

Nature-led Community Recovery Grants



About the grant program

North Central CMA is providing Flood Recovery Grants of up to \$10,000 to boost community driven flood recovery projects across the region.

The grants, through the Nature-led Community Recovery Program, aim to support the recovery of our region's waterway biodiversity and communities recovering from the Victorian 2023-24 storms and flooding.

Grants are available for projects that deliver on-ground action for recovering wildlife and habitats as well as educational or arts programs connecting environmental recovery with human recovery.

The total funding available for this program is \$40,000.

Objectives

This funding supports recovery in communities affected by the 2023–2024 storms and floods by fostering connection to nature. Through meaningful, nature-based activities aligned with biodiversity conservation, it enables people to witness and participate in the healing of both community and environment.

Activities could contribute to:

- Improved community understanding of succession and threats to natural recovery.
- People contributing to meaningful, effective actions to support local, place-based natural values recovery.
- Increased visitation and boost to regional economies in flood-affected areas through volunteering opportunities.
- Improved advocacy for nature by all Victorians.
- People's recovery along with their environment's recovery.

Applicants can apply for grants up to \$10,000

Examples of projects that could be supported include:

- A local community hub/group wishing to advance a project to protect native species or environments: creating artwork to raise awareness or sponsoring a specific activity to reduce threats (nest boxes, fencing, captive release, insurance population, etc.).
- A local community wishing to restore spaces for individual reflection, connection, and appreciation of native wildlife or natural environments.
- A local group wanting to establish meaningful citizen science to track the recovery of local species and share the results with the wider community.

Grants cannot be used for:

- Offsetting of salaries, operating costs for existing staff or contractors. Passing on funding to a third party in the form of sponsorship or grant.
- Feasibility studies, business plans, cost-benefit analysis and economic impact studies.
- Projects that may have a negative impact on existing businesses/services.
- Retrospective funding for projects that have commenced activity.

Eligibility

To be eligible, an organisation must be:

- A community, not for profit or Aboriginal organisation that is an incorporated legal entity under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), or the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2001 (Vic), or the Corporation (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth)

And you must have:

- A current Australian Business Number (ABN)
- No outstanding final reports or final reports required for any previous government grant programs

We strongly encourage applications from:

- New and emerging community organisations
- Not for profit community organisations
- Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, and
- Local organisations that are based in flood impacted areas

How to Apply

EOI's are open until **Monday 6th October 2025 at 5pm**.

EOI's received during the application period are assessed by a panel of 3 or 5 people within 7 days of the closing date.

All applications for Nature-led Community Recovery grants are to be submitted online, by clicking [here](#) or scanning the below QR code:



Timeline

- [EOIs](#) close on **Monday 6 October 2025**.
- Selected EOIs applicants will be notified by Friday 10 October 2025 and must provide a detailed grant submission.
- Projects must be completed by 1 May 2026.

For more information

Telephone 03 5448 7124 or visit www.nccma.vic.gov.au



FUNDING GUIDELINES:

Flood Recovery Grants for Nature-led Recovery

Background

The Victorian storms and floods in late 2023 and early 2024 were unprecedented in intensity and devastation, resulting in significant damage across the state, particularly in central and eastern Victoria. These floodwaters affected over a third of Victoria's municipalities, leaving significant impacts on communities, businesses, and the environment.

The floods were exceptional in size and impact. It is recognised that under climate change we are entering a 'new world' in terms of the scale and complexity of managing flood impacts on biodiversity.

The 2023-24 storms and floods were also exceptional in the response by the community to the impacts on biodiversity. The floods have triggered an extraordinary response. As individuals and communities attempt to comprehend the extent, severity, and enormity of the impact of the floods, many people in flood affected communities, have strong desires to restore the waterways. However, many people don't know how, where, or the best actions to take, and some current ad hoc actions may even be damaging and potentially divide communities.

Eligibility cont. from previous page.

Auspice Organisations

Auspice organisations can support unlimited applications from lead applicants.

If your organisation is not incorporated or does not have an ABN, you may still apply if you are supported by an eligible auspice organisation that has agreed to manage the grant for you.

An auspice arrangement is when a larger organisation assists a smaller organisation to fund a grant activity.

The larger organisation is known as the auspice organisation. Your community group or organisation is known as the grant recipient.

The following are examples of organisations that can auspice a smaller group or partner in an application but cannot apply as the lead applicant:

- Local councils
- Preschools, TAFE institutes, and universities

Who cannot apply?

- State and federal government departments and agencies
- Individuals and sole traders
- Unincorporated community organisations
- Commercial enterprises
- Fixed trusts
- Local councils, including council managed, operated, administered and regulated trusts (can act as an auspice)
- Commercial enterprises are not eligible to apply for a grant alone (they can partner with an organisation as a sponsor and only provide contributions)

Selection Criteria

Purpose

Applicants must provide an explanation of how their project will deliver direct benefit to a flood affected community and supports one or more of the of the Nature-led Community Recovery objectives.

Community Participation

Applicants must demonstrate how the project will:

- Be used by the community
- Be accessible to the community
- Be promoted to the community. Please note, 'word of mouth' is not a valid promotion type.

Location

Applicants must demonstrate that their project is in an area impacted by the 2023-24 Victorian storms and floods, specifically in the North Central region.

Budget

Applicants must provide simple evidence to show that:

- Costs of are accurate and reasonable
- Include any in kind or co-contribution funding support

For more information

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Funding Agreements, Reporting, and Acknowledgement

A selection of EOI applicants will be asked to provide a detailed application. Compliant applications approved for funding will enter into a Grant Agreement with North Central Catchment Management Authority.

The Grant Agreement will outline:

- The grant's terms and conditions, including use of funds
- Key deliverables and due dates, and
- Reporting requirements

Organisations that are successful in receiving funding will have 30 days to enter into a CMA grants agreement. If a grant offer is not accepted during this period, the grant may be withdrawn.

Reporting

Organisations will be required to provide a short report on the funded activity and can submit their final report online/via email and must submit their final report on time.

Acknowledgement Guidelines

A condition of Nature-led Community Recovery Program grants is that grant recipients must agree to follow guidelines for acknowledging the government's funding. A breach of these guidelines is considered a breach of your funding agreement with North Central CMA.

Privacy

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) respects privacy and is committed to complying with the *Victorian Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

In the course of conducting its normal business activities North Central CMA only uses private information which is lawfully obtained and necessary for carrying out the Authority's functions. We do not collect unnecessary personal information.

You can read more about our privacy policy on our website www.nccma.vic.gov.au/privacy/

Further information

For further information or if you have questions please email charlotte.webb@nccma.vic.gov.au

For more information

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