

Updated February 2020

Environment Levy Partnerships

Guidelines

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with council's [Community Grants Policy](#) and [Environment Levy Policy](#). You can view these documents at www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Sunshine Coast Council has a strong history of partnering with the community to achieve the environmental goals set out in council's strategies, plans and policy positions, including:

- **Environment & Liveability Strategy 2017**
- **Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan 2017.**

The Environment Levy Partnerships funding program provides up to three-year funding towards operational expenses to not-for-profit community organisations whose operations or services contribute to the enhancement and protection of the Sunshine Coast environment, and whose activities are closely aligned to council's vision for the future as described in the Corporate Plan 2017 - 2021.

The inclusion of an Expression of Interest (EOI) period provides the opportunity to develop collaborative partnerships with agreed outcomes for natural resource management of the region.

The delivery of the Environment Levy Partnerships funding program is subject to annual budget allocations.

Eligibility

Who can apply?

Not-for-profit community organisations who meet all of the following criteria:

- are solely based and operate within the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area or are able to demonstrate that the program will benefit residents and environment of the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area
- are able to demonstrate viability
- are willing to participate with council in defining mutually agreed partnership deliverables, measures and reporting requirements
- have no debt to council, or have entered into scheduled payment arrangements with council which are being adhered to
- have met acquittal conditions for previous council grants
- are incorporated, or are an Australian Public Company-Limited by Guarantee
- have appropriate insurance and adhere to sound Workplace Health and Safety practices
- are working towards becoming self-sufficient

Note: Priority will be given to applications where council funding can be used to leverage funding from other tiers of government.



Who cannot apply?

- government agencies or departments of local, state or federal government
- educational, religious or medical organisations, where the application is for the organisation's core business
- businesses
- individuals
- organisations where the application is connected to political activities

What is eligible for funding?

Up to \$5,000 is available as a contribution to support the organisation's general administration and operational expenses. In some instances, part-funding may be offered.

Note: Applications for additional funding amounts can be made for other expenses. However, this will be subject to mutually agreed deliverables negotiated during discussions with council's Senior Conservation Partnerships Officer.

Application

The Environment Levy Partnerships application is a two stage process:

1. Discussions with council – Applicants must discuss their proposal with the Senior Conservation Partnerships Officer prior to submission of the online application form.
2. Online application form – following the discussions with council, applicants must complete an online application form.

Online application form

Applicants must use the online process to submit a valid application. Supporting documentation should also be uploaded to the online application.

If you are unable to upload your supporting documentation, it can be lodged at a council office, or posted, no later than 4.30pm on the closing date.

Assessment

Assessment is based on both general partnerships criteria and environment specific criteria.

General Partnerships Assessment Criteria

Applications are assessed on the following program priorities:

Council priorities

- strength of alignment with council's priorities as described in current council strategies, plans and policy positions
- evidence of working respectfully, positively and collaboratively with council and other partners

Community need and benefit

- demonstrate a clear and identified community need for the operations and services
- demonstrate lasting impact and broad community benefit
- proven positive engagement with the community

Planning and delivery

- demonstrate collaborative approach to delivering the operations or service
- a well-planned and achievable strategic, operational or business plan for delivery
- a clear evaluation process, which identifies what will be delivered and how it will be measured and reported to council



- met terms of any previous partnership funding agreements

Organisational capacity

Demonstrated capacity to deliver for the duration of the partnership with evidence of:

- sound financial management
- sustainable budgeting
- effective business planning processes
- risk assessment practices
- principles of good governance
- working towards or maintaining self-sufficiency

Budget

- realistic budget reflecting the partnership's scope and scale

Environment Specific Assessment Criteria

Applications must also:

- contribute to landscape and biodiversity protection and monitoring; rescue and/or rehabilitation of wildlife; or address major ecological threatening processes (e.g. rural & urban runoff, clearing of vegetation, pest management)
- promote waterways and catchment health, and reduce erosion and sediment runoff into waterways
- establish partnerships and links with council, external agencies and residents that improve the protection, restoration and/or management of the region's environment (particularly on lands adjoining or lying within the immediate vicinity of existing conservation areas, Land for Wildlife properties, conservation/vegetation protection covenants and Volunteer Conservation Agreement properties).

The Environment Levy Partnership funding program applications are assessed by panels, which include council staff with expertise in natural area management.

Panel recommendations for Environment Levy Partnerships are reported to council for endorsement.

Payment

Environment Levy Partnerships funds must be claimed within three months of notification, except where an extension has been granted.

In some instances, there may be specific funding conditions that need to be met before payment can be made.

Acknowledgment

As a condition of funding, successful applicants are required to actively and publicly acknowledge council's support. The level of acknowledgment is determined by the amount funded and outlined in the funding program agreement.

In addition, funding recipients must also ensure that council's positive reputation is maintained at all times.

Acquittal

All Environment Levy Partnerships funding must be acquitted annually by 31 August.

Organisations will not be considered for further funding from council where previous acquittal conditions have not been met.



Recipients of multiple-year Environment Levy Partnerships funding will receive yearly payments contingent on the satisfactory completion of a yearly progress report and acquittal and subject to council's annual budget allocations.

Applicant Support

For further information or help completing on-line applications, please contact council's grants team:

- (07) 5420 8616
- grants@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Note: Office hours are 8.30 am – 4.30 pm, Monday – Friday (excluding public holidays).

If you do not have your own computer, you can access a computer at any of council's libraries at no cost.

Please let us know if you have difficulty speaking English and we can organise an interpreter to assist you.

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Your Environment
Levy in action