



Fire Management Planning Grant

Guidelines

Fire Management Planning Grants provide financial assistance to individual nature refuge landholders, in the form of a small grant, to engage a suitably qualified professional to **develop a fire management plan** for the nature refuge, with the aim to protect and enhance the land's conservation values.

Following last summer's extreme fire season, this is a one-off grant round that will fund up to \$5,000 to have a suitable fire management plan developed for nature refuges without a current fire management plan.

Funding will be awarded to eligible applicants on a first come, first served basis. There is no requirement for landholders to provide a matching contribution.

Having a professional fire management plan will be considered favourably when applying for grant funds to implement fire management activities through future NRLG rounds.

Eligible applicants

To be eligible, applicants **must**:

- Be a current nature refuge landholder as noted on the property title.
- Have successfully acquitted all Nature Refuges Program/Private Protected Area Program funding previously received for that nature refuge (e.g. NRLG, NatureAssist, Koala Nature Refuge Program) or any current funding is on schedule as per the terms and conditions of the Grant Deed.
- Engage the services of a suitably qualified consultant or contractor to develop the fire management plan.
- Provide evidence of your current public liability insurance cover or provide evidence of public liability insurance held by the nominated consultant or contractor.
- Clearly demonstrate their capacity to manage the project and deliver fire management outcomes into the future.
- Clearly demonstrate their capacity to administer any funding provided by the State.

Grant conditions

Successful applicants will be subject to the following **conditions**:

- The applicant **must** enter into a Grant Deed with the Department of Environment and Science (DES), which outlines the Terms and Conditions for the funding received.
- The applicant **must** return the signed Grant Deed within **four weeks** of the date-of-issue on the grant package or the funding offer will be withdrawn.
- The applicant **must** complete the fire management plan within **four months** of DES executing the Grant Deed (this is the Project Completion Date) unless written approval for a project variation has been obtained from DES.
- The applicant **must** submit a Completion Report within one month of the Project Completion Date.
- Funding will be released in **two instalments**; 75% upon execution of the Grant Deed by DES, and the remaining 25% when the Completion Report is received and approved by DES.
- Tax invoices or other evidence of expenditure **must** be provided with the Completion Report as evidence of all grant expenditure.
- The applicant **must** use grant funds for the purpose for which the funds were awarded, and according to the Grant Deed, unless written approval has been obtained from DES.



- The applicant **must** allow DES officers to use information/images relating to the project e.g. for promotional materials. Applicants will be consulted before images are used for promotional purposes.

Funding (GST exclusive)

NRLG Fire Management Planning funding will be offered up to a maximum amount of \$5,000. **Please note funding is provided as a GST exclusive amount.**

If the applicant is **not** a GST registered ABN holder, DES cannot pass on the GST component of project costs and the applicant will need to cover the GST component.

If the applicant is GST registered, DES will automatically pass on the GST component of project costs.

Contribution by landholders

There is no requirement for landholders to provide a matching contribution for this one-off Fire Management Planning Grant round.

Timeframes

- It is expected that applications will be assessed within four weeks of the close of the application period stipulated by DES.
- The initial 75% payment of grant funds will be made available to successful applicants within 3 weeks of the department's execution of the Grant Deed.

Application requirements

To be eligible for consideration, all applications **must**:

- Be for a fire management plan that is consistent with your conservation agreement (noting that additional permits and approvals may be required under legislation to undertake the works identified in the fire management plan).
- Include the funding amount you are requesting. This should not exceed the amount quoted by your chosen professional.
- Include a quote from a suitably qualified consultant/contractor for a customised fire management plan. A copy of the quote must be attached to the online application.
- Include a copy of your Certificate of Currency as proof of public liability insurance OR a copy of your consultant's current public liability insurance.

How applications will be assessed

- No late applications will be accepted.
- Applications will be assessed by a departmental DES panel, and may involve a site visit to confirm suitability if required.
- All applicants will be notified by DES of the outcome of their applications.
- Stronger weighting will be given to projects that:
 - build bushfire resilience by increasing knowledge (including First Nations fire management practices) and opportunities for ecological burning to reduce impacts and risks of bushfires on the nature refuge;
 - offer value for money; and
 - demonstrate an ability to deliver project objectives on time and maintain the project outcomes in future years.

Eligible activities

Landholders can apply for assistance for the development of a **fire management plan** that:

- Identifies the location of any existing or proposed fire management lines and describes how they'll achieve their intended purpose;
- Provides alternative methods for reducing property risk, e.g. siting of infrastructure, land management practices, and/or rehabilitation of degraded areas; and
- Describes the appropriate prescribed burning regime;
 - e.g. maintenance of existing fire access tracks or development of new ones (contact your local Private Protected Area Program officer to ensure this activity is permitted in your conservation agreement)
 - e.g. programmed fuel reduction and ecological burns (ensure permits in place and observe current fire notifications).

Ineligible activities

The Fire Management Planning Grant is **not available** for activities that:

- Involve on-ground works or implementation of the fire management plan. **Note: implementation of the fire management plan would be eligible under future rounds of the Nature Refuge Landholder Grant (NRLG).**
- Cannot demonstrate a clear environmental benefit to the nature refuge.
- Are not permitted under the conservation agreement for the nature refuge.
- Are a condition of a Development Approval, Rehabilitation Order or an offset requirement under a government offset policy.

Eligible costs

Costs **eligible** for Fire Management Planning Grant funding include:

- Fees for engagement of suitably experienced and qualified consultants and/or contractors with an ABN.

Ineligible costs

Costs **ineligible** for Fire Management Planning Grant funding include:

- Your own labour or labour provided by friends, neighbours or relatives.
- Reimbursement of works that were commenced or completed prior to the submission of the funding application.

Privacy statement

The department is collecting personal information in the application for the Fire Management Planning Grant to assess your application for funding and prepare a grant deed, should your application be successful.

All personal information you provide in the application form, including all attachments, will be routinely provided to the following parties for assessing the application:

- other Queensland Government agencies;
- external assessment panel members.

Where necessary, information contained in your application may also be provided to the Queensland Minister for Environment and Science and the Minister's office for reporting purposes (except for that information which relates to the department's confidentiality obligations).

The department will seek your consent for any uses or disclosures outside of these specific terms.

If your application is successful, the following information will be routinely published on the Queensland Government's website:

- your organisation's name
- total amount of funding allocated
- project name, location and description.

Your grant application and associated documentation is subject to the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

If you wish to access your personal information that is in the control of the department, contact the department's [Right to Information Services unit](mailto:rtiservices@des.qld.gov.au) by email rtiservices@des.qld.gov.au

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the privacy of your personal information, please contact the department's Privacy Services unit by email privacy@des.qld.gov.au

Contact details

To discuss project suitability, please contact grantsadministration@des.qld.gov.au or 3330 6360.