

# Landcare and Community Programs Volunteering and Grants Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Frequently Asked Questions – 8 July 2020 (Updated)

We know your environmental volunteering work means a lot to you, as it does to us too. Changes have been made to restrictions in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire.

From 11:59pm 8 July if you live in Melbourne metropolitan area and the Shire of Mitchell you must stay at home. You can only leave home for one of the four reasons – shopping for food and supplies, care and caregiving, exercise, and study and work, if you can't do it from home.

Outside of these areas there is still a need to have a heightened and continued level of awareness of numbers of people who can gather together, physical distancing and hygiene requirements.

Outside of Melbourne metropolitan area and the Shire of Mitchell you are asked to:

- Practice good hygiene
- Maintain physical distancing, keep at least 1.5 metres away from others
- Understand the risk and symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Help continue to slow the spread by getting tested, even if you have mild symptoms
- Stay home and avoid contact if you're feeling unwell
- Take care wherever you go

Official information and advice is available at [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au) Volunteers should check this website regularly as advice and directions will continue to be updated.

If you are outside of metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire, to ensure your volunteering activities are as safe and enjoyable as possible please also consider the following tips:

- Contact your local land manager if you're volunteering on public land and ensure you comply with their requirements
- Ensure you have an updated safety plan for your group or the particular activity before you begin
- Check in and out at the beginning and end of each volunteering activity
- Collect an attendance record on site with name and phone numbers of volunteers
- If using equipment remember to clean it before and after your activity
- Bring your own – hand sanitizer, gloves, tools, refreshments

Your safety and wellbeing are paramount. We are appreciative of your continued patience and your ongoing commitment to Landcare and environmental volunteering.

## Landcare and Community Programs – Funded Projects

### General Guidance

We anticipate that the delivery of some of your funded grants projects will be affected or delayed due to the current public health measures and that is ok. Please follow public health measures and directions. Rest assured that we will provide flexibility around grant project due dates where required.

### Landcare and Community Programs Grant Rounds

#### *Biodiversity On-ground Action Tranche 1 - Hubs and Iconic Species Projects*

Hubs and Iconic Species projects have been going since 2017 and should be nearing completion. Please ensure you submit your final report. Please contact [enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au) if you have any queries regarding this.

#### *Biodiversity On-ground Action Tranche 1 - Community and Volunteer Action Grants*

**2017** - Please ensure you submit your final report. Please contact [enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au) if you have any queries regarding this.

**2018** - these projects are due for completion in 2021, but we will consider time extensions and flexibility. Please contact [enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au) if you have any queries regarding this.

#### *Biodiversity On-ground Action Tranche 1 – Traditional Owner and Aboriginal Victorian Grants*

All Traditional Owner and Aboriginal Victorian projects funded should already be completed and a final report returned, unless an extension has previously been agreed with DELWP. If you have not submitted your final report or received an extension, please contact [enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au).

#### *Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants (WRG) and Wildlife Rehabilitator Bushfire Grants (WRBG)*

**2019/20** - WRG final reports were due 31 July 2020. Please contact [enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au) if you have any queries regarding this.

#### *Victorian Landcare Grants (VLG)*

**2019/20** – VLG projects are funded through your local Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and are due for completion by 30 November 2020. An extension of up to six months is available for those who require it, and variations to projects can be made to activities that are within the scope of the VLG guidelines. Please contact your Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) at your CMA if you need a variation.

**2020/21** – Due to the delay in the Victorian State budget VLG has been delayed.

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

## **We have finished all the work for our grant but haven't submitted a final report yet. What should we do?**

Now is a good time to catch up on paperwork and ensure your reporting requirements are up to date. The DELWP Community Programs team are in the process of preparing final report acquittal templates for relevant programs and they will be forwarded to you soon. Once released and you have finished your project, you can submit your report, even if it is not due yet.

## **We are supposed to deliver a community engagement or education event as part of our grant. What should we do?**

You have two options – you may like to hold your event online, or you may prefer to request an extension to hold your event when public health directions are lifted, and face-to-face engagement can occur.

If you would like to try an online event feel free to contact your local Landcare Facilitator, and we will also assist you as much as we can.

## **Landcare and Community Programs Contact Details**

The Landcare and Community Programs team at DELWP remains fully operational (and working remotely). Don't hesitate to contact your Regional Landcare Coordinator (see link below), local Landcare Facilitator, or email us if you have any questions or concerns.

- DELWP's Victorian Landcare Program staff – [landcare@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:landcare@delwp.vic.gov.au) and your email will be sent onto the appropriate staff member.
- Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) contacts – go to [RLC contacts on Victorian Landcare Gateway](#).
- DELWP's Community Programs and grant staff – [enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au).

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