



North Central chat

SEPTEMBER 2019

Keeping you up to date with all the Landcare
and Waterwatch news

A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

September puts Landcare in the spotlight, as the month kick starts with National Landcare Week. There are plenty of activities and a social media campaign planned to showcase the wonderful work you all contribute to.

This year, Landcare Australia has a '30 things' series which encourages everyday Australians to connect with the Landcare message and get active in their own lives. The campaign showcases '30 things you can do at home or work to get involved in Landcare' and '30 things Landcare does to care for agriculture and our environment'.

Locally, Connecting Country are promoting and celebrating the diversity of landcare action, hosting four market stalls at Castlemaine and Maldon featuring local groups, landscape projects and free resources for the community.

During August, I was thrilled to be a part of a team organising the first Intrepid Landcare retreat for 18-35-year olds interested in environmental leadership and Landcare. A group of 25 braved one of the wettest weekends this winter onsite with the Tarrangower Cactus Warriors to learn about the wall of wheel cactus which shocked the group and sparked some fun and innovative management ideas including 'crunchy cactus chips'.

The weekend was a mix of Cultural Heritage experiences, Landcare site visits, leadership workshops, storytelling and environmental issue-based discussions to shape where the crew want to take action on shared passions.

Final reflections of the retreat held an unexpected team bonding exercise in high esteem, after five small cars and a very wet paddock met their fate. A fun and joyful rescue mission ensued, and it ended up being one of the highlights of the

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Working together to care for our country
LANDCARE WEEK | 2-8 SEPTEMBER 2019



weekend. A fantastic shared experience for all. The group remain active and connected online and are inspired to join Landcare experiences on offer in the region.

In the coming weeks, Darren and I will meet with the local Landcare facilitators to plan activities and training workshops for the year ahead, with a focus on strengthening connections between Landcare and Traditional Owners.

Finally, congratulations to Malmsbury District Landcare Group and Newham Landcare Group for their award wins in their respective categories at the ceremony held at Government House on Friday. Darren and I were so grateful and proud to be there supporting all our nominees. The official 2019 Victorian Landcare Awards winner booklet is now available [online](#).

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grieves

Regional Landcare Coordinator
North Central Catchment Management Authority
Phone: 03 5448 7124
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News...

Revegetation survival monitoring

Landcare, Coastcare and other environmental volunteer groups/networks and individuals that have or are undertaking revegetation activities in 2019 are invited to participate in a project to monitor the survival rate of these revegetation plantings

This revegetation monitoring work will contribute to the 'Monitoring Revegetation Activities – Adaptive Learning Project' that is being undertaken by La Trobe University and the Arthur Rylah Institute, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP).

The project aims to:

- assess the outcomes of revegetation, in terms of the survival of planted trees, shrubs and understory plants;
- determine the factors that affect variation in survival among different species, and different regions;
- develop a monitoring protocol that community groups can use to collect information in a standard way to monitor planting outcomes.

Monitoring revegetation sites will require the use of a simple monitoring protocol including;

- monitoring revegetation activities data sheet with details about how to do the monitoring,
- monitoring the outcomes of revegetation fact sheet, including results from revegetation monitoring in 2018

Sacha Jellinek (Greening Australia) is managing the project and can be contacted via siellinek@greeningaustralia.org.au if you would like more information or want to be involved.

Sacha is open to providing training to group members in monitoring methods if Landcare or Coastcare Facilitators can organise participants for the training

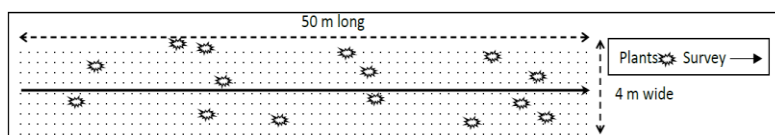


Figure 1: An example of the monitoring plot used to assess plant survival in Tubestock plantings.

Captured around the catchment



CMA Project Officer Craig Cossar captured this huge river red gum while out visiting landholders in Elmore. "The landholder is about 6ft tall to give you an understanding of the width of this tree. There is a larger tree on his brother's property next door!"



Axe Creek Landcare Group member Adrian Martins passing on his tree planting wisdom to the Eppalock Primary School students who pitched in to plant more than 400 native trees and shrubs during a National Tree Day school event.

Biodiversity Month

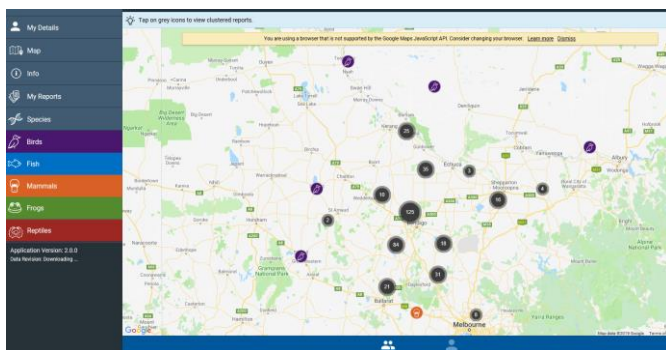
Biodiversity Month is held in September each year and aims to promote the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity both within Australia and across the world.

Biodiversity is all components of the living world: the number and variety of native plants, animals and other living things across our land, rivers, coast, and ocean.

There are several ways biodiversity activities and data is captured across Victoria but one simple and effective way to capture everyday observations of species in your local environment is through our NatureBlitz app or our webpage.

NatureBlitz allows you to record information relating to birds, fish, frogs, mammals and reptiles. Data is verified by the Waterwatch team before feeding up into the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas and the Atlas of Living Australia.

Did you know, more than 390 records are now in Natureblitz. Could September be the month we break the 400-record mark?



Download the app in your app store or visit the website: <https://natureblitz.net.au/#/app/home>



Protecting Recreational And Aboriginal Water Values

During August, recreational and Aboriginal water values were enshrined into law for the first time across Victoria with legislation passing the Upper House in Parliament.

The Water and Catchment Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 will embed recreational and Aboriginal cultural values into the planning and operations of water resource managers.

The Bill provides:

- greater consideration of the recreational values of water and waterways for communities
- greater recognition and involvement of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians in the management and planning of waterways and catchments and;
- clearer planning for future challenges such as climate change, population growth and changing demands for water.

This legislation will support Aboriginal cultural uses of water and underpins opportunities to use water for economic development for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians. It will also support the self-determination of Traditional Owners by providing opportunities that best meet their water management needs.

Greater consideration for recreational and Aboriginal values will not compromise core responsibilities of water corporations to deliver high quality water for communities and water for entitlement holders when they need it.

HAVE YOUR SAY: Parks Victoria's Land Management Strategy

Parks Victoria is pleased to announce that the Draft Aspiration Statement and Guiding Principles for the Land Management Strategy have been released for stakeholder and community feedback.

Commencing in early 2019, Parks Victoria embarked on developing a state-wide Land Management Strategy (LMS) for the park estate. Directed by the *Parks Victoria Act (2018)*, the LMS sets out the general long-term directions, strategies and priorities for the protection, management and use of Parks Victoria managed land'. The LMS covers all of the Parks Victoria estate; four million hectares across 3,000 land and

marine parks across the state – which accounts for 18 per cent of Victoria's land and 70 per cent of its coastline.

The Strategy articulates how the parks estate responds to change and develops over time and will be used to guide more detailed planning and decision-making. Following completion, the LMS will be the key strategic document for Parks Victoria to guide the management of the parks estate.

The Draft Aspiration Statement and Guiding Principles have been developed through an extensive internal Parks Victoria engagement process that included a series of regional workshops and an internal digital platform where staff provided their input.

Parks Victoria is now seeking feedback from key stakeholders and the community on the Draft Aspiration and Statement and Guiding principles.

You can provide your feedback online at www.engage.vic.gov.au/lms until midnight Sunday 29 September. If you have further questions, you can contact parkstrategy@mailbox@parks.vic.gov.au

Sustainable Ag Snippet...

The Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator project is looking for farmers interested in learning more about soil health.

The North Central CMA in partnership with Agriculture Victoria are keen to engage farmers in a half day workshop in a suitable location. The workshop provides step-by-step guidance that will increase farmer knowledge and skills to conduct their own visual soil assessments in the paddock and identify possible soil health issues.

If you're interested in participating a workshop or would like more information, please contact Darren Bain

darren.bain@nccma.vic.gov.au



Regenerative Ag Project update

The Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator is assisting one of the Regenerative Agriculture project groups to form a community of practice (CoP) located in the Talbot district. The group meets every six weeks to discuss and plan future activities. A meeting was held in August in Brendan Roughead's shearing shed. The group was enthusiastic about the activities planned for the year, including multi-species cover crops and applying bio-stimulants, with the aim of increasing soil microbial activity and soil health. The multi-species cover crops will also contribute to increased ground cover and filling feed gaps over spring and summer.

Jade Killoran from AGF Seeds attended the meeting to provide advice on species selection, timing for sowing and will assist the group with monitoring and advice on grazing in the future. After the meeting the group went out in to the paddock to look at a mixed pasture sown in May, everything was growing well but Brendan mentioned that most of the Lucerne died due to the wet conditions. Eventually the discussion turned to the weather, and with a prediction of dry conditions over spring the question was when will be the best time to sow. After a quick discussion the consensus was to sow in spring with species known to germinate in cooler soil temperature to minimise the risk.

The group has also engaged Dr Christine Jones to run a soil health workshop in September, which has already been booked out. Having Christine present to farmers will be of great value to the group and wider community, which will build on their knowledge for future decisions.

The group is very keen to undertake activities on their properties and have a common goal of improving their soils, sharing knowledge and learning from each other. This will provide a solid foundation for the group in to the future.



Regenerative Ag Community of Practice speaking with Jade Killoran of AGF seeds.

Keen to be part of the team? Position Vacant: Part-time Landcare facilitator

The Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network is seeking to employ a suitably qualified and motivated person to provide Landcare support to member groups.

The successful applicant will possess strong knowledge and skills in natural resource management, sustainable land practices and community engagement who is able to;

- act as a key contact for Landcare groups
- maintain strong links and build trust with Landcare groups
- foster a high level of community participation in natural resource management
- provide support in capacity building, group development and project management
- ensure consistency between local actions and regional, State or Commonwealth strategies and plans.

Position is funded part-time at 0.5FTE (or 19 hrs per week).

For further information and a copy of the position description and key selection criteria contact Kevin Spence – 0408 353 966 or email bnlandcare@bigpond.com

Applicants should clearly address the key selection criteria and include a current Curriculum Vitae.

Applications should be marked 'Confidential' and forwarded to The Chairperson Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network PO Box 244 St Arnaud 3477

Applications close C.O.B. Friday September 27 2019



Works on Waterways - Help us do better

Article by Peter O'Toole, North Central CMA Waterways and Floodplain Team

North Central CMA has a legal statutory authority and responsibility to protect our waterways. Within the scope of this role we monitor, administer and enforce control over all works which may impact upon designated waterways throughout the north central region.

Anyone planning on undertaking works within a designated waterway must obtain a Works on Waterway Permit from the North Central CMA. There is no cost to obtain a permit and obtaining a permit will help ensure that the proposed works are designed appropriately.

To protect our rivers and creeks it is important that new activities or works undertaken do not adversely affect the health of our waterways. Unfortunately, some works are undertaken without the necessary approvals and North Central CMA is working to address unauthorised works through our compliance process.

Our catchment is large, and it is hard to always know when and where unauthorised works are occurring without help from the public. So, if you see any suspicious or potentially unauthorised works occurring in or around our waterways (i.e. machinery in a waterway, vegetation clearing, a dam being built on a waterway) please contact us via phone at (03) 5440 1890 or email floodplain@nccma.vic.gov.au.

You can remain anonymous. If you can take photos and/or provide a detailed description of what's occurring and where that would be great as it makes our investigations much easier. We have only 12 months from when the unauthorised works occur to act, so it is important that if you see something happening you let us know straight away so we can do something about it.

More information about Works on Waterways is available on our website at <http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/development-advice#node-1549>.





Social Benchmarking survey – have you completed yours?

You may have received a survey in the mail. It's not junk mail. We really want you know about you and what you think.

Your confidential responses to the survey questions will provide us with vital information about the social and economic factors influencing land and water management in the North Central CMA region. The information you provide will guide our priorities and the allocation of government funding to support land owners. It will also help soil scientists to develop the most relevant and useful technologies to help landowners with their soil management.



Hi everyone,

Spring is here and what a wonderful feeling it is. Every year, winter seems a little colder to me than the previous one - perhaps that comes with age? I'm certainly going to make the most of it and have many outdoor activities planned; several gardening projects, outdoor home maintenance and camping are all on the cards.

Cass is heading off for some well-earned long service leave for the next couple of months; that leaves me to hold the fort. Spring is the busiest time for us, and we have some new casual team members on board to help. Nicole Howie (continuing), Rohan Potter and Aunty Marilyne Nicholls will be familiar names and faces to many of you, if not you might have the pleasure of meeting them soon. With waterbug monitoring, Waterwatch and other community events, Carp Catch events, National Water Week, developing new River Detectives materials and delivering teacher training sessions, we will certainly be busy and are so pleased to have some extra hands on deck.

Thanks to those Waterwatch volunteers who participated in QA QC week events. We are really pleased with the results and feel very confident in your abilities and the equipment that results in a continued high standard of water quality data. Keep up the great work!

Enjoy the warmer weather,

Britt Gregory

Regional Waterwatch Coordinator
(03) 5440 1843
0428 551 598
britt.gregory@nccma.vic.gov.au

Litter Trackers for Bendigo Creek

You might recall in last month's Chat, we mentioned a workshop with our Bendigo Creek River Detectives creating their vision for Bendigo Creek. Litter was a recurring theme in the student's vision, and the project has continued to develop with the deployment of five litter trackers in the creek in late August.

Quite simply, trackers are a sealed plastic bottle with a GPS inside to track how and where our litter travels. We can then watch where the bottles travel (along with regular litter), via an online map. After four weeks (and hopefully some good rains!) we retrieve the bottles and work with the students to:

- Learn why litter is an important environmental issue.
- Learn how it travels and if extreme weather conditions affect the litter journey.
- Understand how litter can remain trapped in our waterways, impacting waterway health and aquatic wildlife.
- Increase awareness of local waterway values and the connections between catchment activities and waterway health.

The launch on Tuesday 26 August, was a great opportunity for students to come together with some key agency staff, RMIT researchers and VIPs, including Mayor Margaret O'Rourke and North Central CMA Chair Julie Miller Markoff. Students got to litter for a good cause and were excited to throw the trackers in to the creek at Golden Square. We will report back on the progress of the trackers in a future edition of Chat, so watch this space!

Bendigo Creek Litter Trackers is a partnership between North Central CMA, City of Greater Bendigo and RMIT University, supported by the Victorian Government.

Find out more here:

<https://rmit.edu.au/research/research-institutes->



[centres-and-groups/research-groups/aquest/rmit-litter-trackers](#)



Bendigo Creek Litter Trackers launch day. Photo: North Central CMA.

Upcoming events and special days

September	
National Wattle Day	1 September
National Waterbug Blitz	Sept, Oct, Nov
National Biodiversity Month	September
National Landcare Week	2-8 September
Threatened Species Day	7 September
Sustainable House Day	16 September
World Car Free Day	22 September
October	
National Waterbug Blitz	Sept, Oct, Nov
World Habitat Day	2 October
National Walk to Work Day	5 October
National Ride 2 Work Day	16 October
National Gone Fishing Day	20 October
National Water Week	21 – 27 October
Aussie Backyard Bird Count	21 – 28 October
November	
National Recycling Week	12 – 18 November
Pollinator Week	4 – 10 November
World Fisheries Day	21 November

Water storages update

Early winter rain has seen some storage levels increase this month:

Region	Water Storage	% full at 23 July	% full at 26 Aug
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	62.72	↓ 59.78
	Hume Dam	31.25	↑ 42.05
	Torrumbarry Weir	93.72	↑ 100.02
	Third Lake	96.94	96.94
	Reedy/Middle Lake	93.04	↑ 100.39
	Kangaroo Lake	96.54	↓ 95.56
	Kow Swamp	78.02	↑ 83.37
	Lake Boga	71.48	↑ 74.70
	Lake Charm	92.44	↓ 91.73
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Reservoir	41.92	↑ 51.31
	Tullaroop Reservoir	55.66	↑ 77.80
	Laanecoorie Reservoir	98.00	↓ 97.50
Bullarook Creek Storages	Newlyn Reservoir	101.22	↓ 100.88
	Hepburns Lagoon	56.08	↑ 103.14
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	38.93	↑ 44.45
	Waranga Basin	44.37	↑ 58.73
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	37.10	↑ 39.77
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Reservoir	77.6	↑ 100.3
	Lauriston Reservoir	78.7	↑ 95.3
	Malmsbury Reservoir	24.60	↑ 51.6

Sources: www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storage-levels
www.coliban.com.au/about-us/reservoir-levels



Courses and Resources...

Graduate Certificate in Fish Conservation and Management

Are you driven to restore nature's vital balance? Can you see yourself playing an authentic role in alleviating the pressures on our environment? Are you passionate about fish? Do you work in the industry and want a formal qualification?

Charles Sturt University has created the Graduate Certificate in Fish Conservation and Management qualification which will put you at the forefront of fish ecology and management, so you can practically and strategically tackle challenges facing freshwater fisheries – in Australia and around the world.



Fish sampling and tagging is a survey method used to support the North Central CMA Native Fish recovery project. Photo Emma Wolters.

All details on the course location, duration and study mode is available via:
<https://study.csu.edu.au/courses/science/graduate-certificate-fish-conservation-management>

Executive ready?

Funding for Leadership Development available

The Australian School of Applied Management is offering a pool of scholarships of up to \$4,000 per person to support participation in a practical and targeted leadership development course.

Expressions of Interest are now being sourced and close on 13th September.

Executive Ready is a seven-month leadership and career accelerator designed to stretch managers and rapidly propel them towards executive level performance, behaviours and mindsets. The program challenges participants to see themselves, their responsibilities and their opportunities with fresh eyes, enabling and

inspiring them to achieve career and life goals.

Interested parties should contact ASAM's Admissions Department to obtain admission documents and information. Due to the exclusive nature of the program, admission is based on a rigorous written application process. Places will be awarded to applicants demonstrating the appropriate qualities to contribute meaningfully to the program and a cohort of their peers.

To obtain the relevant documentation please contact ASAM's Admissions Department on:
Phone: 1300 138 037 E-mail:
admissions@asam.edu.au

Events...

2019 Chicks In the Sticks

Are you inspired by opportunity and the stories of others? Keen to meet like-minded women who share a connection to agriculture and the environment?



Grab your gumboots, don your favourite frock and add your own native flora accessory...it's time for the 2019 Chicks in the Sticks event, hosted by North Central and Wimmera Catchment Management Authorities in partnership with Project Platypus Upper Wimmera Landcare Network and Pyrenees Shire.

This year's theme is '*Cultivating pathways into agriculture and the environment*'. Keynote speakers Emma Ayliffe (Summit Ag) and Rebecca Phillips (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation) will share their incredible personal and professional pathways driven by a vibrant passion for what they do.

Bring along your best friend, mother, sister or colleague to what will be another incredible event.

When: Saturday October 26 from 10.30am

Where: Moonambel Gap Olives

RSVP: Tickets (\$25 ea) are on sale via Eventbrite:
<https://2019chicksinthesticks.eventbrite.com.au>

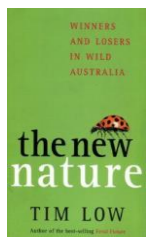
22nd Annual Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar

Tickets are now available for the 22nd Annual Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar, being held in Rupanyup (Wimmera area of Victoria) on Thursday 5 September.

The seminar is an event that has been running in the Wimmera area for 22 years consecutively, each year at a new location and with a different theme. This year's theme is "A climate for change" which will focus on changes in climate, both environmentally and socially, changing environmental management and the acknowledgement and involvement of Traditional Owner practices in conserving and protecting biodiversity.

Paul Downey's presentation may be of particular interest to the weedos out there! He will be presenting "Monitoring for change: how can a climate for change, change the way we observe the effects of climate change on biodiversity." In a nutshell, "using a range of examples derived from two decades working on understanding the impacts of invasive plants on biodiversity Paul will present insights on how to create a climate for change. For example, forming a clear objective of what to do with the information gathered from the onset can help answer questions about what, how and when to monitor."

Purchase your tickets via;
<https://wimmerabiodiversityseminar19tickets.eventbrite.com.au>.



Tim Low speaks- The New Nature

Well-known author and biological scientist Tim Low will speak on his book 'The New Nature' in Castlemaine September 6.

Although controversial when first published in 2002, the book was recently updated, and its themes are now more relevant than ever. Organised by Connecting Country and Newstead Landcare Group, there will be an opportunity for questions and answers, then a cuppa and cake

When: 7.30pm Friday 6 September 2019

Where: Newstead Community Centre, Lyons St (Pyrenees Hwy) Newstead

RSVP: A gold coin donation will help cover costs. Bookings not required.

Save the date - LVI Forum 'People, Partnerships and Produce'

Landcare Victoria Inc. is delighted to invite you to the Biannual LVI Forum in October, hosted by the West Gippsland Landcare Networks and their Partners.

LVI are encouraging everyone to save the date and stay tuned for more exciting details and booking information as they come to hand.

When: 25-27 October 2019

Where: The Summit Trafalgar East

RSVP: Expressions of Interest via LVI Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/928363867496179/permalink/928364117496154/>

For further itinerary details see the event flyer on the LVI Gateway page here

<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/state/lvi/vi-forum-people-partnerships-and-produce-25-27-october-2019/>

Funding opportunities....

Communities Environment Program

The Australian Government has announced a one-off grants program, the Communities Environment Program. This program will support small scale, community-led environment projects that address local environmental priorities across the country.

Project funding: from \$2,500 to \$20,000 may be available for eligible projects.

Guidelines: go to

<https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/communities-environment-program> Guidelines, Fact Sheet, Frequently Asked Questions, Sample Application Form.

Eligibility criteria: to be eligible you must:

- be invited to apply by your MP
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be either an incorporated entity or have a project sponsor who meets the eligibility criteria who can apply for a grant.

Funding available: each of the 151 federal electorates across Australia will receive up to \$150,000 for allocation to successful applicants.



The total pool of grant funding for the Communities Environment Program is \$22.65 million.

How many projects will be funded: a maximum of 20 projects will be funded in each federal electorate.

Types of projects that may be funded:

The following types of projects are a guide to the types of projects that may be funded:

- protecting native animals, and supporting recovery of threatened species
- control of invasive weeds and pest animals
- seed collection, propagation and planting to increase habitat/linkages, and rehabilitate riverbanks, waterways,
- wetlands, coasts, and control erosion
- monitoring flora, fauna, water quality and;
- waste and litter reduction.

Please ensure you read the grant's Guidelines prior to submitting your Expression of Interest. All proposals will be reviewed within the Guidelines. A shortlist of applicants will then be invited by local MPs to submit a formal application to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

Project completion date: projects must be completed by 31 December 2020

Note: an invitation to apply will not guarantee the grant funding, as organisations and projects are required to meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the Guidelines.

More information: on the Communities Environment Program email cep@environment.gov.au or phone 13 28 46.

Stronger Communities Program

Similarly, to the CEP program, round 5 of the Stronger Communities Program is being handled through an initial Expressions of Interest process which must be submitted through your Federal electorate office.

The SCP program will fund up to 50% of eligible project costs, with 50% of matched funding required from the applicant. **You must complete your project within six months of your project start date and no later than 30 June 2020.**

Types of projects that may be funded:

- upgrade or installation of park furniture including shade/shelters, BBQs, toilet facilities, drinking fountains
- development or upgrade of bike paths, streetscapes, skate parks or community gardens
- upgrade of facilities to provide inclusive access

Funding available: The Australian Government's funding commitment for Round Five is \$22.65 million, with funding of up to \$150,000 available for each electorate. A maximum of 20 projects will be funded in each electorate, with successful projects receiving a grant between \$2,500 and \$20,000.

Applications close: 5pm October 10, 2019.

Access the guidelines via; <https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/stronger-communities-programme>

Youth engagement grants program

Grants of up to \$15,000 are available to support projects that will increase youth interest, engagement and skills in invasive species management in Victoria.

The grant program is open to community groups, education providers and local councils, with a focus on projects that connect with young people and develop their skills, and therefore deliver broader benefits for local communities.

The program aims to increase young people's participation in community environmental projects and encourage new ideas and innovations in the invasive species challenge. Funding can be used to support the engagement of young people in existing groups and initiatives, or to develop new youth-focused initiatives.

Applications for the grants program close Monday 30 September 2019.

For more information visit the [Weeds and Rabbits Project website](#)



**WEEDS AND
RABBITS PROJECT**
Partnerships Against Pests