1 Grant Overview

The Conserving our Rural Environment Grant (CoRE) reflects Hume City Council's commitment to a resilient and inclusive community that values and protects the natural environment, as outlined by 'Priority 2: A climate resilient city with a healthy natural environment' within the Council Plan. The grant empowers rural landholders to protect and enhance environmental values across Hume's Green Wedge and rural areas.

Through on-ground works, training and collaborative community initiatives, the CoRE grant helps build capacity, restore biodiversity, and improve habitat connectivity supporting both individual and collective efforts to conserve Hume's unique rural landscapes.

1.2 Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for a CoRE Grant, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Own or manage a property larger than 0.4 hectares (1 acre) located within the following zones:
 - Green Wedge
 - Green Wedge A
 - Rural Living
 - Farming Zone
2. Have land identified as conservation priority under the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors. The proposed project must be in an area of environmental conservation significance.

Grant limitations and exclusions

- Projects along stream frontages or riparian areas are not eligible for funding through the CoRE grant. Interested landholders are encouraged to apply for funding through Melbourne Water's Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways program. Visit melbournewater.com.au or call 131 722 for more information.
- The grant does not fund infrastructure, landscaping or pasture improvements unless directly linked to environmental conservation objectives.
- Grant funding is not paid directly to the successful applicants. Council pays approved suppliers or contractors upon receipt of invoices for eligible works or materials.

Photos throughout this document have been kindly donated by Sunbury local, Andrew Conner



2. Funding Categories

Applicants can apply for one of three funding categories, each designed to support different levels of conservation activity. Applicants can only apply for one category per round.

All applicants are required to make a contribution towards their project, either through their own funds or in-kind support such as labour, materials, or use of equipment. Labour is to be calculated at \$50 per hour.

This contribution must directly relate to the project or conservation area and demonstrate a shared commitment between landholders and Council to achieving long-term conservation outcomes.

Successful applicants must maintain their funded project area until June 2028. This includes caring for plantings, controlling weeds and pests, and maintaining fencing to ensure long-term conservation outcomes.

2.1 Category 1 - Connecting Nature (up to \$2,500 ex GST)



This entry-level category is designed for applicants who are new to environmental works or who wish to trial small-scale conservation activities. The Connecting Nature category provides an accessible entry point for landholders to build their confidence and skills in undertaking conservation works as a “do-it-yourself” style grant.

The focus of this category is on capacity building, encouraging landholders to take an active role in restoring and enhancing their property while creating or strengthening habitat connectivity across the landscape. Projects should contribute to ecological linkages and long-term habitat creation that supports biodiversity values.

Applicants are required to submit a project plan and an aerial map of the project area. The project plan template will be provided through the SmartyGrants application platform. Council's Rural Environment team will supply landholders with an aerial map of their property during the property visit to assist with project planning.

Funding can be used for:

- native revegetation works
- installation of nest boxes
- other small-scale habitat restoration initiatives

This category provides a practical starting point for landholders looking to make an initial impact on their land's ecological value, while gaining skills, experience, and confidence to take on more complex conservation projects in the future.

The Connecting Nature category opens annually, with a single round offered each year.

Notes for Applicants

Category 1 - Connecting Nature is intentionally simple. You do not need a Land Management Plan to apply but must submit a project plan using Council's template which states what you want to achieve, how it benefits the broader landscape and is to include a marked aerial map.

2.2 Category 2 - Land Stewardship

(up to \$20,000 ex GST across 2 years)



This category supports applicants to improve the health, resilience, and biodiversity of their property through larger, more strategic conservation works. This category is for applicants seeking to deliver a two-year conservation project, with up to \$10,000 (ex GST) available per year. Applicants must submit quotes covering the proposed works for the full two-year cycle as part of their application. To access funding for the second year, applicants are required to complete a mid-project progress report and provide updated quotes to confirm the continuation of works.

Funding can be used for:

- broad-scale weed and pest control
- fencing to exclude stock from conservation areas
- erosion control
- landscape-scale revegetation
- development of a Land Management Plan.

Applicants must have a current Land Management Plan (LMP) that is less than 5 years old, or apply for funding to develop one as part of their application.

This category is suited to returning or experienced CoRE applicants who are ready to undertake more complex, staged works with the support of sustained funding.

The Land Stewardship category will open biennially (every two years) starting in February 2026.

Notes for applicants

- Category 2 - Land Stewardship projects must go beyond basic maintenance. Consecutive years of weed spraying without a broader biodiversity goal will not be funded. Applicants must show how they are enhancing ecological assets, improving habitat structure, or restoring degraded areas to be considered for funding.
- This category operates on a fixed two-year funding cycle. New applications for Land Stewardship will be accepted every second year.

How it works:

- Successful applicants will be approved for a two-year project. Funding is provided in two stages: Year 1 funding and Year 2 funding, subject to meeting reporting requirements.
- At the end of Year 1 (May 2027), applicants must submit a mid-project progress report (using a Council-provided template) and participate in a site visit with a Rural Environment Officer.
- Council will send reminders when the report is due. If the report is not received, or is found unsatisfactory, Year 2 funding will not be released and the project will cease to continue.

2.3 Category 3 - Trust for Nature

(up to \$20,000 ex GST)



The highest level of funding, this category supports landholders who are ready to make a long-term, legally binding commitment to conservation by placing a Trust for Nature conservation covenant on their property. This category recognises and rewards the most significant gesture a landholder can make for Victoria's biodiversity, by permanently protecting their land for future generations.

What is a conservation covenant?

A conservation covenant is a voluntary, legally binding agreement between a landholder and Trust for Nature to permanently protect and conserve private land with natural, cultural, or scientific values. Covenants are registered on the land title under the Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972 and remain in place permanently, even if the property is sold or inherited.

Importantly, landholders can choose to covenant part of their land or the whole property, ensuring areas of highest ecological significance are prioritised for protection.

Covenants restrict activities that could damage native habitat (e.g., clearing, subdivision, intensive farming) and help to safeguard threatened species. Landholders retain ownership of their property and remain responsible for day-to-day management. Trust for Nature provides ongoing support through its Stewardship Program, with expert advice on maintaining and improving land for native plants and animals.

Funding in this category (up to \$20,000 ex GST) can cover:

- legal costs associated with registering the covenant on the land title
- site assessments and ecological advice to support covenant establishment.

Applicants must have a current Land Management Plan (LMP) that is less than 5 years old and demonstrate a clear intent to protect their property's environmental values in perpetuity.

This category supports landholders to secure the long-term protection of their land's environmental values, delivering lasting benefits for biodiversity and the community.

The Trust for Nature category opens 1st February annually, with a single round each year.

Notes for Applicants

- Category 3 - Trust for Nature is intended for landholders who are ready to make a permanent commitment to conservation through a legal agreement. Funding in this category assists with the covenanting process by supporting legal costs, site assessments.
- Landholders must engage with Trust for Nature before applying for this grant to confirm suitability for covenanting.
- Trust for Nature and Council officers will assist landholders through the covenanting process to ensure all requirements are understood and supported.
- The maximum funding amount of \$20,000 (ex GST) is intended to support the covenanting process, however it will not cover all costs involved. Landholders should anticipate contributing additional funds or in-kind support to complete the process.
- Applicants must have had engaged with Trust for Nature prior to applying.
- For more information about conservation covenants, please visit trustfornature.org.au.

2.4 Summary of Funding Categories

Category	Funding available (ex GST)	Grant cycle*	Plan Requirements	Purpose	Example Projects
1. Connecting Nature	Up to \$2,500	Opens annually 1 February 2026 Applications close 14 May 2026 Project to be completed 31 May 2027	Project plan and marked aerial map	Entry-level projects that build landholder skills and confidence through small-scale habitat improvements and conservation works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native revegetation • Nest boxes • Habitat link corridors
2. Land Stewardship	Up to \$20,000 across two years	Opens biennially 1 February 2026 Applications close 14 May 2026 Mid-Project progress report to be completed 31 May 2027 Project to be completed 31 May 2028	Land management plan less than 5 years old, or apply for the development of an LMP	Medium-scale works improving land health and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed and pest control • Revegetation • Erosion control • Fencing off sensitive areas • Consultant-developed LMP • Accredited land management training
3. Trust for Nature	Up to \$20,000	Opens annually 1 February 2026 Applications close 14 May 2026 Project to be completed 31 May 2027	Land Management plan less than 5 years old and commitment to Trust for Nature covenant	Long-term, legally protected conservation of high-value land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site assessments • Costs associated with covenanting

*Refer to detailed timelines on page 15.



3. Grant Selection Criteria

When applying for a CoRE grant, applicants will be assessed against a set of selection criteria. These criteria ensure funding is directed toward projects that demonstrate strong environmental outcomes, are practical and achievable and represent good value for money. To maximise their chance of success, applicants should clearly outline what the project aims to achieve, how it will be delivered, and the expected environmental benefits.

The table below outlines the assessment criteria. Applicants should use this as a guide when preparing their submission, clearly explaining what the project aims to achieve, how it will be delivered, and the expected environmental benefits.

For more information about the selection criteria please contact Council's Rural Environment team on 9205 2200 or email coregrant@hume.vic.gov.au.

Criteria	1. Connecting Nature	2. Land Stewardship	3. Trust for Nature
Environment Value	Does the project include quality scale revegetation or habitat installation? Will it improve native vegetation or address a specific problem like habitat loss?	Is the project protecting significant biodiversity (e.g., native grassland, wetlands, threatened species)? Does it build on or expand existing conservation areas?	Does the land contain high conservation value? Will the project protect remnant vegetation, rare species or an ecologically important landscape?
Feasibility & Readiness	Is the proposal simple, realistic, and ready to go? Are timelines, materials and site areas clearly described?	Is the project well-planned? Are works staged and achievable over two years? Is the landholder ready to deliver?	Are actions well-sscoped and achievable? Is the proposed use of funds realistic and appropriate for the covenant process?
Long-Term Impact & Sustainability	N/A	Will the project deliver measurable biodiversity improvements over time? Is there a clear commitment to maintenance beyond the grant period?	Will the outcomes be sustained and monitored after the covenant is in place? Are there strategies to ensure long-term ecological care?
Landholder Capacity & Commitment	Has the landholder shown that they can plant and maintain works? Are they supported by Council or local groups?	Does the landholder have a Land Management Plan? Does the landholder have a strong past track record? Are they doing more than short-term weed control?	Is the landholder clearly committed to legal protection of the land? Have they worked on the property to prepare for covenanting?
Community Engagement & Partnerships	Is there involvement from neighbours, volunteers, schools, or local Landcare?	Is the project connected to wider community efforts or educational activities?	Is the landholder working with experts, Trust for Nature, or other conservation partners?
Value for Money & Budget	Are costs reasonable and linked to materials or planting? Is in-kind contribution (labour) explained?	Are the costs in line with the scope and well-documented?	N/A



4. Eligible Grant Activities

The table below outlines the types of activities eligible for funding under each category.

Activity	Description	1. Connecting Nature	2. Land Stewardship	3. Trust for Nature
Weed Control (materials)	Purchase of materials and equipment to control noxious weeds.	✗	✓	✗
Weed control (use of contractor)	Engagement of qualified contractors to undertake noxious or environmental weed control.	✗	✓	✗
Pest animal (materials)	Purchase of materials and equipment to control declared pest animals (e.g. rabbit-proof mesh).	✗	✓	✗
Pest animal control (use of contractor)	Engagement of qualified contractors to undertake control of declared pest animals such as rabbits and foxes using approved methods.	✗	✓	✗
Revegetation	Planting indigenous (locally native) species to restore habitat. Includes purchase of stakes and guards. Labour must be in-kind.	✓	✓	✗
Fencing	Installing fencing to exclude stock or pest animals from sensitive conservation areas.	✗	✓	✗
Erosion control	Measures to stabilise soil and prevent land degradation.	✗	✓	✗
Habitat	Nest boxes, shelter logs, or other simple habitat features.	✓	✓	✗
Flora/fauna surveys	Baseline assessments for property planning or covenant support.	✗	✓	✓
Ecological burning	Planned burns to support native regeneration (permit required at landowners own cost).	✗	✓	✓

Activity	Description	1. Connecting Nature	2. Land Stewardship	3. Trust for Nature
Land Management Plan	Consultant-developed 5-year plan aligned with Council's guidelines.	✗	✓	✓
Training & development	Course fees for relevant workshops (e.g. land management, chemical use).	✓	✓	✗
Educational materials	Brochures, signage, or guides to support conservation awareness.	✗	✓	✗
Volunteer involvement	Projects that engage volunteers or community groups in conservation.	✗	✓	✗
Expert advice	Engagement of ecologists, planners, or legal experts (e.g. covenanting process).	✗	✓	✓

Other eligible activities

Applicants may propose other activities that align with the purpose of the grant. These may include innovative land restoration techniques, conservation incentives, or property-scale trials of new biodiversity tools. Council encourages applicants to speak with the Rural Environment team before submitting proposals for alternate activities.

Excluded Activities

Activity	Description
Stream frontage works	Includes works on creek banks, riparian areas, or waterways.
Non-indigenous planting	Use of exotic, ornamental or non-local native species in revegetation.
Removal of native vegetation	Clearing or damaging remnant bushland or trees.
General landscaping	Works that are aesthetic only (e.g. garden beds, lawn upgrades).
Infrastructure purchases	Includes sheds, rainwater tanks, irrigation systems, or fencing unrelated to conservation.
Undeclared pest control	Control of native species or animals not recognised as declared pests.
Activities required by law	Compliance actions already required under legislation (e.g. CaLP Act weed obligations).
Retrospective works	Any works already completed before the grant application is approved.

5. How to Apply

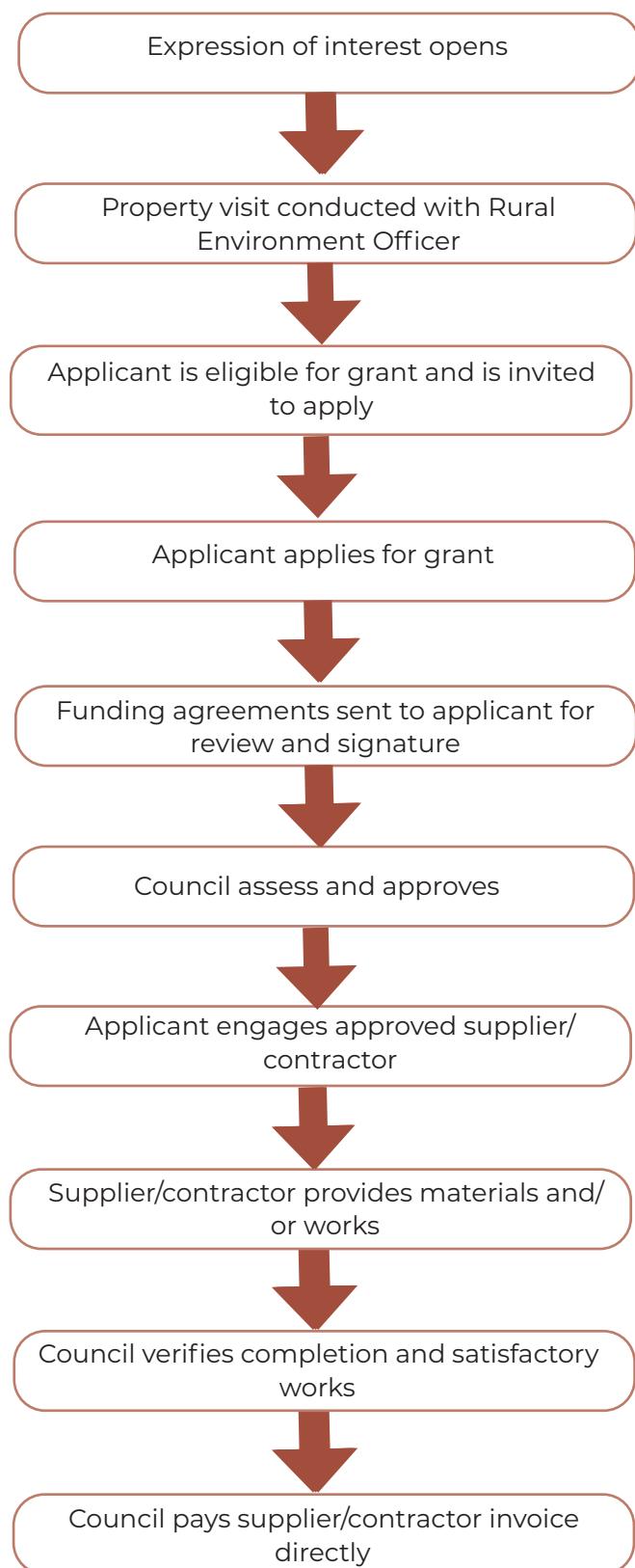
Applicants must follow the process below to ensure eligibility and readiness for assessment:

- Expressions of Interest (EOIs) open on 1 February each year. Landholders will be notified by mail, email, and through the Re-Source newsletter when EOIs open. Eligible applicants will then be invited to submit a full application once their EOI has been assessed.
- Applicants must contact Council by phone or email to express interest in the CoRE program. After submitting an EOI, Council's Rural Environment Officers will contact the applicant to arrange a property visit. During the visit, officers will discuss the proposed works, assess and confirm eligibility, and provide advice on improving or refining the project as needed.
- Following the site visit, applicants will be provided with a link to the online SmartyGrants platform to prepare their application.
- Only the landowner of the property is eligible to submit an application. If the applicant is a land manager or leaseholder, written consent from the landowner must be attached to the SmartyGrants application.
- Council Rural Environment Officers can assist with navigating the online SmartyGrants application system if technical or accessibility support is needed.
- Each application must include a quote or estimate for each activity which must contain:
 - ABN of the supplier or contractor
 - Email or/and phone number for supplier or contractor
 - Address and name of the individual requesting the quote
 - Description of goods or services
 - Hourly rates (if applicable)
 - Breakdown of costs (excluding and including GST).
- Applications will be assessed based on the selection criteria relevant to the chosen category. Projects will be prioritised based on merit and alignment with the grant's environmental goals.

- Council may offer partial funding if some of the proposed activities do not align with the grant purpose, or if budget limits apply.
- Applicants will be notified of either a full, partial, or unsuccessful outcome in writing.
- Successful applicants will receive a funding agreement and must agree to it before commencing works. Project details and funding allocations will be reported publicly as part of Council's requirements under the Local Government Act 2020.
- Council funding is paid after project completion and audit. Applicants or/and contractor/ supplier must submit a tax invoice to Council's Rural Environment Team. Council officers will provide advice on how to do this closer to the time. Council does not provide upfront payments to applicants, contractors or suppliers.
- Council's payment terms are 30 days from receipt of a valid invoice. It is the applicant's responsibility to inform and manage contractors or suppliers in line with this timeline.

For more information please contact Council's Rural Environment team on 9205 2200 or email coregrant@hume.vic.gov.au

5.1 Grant Payment Pathway



5.2 Specific category requirements

Category 1 – Connecting Nature

- Connecting Nature projects must be completed by 31 May 2027.
- A final site visit will be conducted by Council's Rural Environment Officers to verify the completion of the project.
- Council will process payments within 30 days of receiving a valid invoice and satisfactory project completion evidence.

Category 2 – Land Stewardship

- Land Stewardship projects support delivery of two year conservation projects, but continuation into the second year is dependent on the Mid Project Progress Report.
- The first year of works must be completed by 31 May 2027.
- By this date, recipients are required to submit a Year 1 Mid Project Progress Report through SmartyGrants.
- Council will provide access to the Mid Project Progress Report template via the SmartyGrants platform at the required time.
- The report must include:
 - A summary of works completed to date
 - Photographic evidence of progress
 - Any changes to the original plan, and reasoning if applicable
 - Updated quotes for works planned for Year 2.
- Council officers will assess the Year 1 Mid Project Progress Report and request a site visit to confirm progress.

Notes for Category 2 Applicants:

- Continuation into Year 2 is dependent on the satisfactory submission of the Year 1 Mid-Project Progress Report. If the report is not submitted by the due date, is incomplete, does not meet acquittal standards, or if project works have not progressed in line with the approved plan, second-year funding may not be released. In such cases, the applicant may also be deemed ineligible to apply for the CoRE Grant in the following funding round.
- If applicants anticipate delays or issues (e.g. personal circumstances, unforeseen events, or contractor availability), it is strongly advised to contact Council's Rural Environment Officers before the reporting deadline to discuss the situation. Council will consider reasonable extensions or adjustments where appropriate.

Category 3 – Trust for Nature

- Specific project milestones and timelines will be set in agreement with the applicant, Council and Trust for Nature, depending on the scale and nature of the covenanting process.
- Progress will be monitored through:
 - Council officer support and regular communication
 - Evidence of ecological assessments or legal steps toward covenanting.
- Final payment will be made upon verification of approved activities and submission of required documentation (e.g. ecological site assessment, or legal fees).



Timelines

Year 1 2026-27

Stage	Date
Expression of interest open for all funding categories	1 February 2026
Expression of interest close	25 April 2026
Applications close	14 May 2026
Assessment period	May-June 2026
Council endorsement of successful applicants	August 2026
Notification of Outcome & Funding Agreements Issued	August 2026
1. Connecting Nature project completion	31 May 2027
2. Land Stewardship year 1 Mid Project report due	31 May 2027
3. Trust for Nature project completion	31 May 2027

Year 2 2027-28

Stage	Date
Expression of interest open for Category 1: Land Stewardship and Category 3: Trust for Nature only	1 February 2027
Expression of interest close	24 April 2027
Applications close	14 May 2027
Assessment period	May-June 2027
Council endorsement of successful applicants	August 2027
Notification of outcome & Funding Agreements Issued	August 2027
1. Connecting Nature project completion	31 May 2028
2. Land Stewardship project completion	31 May 2028
3. Trust for Nature project completion	31 May 2028

Notification of Outcome and Funding Agreement

Successful applicants will receive a Funding Agreement from Hume City Council. This agreement outlines the conditions, responsibilities, and timelines for delivering your approved CoRE Grant project.

To accept the offer, applicants must complete, sign, and return the Funding Agreement. No work can commence until this step is complete.

Responsibilities for CoRE Grant Recipients

If awarded a CoRE Grant, successful applicants are required to meet the conditions outlined in the Funding Agreement. These conditions are designed to ensure transparency, accountability, and the successful delivery of conservation outcomes. Conditions include:

- Deliver the approved project as outlined in the application and funding agreement. Any changes must be discussed with a Rural Environment Officer and approved by Council in writing.
- Engage approved contractors and oversee works to ensure they meet environmental and safety standards.
- Keep records, including photos (before and after), in-kind, and contractor details.
- Notify Council when works are complete and arrange a final audit.
- Land Stewardship recipients must also submit a Year 1 Mid-Project Report via SmartyGrants by 31 May 2027 to be eligible for second-year funding.
- Payments will be made directly to contractors once works are verified and invoices are received. Council does not pay landholders or make upfront payments.
- Maintain the project area until June 2028, including caring for plantings, controlling weeds and pests, and maintaining fencing.
- Acknowledge Council's support in any materials promoting the project.
- Obtain any necessary permits before starting work.

Failure to meet the agreement conditions may result in withheld payments or the return of funds.

Responsibilities of a Contractor or Supplier

Council pays contractors or suppliers directly upon satisfactory completion of the project and verification by Council officers.

Payment is made only after:

- The works are completed as agreed.
- A final inspection or audit is conducted by a Rural Environment Officer.
- An invoice from the contractor or supplier is submitted to Council (with the landholder's approval).
- Provide Council a copy of public liability insurance.

The contractor's invoice must:

- Match the approved quote(s)
- Must adhere to the Australian Taxation Office's requirements of a Tax invoices.
- Include the ABN, GST, and description of works.
- Be clearly associated with the approved project. Includes the name of the applicant and the property address.

If works are self-managed (e.g. landholder undertakes works themselves), Council may only cover eligible materials and equipment costs as quoted in the application.

No pre-payments will be made. Works must be complete and verified before any payment is processed.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I apply if I've received a CoRE Grant before?

Yes. Previous recipients are eligible to apply again. Each application will be assessed on its own merits against the grant criteria.

2. Can I apply for more than one project or category?

No. You can only apply for one funding category per round per year. Choose the category that best suits your project scale and objectives.

3. Do I need a Land Management Plan (LMP) to apply?

1. Connecting Nature: No, a project plan using Council's template and aerial map is sufficient.
2. Land Stewardship: Yes, a LMP less than 5 years old is required, or you can apply for funding to develop one.
3. Trust for Nature: Yes, LMP is required and must support long-term conservation goals, including covenanting.

4. I've received a Weed Advisory Notice or a Notice to Comply from Council for weed control. Can I use the CoRE Grant to help meet those requirements?

No. The CoRE Grant cannot be used to fund works that are already required under law or a formal compliance notice. All landholders are legally responsible for controlling noxious weeds under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 and local Council laws. The grant is designed to support voluntary conservation actions that go above and beyond legal obligations.

5. Who pays the contractor or supplier?

Council pays contractors or suppliers directly, not the applicant. Payment is made after the project is completed and verified by a Council officer. Refer to page 11 for more information about payments.

6. What if I want to change something in my approved project?

You must contact The Rural Environment Team before making any changes to your approved works, contractors, or timelines. Variations must be agreed to in writing.

7. What if I don't finish my project on time?

Each grant category has different timelines for completion:

- Category 1 - Connecting Nature:
All works must be completed by 31 May 2027.
- Category 2 - Land Stewardship:
This is a two-year grant. Year 1: A mid-project progress report is due at the halfway point (31 May 2026).
Year 2: All works must be completed by 31 May 2027.
- Category 3 - Trust for Nature:
All covenanting works and documentation must be completed by 31 May 2027.

If delays arise, please contact Council as soon as possible to discuss. Council will work with you to help meet your project completion date, as unforeseen circumstances can sometimes occur. Extensions or adjustments can only be granted in writing.

8. How do I show my contribution to the project?

Your in-kind contribution (time, labour, resources) is calculated at \$50/hour. Include a description of what you're doing and estimate the hours you'll contribute.

9. Can I use volunteers or work with my neighbours?

Yes. Projects that involve collaboration with neighbours, community groups, volunteers or schools are strongly encouraged – particularly under Category 2: Land Stewardship.

10. Will I need permits for any works?

Some activities, such as vegetation removal, fencing in overlays, or soil movement may require a planning permit. It is your responsibility to check with Council before applying for a grant.

11. When can I apply for Category 2. Land Stewardship?

The Land Stewardship category operates on a fixed two-year cycle. New applications are accepted every second year.

12. Can the grant cover materials to control weeds, pests, or erosion?

Yes for Category 2-Land Stewardship funding can be used for materials such as herbicide, pest animal control equipment, fencing materials, and erosion control products, provided these are in alignment with your Land Management Plan.

13. What happens if my application is successful but I cannot proceed?

If you withdraw after approval, you must notify Council in writing as soon as possible. Withdrawing without good reason may affect your eligibility in future rounds.

14. What support does Council offer during the application process?

Council's Rural Environment Officers can assist you at every stage, from project planning to application and reporting. A site visit is included for all applicants.

15. Can I talk to someone before I apply?

Absolutely. We encourage you to contact the: Rural Environment team at:



9205 2200



coregrant@hume.vic.gov.au

Notes

Notes

HumeLink

Multilingual telephone
information service

Enquiries 9205 2200

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

Connect with us



Hume City Council

1079 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows
PO Box 119, Dallas, Victoria 3047



Customer Service Centres

Scan QR code to find locations and hours
or visit hume.vic.gov.au/contactus



9205 2200



coregrant@hume.vic.gov.au



hume.vic.gov.au



Follow us on:



[HumeCityCouncil](#)

