

# Wildlife Recovery Fund Grants Program

Application Guidelines 2020/2021



# Overview

The summer bushfire caused devastation across South Australia. Nature Foundation and the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service joined forces to create the Wildlife Recovery Fund. The Fund takes a long-term strategic approach to re-establish critical habitat and undertake priority recovery actions in South Australia, particularly for threatened and vulnerable species. It has attracted wonderfully generous donations large and small from across Australia and overseas.

The Wildlife Recovery Fund Grants program (the Grants program) will support individuals, community groups and other organisations to undertake projects aimed at promoting the medium to long term recovery and increasing resilience of fire impacted habitats, native flora and fauna (particularly threatened species) in South Australia.

## Key dates

**Applications open –**  
Friday 15 May 2020

**Applications close –**  
5pm ACST Friday 12 June 2020

**Assessment period –**  
June 2020

**Successful applicants announced –**  
July 2020

## What is the Wildlife Recovery Fund Grants Program?

The Wildlife Recovery Fund (the Fund) was established by Nature Foundation and the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service in response to the significant impacts to wildlife and habitat across multiple fires in South Australia in late 2019 and early 2020. Approximately 285,000 ha were burnt across the State, with the most damaging fires occurring in the Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island, South East, Yorke Peninsula, and Eyre Peninsula.

The Fund is aimed at a medium to long-term strategic approach to re-establish critical habitat and undertake priority recovery actions for native flora and fauna species in fire impacted areas of South Australia (particularly threatened species).

The Grants Program is funded through wonderfully generous donations to the Wildlife Recovery Fund. Donations to the Fund are tax-deductible and are held by Nature Foundation which is a registered charity. Through the Grants Program funds will be targeted to activities which will provide the greatest benefit to native flora and fauna species (particularly threatened species) and their habitats affected by the fires.

The Grants program has the following objectives:

- Re-establishment of critical habitat and/or protection of remaining refuge habitat of fire impacted flora and fauna (particularly threatened species).
- Recovery of populations or protection of remaining populations of fire impacted flora and fauna (particularly threatened species).
- Increased body of knowledge regarding recovery of fire impacted habitat, flora and fauna (particularly threatened species).

## What can the grants be used for?

Funding is available for a variety of activities which promote recovery, protection and increased resilience of fire impacted habitat and native flora and fauna (particularly threatened species) in South Australia.

Projects must be undertaken either on fire impacted land or for the benefit of fire impacted habitat, native flora and fauna (particularly threatened species) in South Australia.

Activities may include but are not limited to:

- Restoration and/or rehabilitation of native vegetation (e.g. pest plant and animal control, revegetation and linking of existing native vegetation).
- Conservation or provision of potential habitat/refuges for fire impacted flora and fauna (particularly threatened species) (e.g. fencing or rehabilitation of sites that may be used for translocation).

- Removal or management of recognised threats to fire impacted flora and fauna (particularly threatened species) (e.g. pest plant and animal control, fencing, and disease management).
- Catchment management and protection of riparian and aquatic ecosystems (e.g. management of soil erosion, water quality, fencing).
- Increased scientific knowledge through investigations and/or monitoring (e.g. survey and impact assessment, camera traps, animal tracking).
- Re-wilding and/or translocations (note: translocations, ex-situ breeding, placement of nest boxes etc. require permits and will require discussion with DEW regarding permit requirements).

**Note:** Other activities or specific expenditure may be eligible where it supports achievement of the grants program objectives. If you are unsure about the eligibility of your proposed project or activities, please contact the grants advice number at the end of these guidelines.

## What can't the grants be used for?

- Projects, works or activities already funded by existing or future insurance claims, unless funding through the Wildlife Recovery Grants Program would provide for additional enhancement of a project that is already funded.
- Activities that are causing or likely to cause environmental damage, either directly or indirectly.
- Reimbursement for personal labour costs.
- Property boundary fencing.
- Preparation of the grant application.
- Purchase of larger machinery, plant, and equipment.
- Retrospective funding of activities.
- Project management and administration costs of the applicant's sponsor organisation (payee).
- Existing debts or shortfalls.
- Marketing and promotion of the organisation or existing services (unless directly associated with the project and educational in nature).
- Activities that are unlawful.

**Note:** Other activities or specific expenditure may be ineligible where it does not directly support the achievement of the grants program outcomes or where it is contrary to the spirit and intention of the grant funding. If you are unsure about the eligibility of your proposed project or activities, please contact the grants advice number at the end of these guidelines.

## How much can be applied for and who can apply?

**Table 1:** Describes the level of funding, who can apply and reporting requirements for each of the three tiers of funding available.

Level	Funding available	Who can apply?	Reporting requirements
<b>Tier 1</b>	\$1,000 to \$5,000	Landholders (landowners and/or lessees/land managers), groups of landholders, farmers, community groups, schools, not-for-profits, research institutions, and Regional Landscapes Boards.	Reporting frequency: End of project only  Must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• photographs of activities and outcomes</li> <li>• 1-page description of outcomes and stakeholders involved</li> <li>• financial acquittal</li> </ul>

<b>Tier 2</b>	\$5,000 to \$20,000	Landholders (landowners and/or lessees/land managers), groups of landholders, farmers, Community groups, schools, not-for-profits, and bodies such as Regional Landscapes Boards.	Reporting frequency: Mid-term and end of project  Must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• photographs of activities and outcomes</li> <li>• final financial acquittal</li> <li>• completion of other agreed monitoring and reporting requirements as per grant agreement</li> </ul>
<b>Tier 3</b>	\$20,000 to \$50,000	Relevant community groups, schools, not-for-profits, research institutions, Regional Landscapes Boards, or other organisations with a current ABN, or individuals or organisations which are sponsored by an organisation with a current ABN, and which are proposing to undertake eligible activities.	Reporting frequency: 6 monthly and end of project  Must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• financial reporting against agreed budget</li> <li>• photographs of activities and outcomes</li> <li>• final financial acquittal</li> <li>• completion of other agreed monitoring and reporting requirements as per grant agreement</li> </ul>

Commonwealth and State Government agencies are not eligible for funding from the Wildlife Recovery Fund.

## When do projects need to be completed?

Tier 1 funding will be paid 100% upfront, with proof of project completion required by 30 June 2021 and full grant expenditure required by no later than 30 June 2021.

Tier 2 and Tier 3 funding may be granted to multiple year projects (e.g. 2-3 years), however funding under these tiers will be paid in instalments according to milestones and subject to satisfactory reporting as agreed to by the applicant and Nature Foundation.

## What is the assessment process?

Grants program applications will be assessed by a grant assessment panel of suitably qualified staff from the Nature Foundation and the Department for Environment and Water on behalf of the South Australian National parks and Wildlife Service. Grants will be approved by the Nature Foundation Board.

While an application may meet the assessment criteria, this does not guarantee that a grant will be awarded, and successful applicants may not receive funding to the full amount requested.

Priority will be given to projects that:

### Tier 1, 2 and 3

- Detail how they will specifically contribute to achieving the Wildlife Recovery Fund Grants Program objectives (projects aimed at achieving multiple objectives may be given preference).
- Demonstrate linkages to post-fire recovery planning, and benefit flora and fauna (particularly threatened species) and habitat that have been impacted by fires.

- Leverage other funding sources or provide in-kind funding (e.g. fencing funded privately combined with a Wildlife Recovery Fund grant for tube stock, tree guards and weed control).

### **Tier 2 and 3**

- Have a sound scientific basis and/or will contribute to an improved scientific understanding of fire impacts on flora and fauna (particularly threatened species).
- Provide a high level of value for money based on the scale and impact of the project.
- Encourage Aboriginal engagement in the project and activities.
- Include clear timelines, milestones, and management of potential risks for the proposed project.
- Utilise strategic partnerships and collaborations.
- Demonstrate monitoring and evaluation of the project outcomes will be undertaken.

The assessment panel may work with applicants to refine project design, partnerships, scope, and scale before entering into a grant agreement. All applicants will be formally advised on the outcome of their application in writing. Verbal feedback will be provided to unsuccessful grant applicants upon request. Funding decisions are final and cannot be appealed. Nature Foundation reserves all rights to issuing grants and the total number and value of grants will be at the discretion of Nature Foundation.

## **Conditions of funding**

Successful applicants will enter into a grant agreement which may (depending upon the level of the grant) outline:

- key outcomes of project;
- project and grant payment milestones;
- monitoring and reporting requirements;
- data sharing agreement;
- acknowledgement of grant in any media/promotional materials;
- sharing of any media/promotional opportunities;
- process for any project variation and/or extension requests;
- responsibility for public liability insurance; and
- any other terms and conditions as deemed appropriate.

Projects must be completed within the timeline specified in the grant agreement.

Where an applicant is not the landholder, each project must provide a written statement from the landowner of the land on which the project is undertaken where the landowner agrees to the project and takes responsibility for any assets created by a project, including all ongoing operational and maintenance costs beyond the grant timeframe.

Any media or promotional opportunities should be offered to all project partners, including Nature Foundation and the Department for Environment and Water.

All grant agreement variations and/or time extensions must be formally approved in writing by Nature Foundation.

### **Unused Funds**

Any unused grant funds must be returned to the Wildlife Recovery Fund in accordance with the grant agreement.

## **Monitoring and Reporting Requirements**

Reporting on project progress will be required as specified by individual grant agreements until the project is completed. The scale of reporting required will be commensurate with the amount of funding awarded to each project and any milestones agreed to by the applicant and Nature Foundation (see Table 1 above).

All grant recipients will be required to submit a final report outlining outcomes and financial acquittal of funds within 30 business days from the date of project completion. The final report is to be accompanied by any data or outputs created and/or evidence of project completion (such as images).

Project information and data sharing will be agreed to by the applicant and Nature Foundation, commensurate with the amount of funding awarded and the complexity of the works involved in each individual project.

Efforts will be made to ensure consistency with data collection methods to build on long-term data sets.

## Further Information or Assistance

If you would like further general assistance or information about the Wildlife Recovery Fund Grants Program, please contact the WRF Grants Officer on 0481 560 415 or [WRFGrants@nfsa.org.au](mailto:WRFGrants@nfsa.org.au)

If you are completing an application and would like technical advice relating to working with threatened species, including legislative requirements and alignment to other existing projects, please contact your relevant Regional Landscapes Board, local environmental champions, and not-for-profit groups (e.g. Landcare).

Please note that the Wildlife Recovery Fund Grants Officer is a part-time position. Administration of the WRF Grants Program is provided through in-kind support from Nature Foundation and the Department for Environment and Water.

For more information about Nature Foundation and the Wildlife Recovery Fund, please visit [www.naturefoundation.org.au/wildliferecoveryfund](http://www.naturefoundation.org.au/wildliferecoveryfund).

