

UPDATED: 13 August 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

1. What is the purpose of this grant stream?

Stream 2 is focused on finding innovative and best practice solutions to challenges the community and stakeholders are facing as they work towards achieving increased tree canopy and green cover across the Greater Sydney Region.

Funding is available for demonstration projects which will produce outcomes that are scalable and/or transferable across Sydney and beyond. The purpose of this funding stream is to unlock future planting opportunities by identifying or testing best practice methods, solving existing challenges or addressing emerging problems to tree planting and/or urban greening.

This stream is also focused on fostering stakeholder partnerships and collaboration between project groups and local councils or local government organisations.

Questions from Webinar July 2020.

2. Is there an upper limit on grants?

There is no upper limit for either stream.

3. Can regional organisations of councils apply for stream 2 funding?

A regional organisation of councils can apply for funding under this stream.

4. Can start-ups apply to this grant?

Yes, if the application is submitted in partnership with a Greater Sydney council or regional organisation of councils.

5. Will the grant program be extended to regional areas in the next tranche of funding?

Program funding is attached to the Greening our City Premier's Priority and the Five Million Trees for Greater Sydney initiative. It is therefore limited to the Greater Sydney region. Some projects that are funded under stream 2 may produce outcomes that are transferable to areas outside of Greater Sydney.

6. Are multiple applications from a single council allowed (e.g. for separate projects)?

Multiple projects are permitted from a single council.

7. Can you please provide some examples of barriers facing urban greening?

Under this stream, projects can address best-practice methods, existing challenges, or an emerging problem. Examples include, but are not limited to, drought tolerance, increasing shade, planting with powerlines, street planting, air quality and encouraging active transport.

8. Can the funding be led by an organisation or does it need to be led by a council?

This stream is open to community groups, non-government organisations, the private sector and researchers who partner with local councils or local government organisations.

Local council representation is required for funding and reporting purposes as council will need to be the signatory to a funding agreement. How the team is structured beyond that is for the project team to decide.

9. Can the grant funding (or Councils' matched funding) be used for staffing / resourcing costs associated with planning and managing the planting?

For this stream, grant funding can cover all costs that are specifically connected to project design or delivery. Applicants should detail how funds will be allocated to resources for program delivery in their budget. This should also detail all contributions from the project team (if any). Adequacy and value of resource allocation will be assessed by the Independent Assessment Panel.

10. Can councils apply for both Stream 1 and 2?

Yes

11. Can funding be used to incorporate a research component beyond 18 months?

In this stream, funding is for new projects to be completed within 18 months of funding approval. It is for demonstration projects that will produce outcomes that are scalable and/or transferable across Sydney and beyond. Projects can address best-practice methods, existing challenges, or an emerging problem to trees and/or green cover. Research may be required to show best practice or evaluate findings. Eligibility for this stream is documented in the guidelines.

12. Would projects focusing on innovative greenery (vertical gardens, green buildings, etc) and not specifically trees be appropriate?

This stream is open to demonstration projects with a green focus. They must involve tree planting and/or green cover as the key activity. Trees are not a requirement where green cover is the focus, and vice-versa.

13. Would installing passively watered street tree assets be eligible for this stream? This includes street gutter pits and pipework to direct stormwater to the street trees.

Eligibility for this stream is outlined in the guidelines. Drought tolerance and water efficiency could be seen as eligible demonstration projects. DPIE has commissioned a water efficiency study with components informing applications for Stream 1. It is available on our website [here](#).

14. Is there a forum or way for Councils, researchers, practitioners, interested parties to express an interest in joining group projects? There is enormous knowledge to share that would benefit greening outcomes.

Not directly for this grant round. We encourage interested parties to reach out to councils and other parties to form project groups.

15. Would a 'blue green index tool', an online tool that increases canopy cover in development, be eligible for this stream?

Stream 2 is about finding innovative solutions to challenges the community and stakeholders are facing as they work towards achieving increased tree canopy and green cover across the Greater Sydney Region. Eligibility for this stream is in the guidelines. If you feel your project meets the eligibility, we encourage you to apply.

Eligible projects

16. What projects are eligible for funding under this grant stream?

Projects must meet one or more of the below criteria in order to be eligible for this funding stream:

- demonstrate best practice in tree planting and greenery to reduce climate change impacts
- investigate existing issues involving planting and/or maintaining trees and demonstrate a contemporary, scalable response
- display innovation in the use of trees and greenery in an urban setting.

17. Can projects be funded retrospectively?

No. Successful applicants may only commence construction of a project once funding approval has been confirmed.

Eligible applicants

18. Who can apply for this grant stream?

This stream is open to (but not limited to) community groups, organisations, the private sector and researchers that have collaborated and partnered with an eligible local council in Greater Sydney or local government organisation.

If you are a local council, you will also need your General Manager (or equivalent) to endorse the application before you can submit it through the LGNSW application portal. All applicants are encouraged to allow adequate time to seek the General Manager's approval prior to the grant round closing.

If you are not a local council, you are required to have the application endorsed by a partnering council General Manager (or equivalent position) before you can submit it through the application portal. This is a mandatory step in the online application form.

Eligible councils are:

Bayside Council, Blacktown City Council, Blue Mountains City Council, Burwood Council, Camden Council, Campbelltown City Council, City of Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown Council, Cumberland Council, Fairfield City Council, Georges River Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Hills Shire Council, The Hornsby Shire Council, The Council of the Municipality of Hunters Hill, Inner West Council, Ku-ring-gai Council, Lane Cove Municipal Council, Liverpool City Council, Mosman Municipal Council, North Sydney Council, Northern Beaches Council, City of Parramatta Council, Penrith City Council, Randwick City Council, City of Ryde Council, Strathfield Municipal Council, Sutherland Shire Council, City of Sydney, Waverley Shire Council, City of Willoughby, Wollondilly Shire Council, Woollahra Municipal Council.

Applying

19. What is the role of Local Government NSW (LGNSW)?

LGNSW is administering the grants on behalf of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department).

20. Where can applicants find the Grant Guidelines?

A copy of the Greener City Grant Program Guidelines can be found at www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/greeningourcitygrants

21. How do I lodge an application?

Applications, including supporting documentation, must be submitted via the LGNSW application portal. A link to the portal can be found at www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/greeningourcitygrants

22. Can applicants submit for more than one project?

Yes. Applicants may submit more than one application for separate projects.

23. What is the Water Efficient Trees Report and Water Matrix?

The Water Efficient Trees Report and Water Matrix are the result of a study commissioned by the Department to provide advice around tree planting and maintenance in the context of drought and water restrictions. These documents are available for councils to use as reference materials to explore low cost innovations to use water more efficiently as part of a green innovations project.

24. Can the budget be amended during the application process?

No. Budgets relating to the project cannot be amended during the application process.

25. Will assistance be available to support the preparation of the application?

LGNSW, as the grant program administrator, can provide information on the interpretation of the grant guideline. For enquiries or more information, contact LGNSW on (02) 02 9242 4042 or email GreeningOurCity@lgsw.org.au.

A webinar will also be scheduled to assist applicants in preparing their applications. Details will be posted on the Department's website www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/greeningourcitygrants.

26. What criteria apply to the assessment of the applications?

Applications that meet eligibility criteria and comply with the application requirements will be assessed against four assessment criteria (merit, engagement, viability, and budget). Further details about the assessment criteria are provided in the grant guidelines.

27. What is the role of the Assessment Panel?

An Assessment Panel comprising members with relevant expertise will be established to assess applications against eligibility and assessment criteria. The Assessment Panel will be guided by advice from an independent probity advisor who will also attend the meeting as an observer. The Assessment Panel will recommend projects for funding and the Minister for Planning will make final decisions regarding funding allocations.

Funding

28. What is the program funding for 2020?

Up to \$2.5 million has been allocated for this stream in 2020.

29. What is the relationship of the Greening our City Grant Program to the Five Million Trees initiative?

Five Million Trees for Greater Sydney (5MT) is the overarching initiative that is delivering Premier's Priority 12: Greening our City. These programs are administered by the Department and were created to expand tree canopy and green cover across Greater Sydney.

30. What is the source of the funds?

The first four years of 5MT is funded through the NSW Government's Climate Change Fund. The Climate Change Fund was established to address the impacts of climate change and encourage energy and water saving activities. A total of \$12.5 million of funding under 5MT has been allocated to deliver the Greening our City Grant Program for 2020.

31. Will all applications receive funding?

It is unlikely that all applicants will receive funding as it is anticipated that the program will be over-subscribed and applications will be assessed on their merits.

Successful applications will be those recommended by the Assessment Panel as best meeting the objectives of the program, the assessment criteria and can demonstrate the applicant has the capacity to deliver the project from inception through to the end of the project.

32. If our organisation has already received other government funding or co-contributions from external organisations for the project, does this mean the organisation cannot apply?

No. Projects that have received other Government funding or co-contributions from external organisations are eligible for funding. Applicants must list in their application if the project has received other sources of funding and the amount received.

Applications must document all appropriate contributions from the applying parties, be they financial or in-kind.

Approval

33. Who needs to approve my application?

The council General Manager (or equivalent) must approve the application prior to it being considered. This is a mandatory step in the application process. This approval is required as the council will be the responsible entity to manage the funding agreement, budget and reporting.

Where General Manager approval cannot be achieved prior to the grant application deadline, the following process may be followed:

- (1) Applications will be accepted with approval from a Director with appropriate level of financial delegation, via the grant application portal in order to meet the 19 August grant submission deadline, and
- (2) Approval of the project from the General Manager or equivalent must still be obtained and provided by email to the Grants Manager at GreeningOurCity@lgnsw.org.au, or signed

letter of support, by 5pm on Wednesday, 2 September to meet eligibility criteria. Where approval is not provided, the submitted application will be deemed ineligible.

Timing

34. When are the applications due?

Applications must be received by 11.59pm on Wednesday, 19 August 2019. Any application that is late, incomplete or ineligible will not be considered.

35. How long do applicants have to complete a project?

Projects must be completed within 18 months of signing the funding agreement.

36. If successful, when can we expect to receive funding?

As part of the funding agreement, successful applicants will receive grant funding in instalments. These payments are scheduled against the following four (4) project milestones:

1. Commencement of the project (20%)
2. Project plan finalisation (40%)
3. Mid-point review (30%)
4. Project acquittal (10%)

Acknowledgements

37. How do successful applicants acknowledge the funding when projects are underway?

It is a condition of grant funding that the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment are:

- invited to attend any formal launch event (including commencement and completion ceremonies)
- advised four weeks prior to any formal event
- acknowledged in all communications and media for the project.

Reporting

38. Do successful applicants need to report on the delivery of their projects?

All successful applicants will receive detailed information about requirements to report on the implementation and success of their project.

For more information

Please visit www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/greeningourcitygrants or contact Local Government NSW on (02) 9242 4042 or email GreeningOurCity@lgsw.org.au

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