

NORTH CENTRAL CMA

**Natural Disaster Environmental Recovery
Project**

Grant Guidelines and Applications 2011



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority

These Guidelines include:

- 1. A guide for individuals and groups completing the application form for financial assistance to undertake works to, repair flood damage to previously funded environmental improvement projects and capitalise on any environmental benefits from the floods.**
- 2. Funding application form.**

Applications *strictly* close: 5pm Monday 9 January 2012

For further information please contact:
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1. Overview of the Natural Disaster Environmental Recovery Project Grants

1.1 Introduction

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has received funding from the Australian Government for a Natural Disaster Environmental Recovery program to support the community to undertake environmental flood recovery works.

This funding has been provided for projects that:

- 1) Repair damage from the recent floods to previous environmental protection works such as revegetation or fencing
- 2) Protect or enhance environmental benefits from the floods such as natural regeneration.

The aim of the program is to support the community through Landcare and other groups to repair damage to sites of previous government investment programs, such as Envirofund, and to enhance current programs funded under the CFOC business plan. Throughout the region the floods will have affected communities to varying degrees. This program recognises that communities will have varying levels of capacity to deliver works and aims to support communities according to their needs.

Inline with the Caring for Our Country aims and the Australian Government's commitments to the environment the target area for works that are to enhance the environmental benefits from the floods should target the critically endangered White Box, Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodlands.

Proposals that correspond with the target area will be given a higher priority than proposals that do not.

1.2 Eligibility, Priority and Activities

These grants will be administered by North Central CMA and awarded to individuals or groups who's proposals best meet the criteria.

Individual applications may be made directly by landholders. Successful landholders will be required to fulfil all reporting requirements. Landholders will be responsible for obtaining quotes and engaging contractors where relevant.

Incorporated, insured, not-for-profit Landcare groups (or sub-groups of Landcare networks), community NRM groups or networks may submit applications if on behalf of more than one landholder. The group may assist landholders by developing applications, co-ordinating materials and/or contractors and fulfilling final reporting requirements. Groups will need the signed permission of all landholders where works will be undertaken including crown land (see application form).

Works that are eligible and funded through existing grants or subsidies, such as the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements administered by the North Central CMA will not be eligible for this funding.

There will be opportunities for works to address both negative and positive impacts of the floods. Grants will be assessed according to how well they deliver against the goals or targets of the project and the relative cost of delivering the outcome (or value for money).

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate the following:

- Cost effectiveness (ie. a maximum number of plants established or area treated per dollar of grant funds spent, low cost plants, direct seeding, low cost fencing or other efficiency measures, paid labour versus volunteer labour)

- Work within the target vegetation community
- Effectively address the negative OR the positive environmental impacts of the floods inline with the goals outlined
- Build community resilience to natural disaster such as floods
- Build ecosystem resilience across the region to withstand floods and other disturbances events

The project should address one of the goals as listed in the following table and can include one or more activity as listed or other appropriate activities.

Goals and possible on-ground activities to meet the goals are summarised in the table below.

Goals	Activity to achieve goals
Goal 1: To address negative impacts of floods To repair damage to existing government funded sites damaged by the recent flood and reinstate high biodiversity values	General site clean up, may include removal of flood debris, tip fees, etc
	Replanting, restoration and enhancement of native vegetation
	Reconstruction of wildlife corridors that create connectivity between isolated patches
	Restoration of fencing where the purpose of the fencing is stock exclusion or reduction of grazing pressure to important environmental areas
	Restoration of off stream watering stations which have been damaged by the floods
	Control of weeds that have been spread by the floods
	Control of pest animals that pose an increased threat to native vegetation because of the floods
	Control pest weeds and animals where these have been spread by the natural disaster.
Goal 2: To address positive impacts of floods To enhance regeneration and vegetation benefits created by floods, focused on sites where ground, mid and over story native vegetation has regenerated	Construction of fences that will protect significant native vegetation that has regenerated post floods
	Construction off-stream stock watering points where stock have been denied access to drinking water by the creation of fences that are designed to protect habitat, stream banks and water quality.
	Weed control efforts that focus on areas of native regeneration in an effort to improve success of native regeneration
	Pest animal control that focuses on areas of natural regeneration in an effort to improve success of native revegetation

1.3 The Grants Process

1.3.1 Timeframe and Ranking

The application period is now open and will close at **5pm Monday 9 January 2012**.

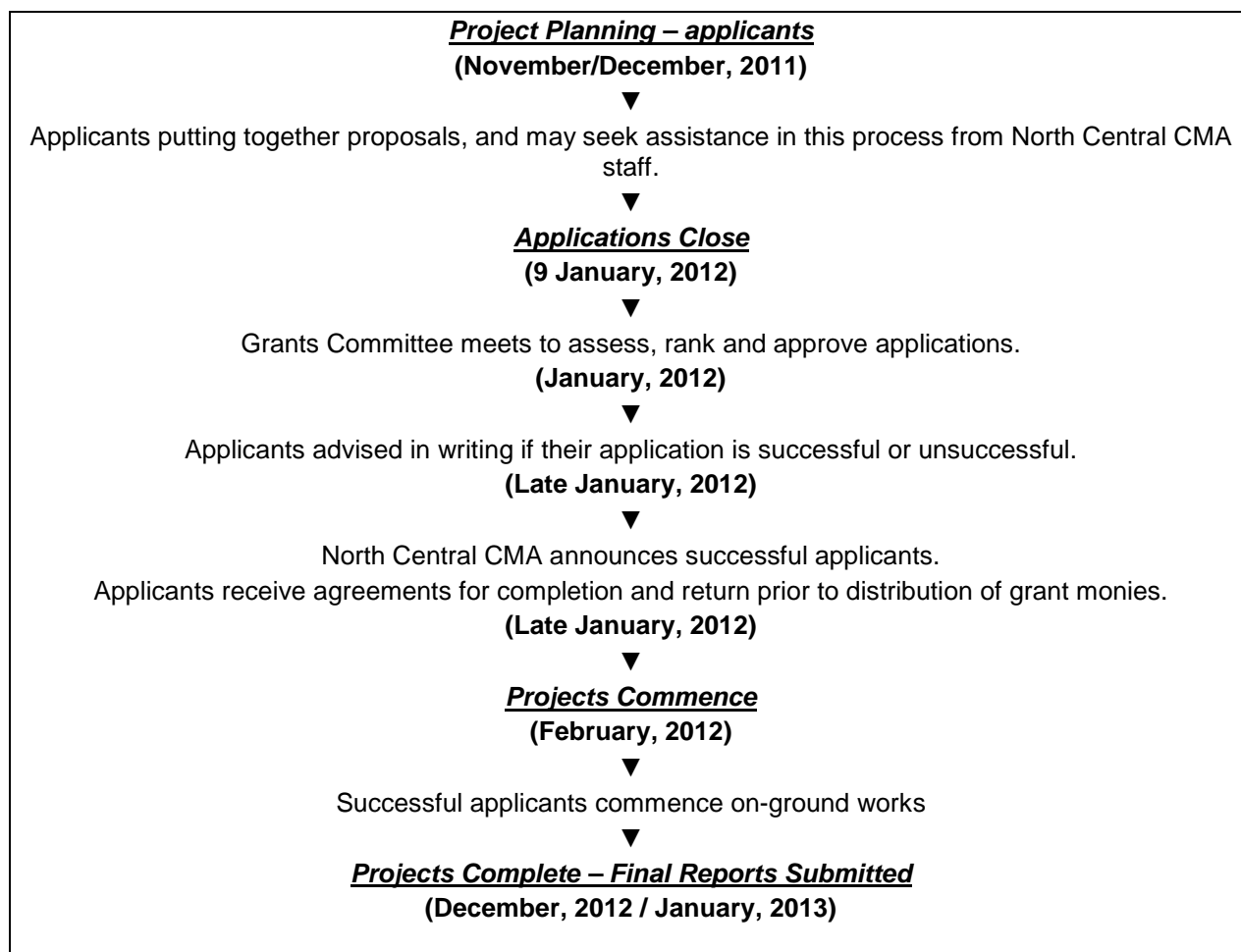
Following the closing date, applications will be assessed and ranked by a Grants Committee comprising North Central CMA board members, Natural Resource Management Committee (Community) members, technical experts and North Central CMA staff to ensure that applications are assessed equitably, are feasible and adhere to best-practice management principles and contribute maximum value to the Australian Government's Caring for our Country priorities.

The North Central CMA Grants Panel will approve successful applications. All applicants, successful or unsuccessful, will be notified in writing by the North Central CMA. An agreement form will accompany the letter to successful applicants asking applicants (and the landholder where applicable) to sign, date and return to the North Central CMA. Failure to return this form in a timely manner may result in the funding being re-allocated. Upon receipt of the signed agreement form, the relevant funds will be paid via electronic funds transfer so that the on-ground works can commence.

All works will need to be mapped and recorded; the Agreement will contain detail of how this is to be completed. As projects are completed, data will be verified and will form a vital part of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting process.

Projects must be capable of completion, including submission of a Final Report, by January 2013.

Timeline



1.3.2 Reporting

Individuals and groups receiving a Natural Disaster Environmental Recovery Project grant will be required to lodge a **final report as soon as the project has been completed**. The final report will confirm the achievement of agreed activities and outputs. This should include maps, spatial information and GPS coordinates for any on-ground works undertaken, as well as a minimum of two before and after photographs from a designated photo point. For revegetation projects, actual species lists and quantities will be required. If your project is successfully funded, we will advise you at the time of funding what information is required to enable you to complete the final report.

The final report **must** be lodged with the North Central CMA by **January 25th, 2013**. This process allows the North Central CMA to fulfil its obligations to report to the Australian Government investors. If the North Central CMA is unable to report on your project, it will jeopardise the ability to obtain future funding for individuals and community groups.

If the obligations and responsibilities are not reasonably met to the satisfaction of the Authority, the Authority may terminate the agreement and require the Landholder to refund/return to the Authority the funding amount/works/materials provided by the Authority to the Landholder under the agreement.

Project variations or extensions may only be given with prior written approval from the North Central CMA.

2. Guide for Applicants

2.1 General Criteria

Grants are available to landholders or incorporated, insured, not-for-profit community groups (or groups sponsored by an incorporated organisation) that are primarily involved in natural resource management. 'Community groups' include Landcare, Committees of Management, 'Friends of' groups, Indigenous Communities, or Field Naturalists/Plant groups. Applicants must have public liability insurance of at least \$10M, or be hosted under the auspices of a group or network that carries such insurance. If your group is not insured, go to www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/for-groups/insurance or contact the Farm Tree and Landcare Association (FTLA) for information about insurance for groups:

Contact: Susi Johnson
Phone: (03) 9207 5527
Fax: (03) 92075500
Email: sjohnson@vff.org.au

2.1.1 Standard rates for budget items and in-kind contributions

Communities will not be expected to match all successful funding with in-kind contributions, however in-kind contributions will make the proposal more cost effective and priority will be given to projects that can show value for money.

The following indicative costing should be used (all figures are exclusive of GST):

- Fencing materials – up to \$7 per metre for all materials and labour. See fencing standards in Appendix A.
- Tube stock – up to \$1.10* per plant
- Guards – up to \$1.60 depending on type of guard (please specify type)
- Revegetation labour – \$1.50* per plant including guard installation (note commercial rates for revegetation can vary according to the ground conditions, site preparation and type of plant guard.)
- Direct seeding labour – \$25 per hour

- Other items not listed here will be considered in terms of cost effectiveness. Cost effectiveness will affect the ranking of an application.

**Should costs be higher, please provide an explanation*

Where you are proposing to use a contractor then please attach copies of written quotations for contractor services

The following is a guide to assist in calculating the labour hours associated with project activities:

- Planting: approximately 80 plants per person per day on flat terrain with mattocks and hand watering (without ripping)
- Fencing: approximately one kilometre of plain or hinge joint wire (not including end assemblies or gates) per team of two or three people per day

Note: These figures are intended as a guide only; labour hours will vary depending on factors such as equipment, skill level, terrain etc.

2.2 Standard Activity Guidelines

Fencing:

Applications can include fencing costs where the works protect and improve remnant vegetation, or where fences previously installed to protect native vegetation were damaged by the floods. The applicant must erect and maintain adequate fencing in accordance with fencing minimum standards to ensure the exclusion of domestic stock (Appendix A). Boundary fencing will generally not be funded.

Vegetation:

The following must be considered (where applicable) in regard to vegetation projects:

- Ensure existing vegetation communities are not adversely impacted upon. Grazing exclusion may be sufficient to facilitate natural recovery.
- Projects must use indigenous (naturally occurring in the area) species – both plants and seed.
- Species used must include a range of understorey/groundcover species in addition to overstorey species where appropriate.
- Ongoing monitoring and management of projects is essential. A vegetation assessment of the site and photo monitoring should be undertaken at the beginning and completion of the project.
- To be successful, applications should demonstrate that pest plant and pest animal issues have been considered.

Ensure that your application is realistic and within your capacity, taking into account time constraints and ongoing management.

If existing native vegetation species might be affected by your proposal, check with your local council first to see whether you need a permit or if there are other restrictions/requirements.

Be aware that native fauna may be involved in your project works area. Contact your local Department of Sustainability and Environment office for advice.

Weed Control:

Applications can only apply for funding to control weeds where there is a direct relationship to flood impacts.

A weed's contribution to habitat needs to be considered in order to determine appropriate treatment. For example Boxthorn, Gorse and Blackberry are often used as nesting sites or protective cover for native birds. In these cases, staged removal and/or stem injection (and left in place) is preferred, and could be

planned over a number of consecutive projects. At the very least, in most cases involving woody weed removal, applicants are advised that applications should include an allowance for the cost of revegetation, and specify the revegetation proposed.

Rabbit control:

If deemed appropriate, funding assistance will be available the cost of plant hire for warren and harbour destruction activities where biodiversity benefits can be clearly demonstrated and the cost of registered pest controllers to undertake baiting activities.

Aboriginal Cultural Significance:

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* has placed greater emphasis on the protection of Indigenous cultural heritage sites. Cultural heritage must be taken into account when planning projects that will disturb the earth (e.g. activities like ripping) and in areas of cultural sensitivity. It is an offence to conduct act that will harm, or is likely to harm Aboriginal heritage, except in accordance with a cultural heritage permit or an approved cultural heritage management plan.

To find out if your planned project site is within an area of cultural sensitivity you can:

- Look at the Cultural Resource Management Map on the Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) website to see if your project site is within an area of cultural heritage sensitivity. To do this, go to www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au. Click on [Aboriginal Cultural Heritage](#) for general information about cultural heritage. Click on [Heritage Tools](#) for maps and assessment tools.
- Contact the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Registry (VAHR) at AAV directly – call 1800 762 003 or email vahr@dpcd.vic.gov.au or post to PO BOX 2392, Melbourne VIC 3001.

Note: Fencing is considered ‘minor works’ under the Act and does not trigger the need for a cultural heritage management plan unless it will harm, or is likely to harm Aboriginal heritage.

If your project **is** in an area of cultural sensitivity, you must contact North Central CMA’s Indigenous Facilitator Bambi Lees or AAV or to find out what to do.

If you are unsure about this process please contact North Central CMA’s Indigenous Facilitator Bambi Lees on 03 5440 1852 or 0438 749 504; email: bambi.lees@nccma.vic.gov.au

For further information please contact:

Phoebe Smith
North Central CMA, PO Box 18, Huntly 3551
Phone: 5440 1811
Mobile: 0419 177 620
Email: phoebe.smith@nccma.vic.gov.au

APPENDIX A - Fencing Standards

Beef Cattle

- Standard 6/70/30 or 7/90/30 ring-lock/hinged joint and plain wire **or** a four strand plain wire with at least two electrified strands **or** seven strand plain wire. *(NB: Barbed wire is not recommended because of its adverse impact on native fauna)*
- Posts: 6' (1.8m) treated pine or steel post no more than 10m apart with two droppers in between (where appropriate).
- Strainers: 7 or 8' (2.1m or 2.4m) at least 6–7" treated pine (or other suitable material).
- Stays: 10' (3m) treated pine (or other suitable material).

Dairy cattle

- Standard 6/70/30 or 7/90/30 ring-lock and plain wire **or** a three strand plain wire with at least two electrified strands **or** seven strand plain wire. *(NB: Barbed wire is not recommended because of its adverse impact on native fauna)*
- Posts: 6' (1.8m) treated pine or steel post no more than 10m apart with two droppers in between (where appropriate).
- Strainers: 7 or 8' (2.1m or 2.4m) at least 6–7" treated pine (or other suitable material).
- Stays: 10' (3m) treated pine (or other suitable material).

Sheep

- Standard 6/70/30 or 7/90/30 ring-lock and plain wire **or** a five strand plain wire with at least three electrified strands ensuring that the bottom wire is earthed **or** seven strand plain wire. *(NB: Barbed wire is not recommended because of its adverse impact on native fauna)*
- Posts: 6' (1.8m) treated pine or steel post no more than 10m apart with two droppers in between (where appropriate).
- Strainers: 7 or 8' (2.1m or 2.4m) at least 5–6" treated pine (or other suitable material).
- Stays: 10' (3m) treated pine (or other suitable material).

Rabbits

- 1050mm width: 40mm mesh diameter: and 1.4mm wire diameter rabbit proof netting.
- Support fence to withstand stock or native animals with rabbit netting fixed so that it reaches at least 900mm above the ground.
- Netting buried to 150mm depth or laid down and secured with pegs, rocks or timber.

Kangaroos and Wallabies

- Exclusion is difficult, but construction of several smaller exclusion plots (10m x 10m), rather than one large one, to one of the above standards may deter native macropods from entering.

NB: Fences may include gates for access where required.



Natural Disaster Environmental Recovery Project

Grant Application Form

Please note that all relevant parts must be completed using typed text or legible handwriting with black / blue pen. Failure to complete required sections to a satisfactory standard may affect the success of the application. Applications must be received no later than **5pm Monday 9 January 2012**

Your contact details (group or individual):

Surname _____ First name _____

Group (if applicable) _____

Address (postal) _____

Phone (BH) _____ (AH) _____

(M) _____

E-mail _____

Amount sought (do not include GST) \$ _____

“I have read the guidelines and am fully aware of, and agree to, a commitment to the project”.

Signature _____

Name _____

Date _____

Return applications to:
North Central CMA, PO Box 18, Huntly 3551
628-634 Midland Highway, Huntly
fax: 5448 7148
email: phoebe.smith@nccma.vic.gov.au

Landholders' permission (if different to the applicant): _____

"I have read the guidelines and am fully aware of, and agree to, a commitment to the project".

Signature

Name

Date

Address (postal)

Phone (BH)

(AH)

(M)

BUDGET *all costs should be exclusive of GST*

1. Protect & enhance existing vegetation	No. of Units			Type of Unit
- Area of site to be cleaned up				Hectares
- Area of existing vegetation to fence				Hectares
- Area to be revegetated (i.e. amongst existing vegetation or corridor)				Hectares
- Area of natural regeneration to be protected				Hectares
- Length of fencing to be replaced				Metres
- Length of fencing to be repaired				Metres
- Length of new fencing				Meters
	Activity Cost			Funding Sought
Activities (attach contractor quote if relevant)	# units	Unit type	\$\$/unit	Total
• Fencing materials (<i>Maximum \$7.00 per metre including labour</i>)		Metre		\$
• Purchase seed (<i>attach a breakdown of the list of species and quantities of seed</i>)		Kilogram		\$
• Purchase seedlings/tubestock (<i>up to \$1.10 per plant, also please attach a copy of a species list including quantities of species to be used</i>)		Each		\$
• Purchase tree guards (<i>up to \$1.60 per guard</i>)		Each		\$
• <i>Type of guard (please specify)</i>				
• Labour for direct seeding (<i>up to \$25 per hour</i>)		Hours		\$
• Labour for revegetation (<i>up to \$1.50 per plant</i>)		Each		\$

2. Other (attach contractor quote if relevant)	No. of Units			Type of Unit
Please specify				
	Activity Cost			Funding Sought
Activities	# units	Unit type	\$\$/unit	Unit type
• Labour (not included in activities listed above)		Hours	\$25	Total

• Materials (not included in activities listed above)				\$
Other possible activities and cost: Please specify below				
•				\$
•				\$
•				\$
Total budget (<i>all costs should be exclusive of GST</i>)	\$			\$

PRIVACY:

The North Central Catchment Management Authority may use the information collected on this form for the following uses and purposes:

1. Expression of interest information collected in connection with applications for work
2. Information obtained to assist in managing client and business relationships.

We may disclose your personal information for the purpose for which it is primarily held, or for a related secondary purpose. In some cases we may only disclose information with your consent. For information regarding our compliance with the Privacy Act please ask our staff for a copy of our Privacy Policy.

Further queries please contact:

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