

Landcare and Community Programs Volunteering and Grants Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Frequently Asked Questions – 18 June 2020 (Updated)

We know your environmental volunteering work means a lot to you, as it does to us too, and while we are seeing easing of restrictions, there is still a need to have a heightened and continued level of awareness to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) while participating in volunteer activities.

What all Victorians are asked to keep doing includes:

- Practice good hygiene
- Maintain physical distancing, keep at least 1.5 metres away from others
- Understand the risk and symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Help continue to slow the spread by getting tested, even if you have mild symptoms
- Stay home and avoid contact if you're feeling unwell
- Take care wherever you go

Official information and advice about coronavirus (COVID-19) is available at vic.gov.au/coronavirus. Volunteers should check this website regularly as advice and directions will continue to be updated.

To ensure your volunteering activities are as safe and enjoyable as possible please also consider the following tips:

- Contact your local land manager if you're volunteering on public land and ensure you comply with their requirements
- Ensure you have an updated safety plan for your group or the particular activity before you begin
- Check in and out at the beginning and end of each volunteering activity
- Collect an attendance record on site with name and phone numbers of volunteers
- If using equipment remember to clean it before and after your activity
- Bring your own – hand sanitizer, gloves, tools, refreshments

Your safety and wellbeing are paramount. We are appreciative of your continued patience and your ongoing commitment to Landcare and environmental volunteering.

Landcare and Community Programs – Funded Projects

General Guidance

We anticipate that the delivery of some of your funded grants projects will be affected or delayed due to the current public health measures and that is ok. Please follow public health measures and directions. Rest assured that we will provide flexibility around grant project due dates where required.

Landcare and Community Programs Grant Rounds

Biodiversity On-ground Action Tranche 1 - Hubs and Iconic Species Projects

Hubs and Iconic Species projects have been going since 2017 and should be nearing completion. Final reporting has been extended to 31 July 2020 for those who need it. Please ensure you submit your final report by that date. Please contact enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au if you have any queries regarding this.

Biodiversity On-ground Action Tranche 1 - Community and Volunteer Action Grants

2017 - Final reporting has been extended to 22 June 2020 for those who need it. Please ensure you submit your final report by that date. Please contact enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au if you have any queries regarding this.

2018 - these projects are due for completion in 2021, but we will consider time extensions and flexibility. Please contact enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au if you have any queries regarding this.

Biodiversity On-ground Action Tranche 1 – Traditional Owner and Aboriginal Victorian Grants

All Traditional Owner and Aboriginal Victorian projects funded should already be completed and a final report returned, unless an extension has previously been agreed with DELWP. If you have not submitted your final report or received an extension, please contact enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants (WRG) and Wildlife Rehabilitator Bushfire Grants (WRBG)

2019/20 - WRG final reports are due 31 July 2020. Please contact enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au if you have any queries regarding this.

2019/20 - WRBG program is due to end on 30 April 2020 and no extension to the program is possible. Final reports are not required for these grants.

Victorian Landcare Grants (VLG)

2019/20 – VLG projects are funded through your local Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and are due for completion by 30 November 2020. An extension of up to six months is available for those who require it, and variations to projects can be made to activities that are within the scope of the VLG guidelines. Please contact your Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) at your CMA if you need a variation.

2020/21 – Due to the delay in the Victorian State budget until October the 2020/21, VLG has been delayed.

We have finished all the work for our grant but haven't submitted a final report yet. What should we do?

Now is a good time to catch up on paperwork and ensure your reporting requirements are up to date. The Community Programs team are in the process of preparing final report acquittal templates for relevant programs and they will be forwarded to you soon. Once released and you have finished your project, you can submit your report, even if it is not due yet.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

We are supposed to deliver a community engagement or education event as part of our grant. What should we do?

You have two options – you may like to hold your event online, or you may prefer to request an extension to hold your event when public health directions are lifted, and face-to-face engagement can occur.

If you would like to try an online event feel free to contact your local Landcare Facilitator, and we will also assist you as much as we can.

Landcare and Community Programs Contact Details

The Landcare and Community Programs team at DELWP remains fully operational (and working remotely). Don't hesitate to contact your Regional Landcare Coordinator (see link below), local Landcare Facilitator, or email us if you have any questions or concerns.

- DELWP's Victorian Landcare Program staff – landcare@delwp.vic.gov.au and your email will be sent onto the appropriate staff member.
- Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) contacts – go to [RLC contacts on Victorian Landcare Gateway](#).
- DELWP's Community Programs and grant staff – enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au.

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