

Thriving Communities

Community grant guidelines

Community grants provide up to \$20,000 for one-off projects or initiatives that help local communities, environment, individuals and industry to develop and thrive.

Applications open: 5 March to 9 April 2025

Project delivery: Projects must commence between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.

What funding is available?

Applicants can apply for up to \$20,000 to deliver their project.

Projects or initiatives funded through community grants must commence within the 2025-26 financial year. When you apply, you will be asked to provide a project timeline and a detailed budget, including the project's funding sources and how funds will be spent. You must also describe how the GWW funding will contribute to the success of the project.

Community grants are provided as a one-off payment for the project specified and are not intended as an ongoing funding source.

What is the selection criteria?

We are specifically looking for projects or initiatives that meet at least two of the following criteria:

- The project supports communities to thrive by supporting development in our region
- The project demonstrates evidence of community need
- The project is locally led and supports GWW's diverse community to succeed.

We will also assess your organisation's capacity to deliver, including your track record, budget, risk and delivery schedule.

Application criteria and funding amounts may change each year and funding is not guaranteed in subsequent years.

When does my project need to be delivered?

Projects must start in the 2025-26 financial year and be delivered within the agreed dates in the funding agreement. If projects are delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, contact our grants and sponsorships team.

What types of projects will GWW support?

We want to provide funding for a range of projects that meet the selection criteria.

Examples of projects we are seeking to support include those that:

- provide access to learning and career opportunities in the water sector, for example, mentoring programs
- help local industry to thrive, such as research projects and agricultural initiatives
- partner with our diverse communities, including First Nations and culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- support the sustainable use of water, including increased tree canopy, revegetation and habitat restoration.

What can grant funds be used for?

Some examples of activities and items that we will fund include, but are not limited to:

- program coordination and facilitation
- purchase of materials for events and activities
- skills development, training and workshops
- venue hire, including furniture hire or purchase
- project development and resourcing
- research and evaluation.

The following activities and items are not eligible for funding:

- scholarships, fundraising appeals or prize money
- general donations
- emergency relief or disaster appeals
- high-risk events or activities that are damaging or harmful to people or the environment, including activities that would alter water flows, for example, locating a pool in a creek
- alcohol, drug or tobacco use (as a primary activity)
- activities that primarily benefit an individual
- activities aligned to political, religious, gambling, weaponry or military pursuits
- projects undertaken for commercial gain or benefit
- funding for a permit application or planning permit.



Who can apply?

We welcome applications from organisations that:

- are based in GWW's service area
- are an incorporated, not-for-profit community organisation or can prove an auspice arrangement with an appropriate organisation
- are an educational or health organisation, or local government
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and Australian bank account
- have the required insurances, such as professional indemnity and/or public liability insurance
- demonstrate that the project can be delivered within 12 months of the funding agreement.

You are not eligible to apply if:

- you are a GWW employee or supplier
- the project or initiative has already been delivered or commenced
- your proposal has previously received funding from GWW
- you have not met previous obligations to GWW on grant and project reporting.

How do I apply?

Applications are submitted online through Smartygrants.

Go to <https://www.gww.com.au/grants-sponsorships> and follow the links.

To complete an application, you need to:

- check that your application meets the eligibility requirements
- answer all the questions in the application form (incomplete applications will not be considered)
- provide a timeline of the project from commencement to completion
- provide a detailed proposed budget, including income and expenditure
- provide any requested supplementary information and/or documentation.

We may contact you if we need more information.

When does my application need to be submitted?

All applications need to be completed and submitted by 9 April 2025.

When you have submitted your application, we will send an email of acknowledgement to the nominated person or email address on your application form.

We will not accept late applications. If you miss this round of funding, you are welcome to apply in the next round.

How will my application be assessed?

Applications will be assessed by an internal panel against the published assessment criteria. An assessor may request further information from the applicant.

All assessors will be required to comply with GWW's Conflict of Interest Policy.

The decision is final and no appeals will be accepted.

How will I find out if I am successful?

If your application is successful, we will notify you by phone or email.

Successful applicants will receive a funding agreement that will need to be signed in writing by both parties prior to payment.

What is expected of successful applicants?

If you are successful, you will be asked to:

- accept the offer and sign the funding agreement before receiving the funding
- provide status reports on your progress at agreed milestones
- when the project is completed, provide a report:
 - describing how the project was delivered
 - demonstrating how you have met the agreed outcomes
 - showing planned and actual costs
 - making recommendations for future activities or research
 - that includes images and promotional materials.

Permission and use of land

If your project is on public land, you must get written approval from the landowner or manager who will ensure that relevant occupational health and safety requirements are considered. Please note, any offer of funding from GWW does not negate the need to get a permit or other necessary approvals from relevant authorities.

Privacy

Handling of personal information collected by GWW is governed by our [Privacy Policy](#).

What if I need help?

If you need help to complete the application or want to chat about your proposal, contact our grants and sponsorships team on 13 44 99 or email

sponsorship@gww.com.au.