

HUME CITY COUNCIL

# Rural Land Management Grant

**Guidelines 2024-2025**



[hume.vic.gov.au](http://hume.vic.gov.au)







## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS**

**Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, which includes the Gunung Willam Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and to Elders past and present.**

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# Rural Land Management Grant

## 1. GRANT OVERVIEW

### 1.1 Program Purpose

The aim of the Rural Land Management Grant (RLMG) is to provide landowners/managers with the support and incentive to conduct sustainable land management activities across their property. This includes noxious weed control, pest animal control, erosion control and protection and enhancement of native vegetation (if present) and developing habitat/conservation assets by planting indigenous vegetation.

Council values healthy rural green wedges within Hume and encourages landowners to implement sustainable land management practices in accordance with the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.

### 1.2 The Rural Land Management Grant

The RLMG is provided in the form of a reimbursement to the landowner/manager via cheque following submission and approval of an annual application form. The grant program is offered on a competitive basis and has a limited pool of funding; as a result some eligible applicants may not receive the grant. There is cap of \$2,000 grant funding per property per year.

The grant is offered at \$300 per property plus \$20 per hectare.

### 1.3 WHO CAN APPLY?

Landowners or occupiers with property larger than 0.4 hectares that is zoned: Green Wedge, Green Wedge A, Rural Living and Farming.



## 2. GRANT SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used to assess each property for the grant:

### 2.1 Property size

The property must be 0.4 hectares or more in size. Properties that are smaller than 0.4 hectares will not be eligible to receive a grant. For further information contact Council's Sustainability Engagement Team on 9205 2200.

### 2.2 Sustainable Land Management

Sustainable Land Management refers to the use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of goods while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of the land and its environmental functions. Landowners/managers must seek to manage their land sustainably including the control of noxious weeds and preventing their spread to neighbouring properties, protecting soils, native vegetation and creeks and managing pest animals.

The Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act) legislates several requirements to ensure land is managed sustainably. This includes preventing the spread of and, as far as possible, eradicating noxious weeds such as Serrated Tussock and Artichoke Thistle and declared pest animals such as rabbits, feral cats and foxes, protecting soils and protecting water resources. Further information about the CaLP Act is included in section 4.1.

### 2.3 How can I apply?

Applicants must complete an annual application form by the due date to be eligible for the grant. All applicants who submit a fully completed application form will be considered for the grant. Council may also conduct a property visit with the applicant to discuss their land management works. It is a requirement of the grant application that applicants agree to a site visit by a Council Officer. This is an opportunity for landowners/managers to seek any advice or guidance they may need.

**You must be the landowner of the property to be able to submit an application. If you are a land manager (lease or managing a property on behalf of the landowner) you must provide written consent with your application from the landowner to be eligible for the RLMG.**

To be considered eligible, a Council Officer must see evidence during their property inspection that the property is being satisfactorily managed in accordance with the objectives of this program. Council reserves the right to offer landholders alternative options if the property is deemed ineligible due to lack of evidence towards sustainable land management practices.

## 3. APPLICATION PROCESS

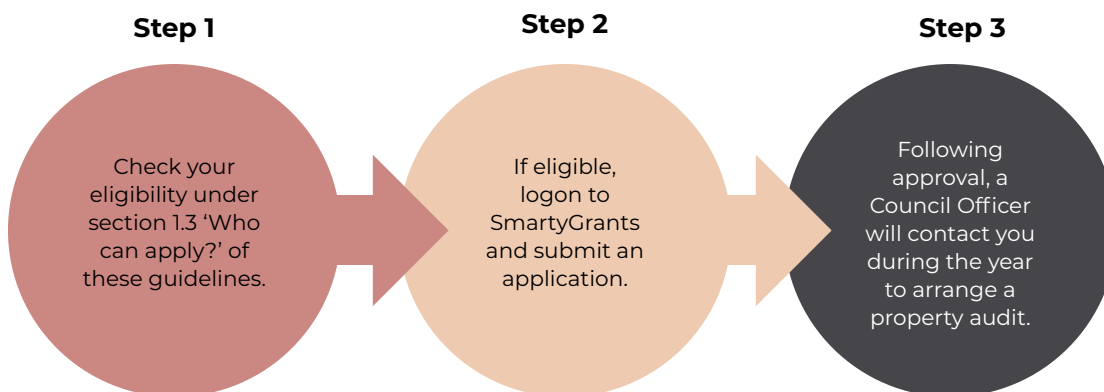
### 3.1 How can I apply?

Applicants must complete an annual application form by the due date to be eligible for the grant. All applicants who submit a fully completed application form will be considered for the grant. Council may also conduct a property visit with the applicant to discuss their land management works. It is a requirement of the grant application that applicants agree to a site visit by a Council Officer. This is an opportunity for landowners/managers to seek any advice or guidance they may need.

To apply:

- Complete a application via SmartyGrants, an online grant management portal, from 1 July 2024 to 31 May 2025.
- Applications can be accessed through scanning the QR code on the back cover of these guidelines or Council's webpage : <https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Grants-awards-and-funds/REP>
- Approval of the application form will occur in accordance with the eligibly criteria. This may include a property visit from a Council Officer.
- Payment via cheque or EFT will occur after approval of the application form and will be provided to the landowner/manager within **two months of applying**.

### 3.2 Application Steps



### 3.3 Timeframes

Time-frame	Activity
1 July 2024	Applications open.
1 July 2024-31 May 2025	Applications assessed, property visits organised and conducted.
31 May 2025	Applications close.

### 3.4 Application approval

Council reserves the right to not approve applications due to insufficient land management works on the property.







## 4. INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

A range of resources and information is available to assist applicants when developing their project.

Information can be found on Council's page at [hume.vic.gov.au](http://hume.vic.gov.au). For all enquires contact the Sustainability Engagement Team on 9205 2200 or email [ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au)

### 4.1 Legislation:

#### Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

The main legislation covering noxious weed and pest animal management in Victoria is the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act). Under this Act species of plants and animals can be declared as noxious weeds and pest animals.

One of the main objectives of the CaLP Act is to protect primary production, Crown land, the environment and community health from the effects of noxious weeds and pest animals. The CaLP Act defines roles and responsibilities and regulates the management of noxious weeds and pest animals.

In relation to their land, a landowner must take all reasonable steps to:

- avoid causing or contributing to land degradation which causes or may cause damage to land of another land owner
- conserve soil
- protect water resources
- eradicate regionally prohibited weeds
- prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds
- prevent the spread of, and as far as possible eradicate, established pest animals.

#### Planning and Environment Act 1987

This Act sets up a system of planning schemes to regulate the use and development of land in Victoria. Clause 52.17 outlines the requirement for a permit to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation, unless the removal is exempt under the planning scheme that applies to the land.

### 4.3 Council Resources

#### Land & Biodiversity Guidelines

Council's Land & Biodiversity Guidelines is a resource to assist in the management of rural land, as well as the conservation and protection of natural environmental values. It includes such topics as:

- weed and pest animal management
- effective grazing
- managing soil erosion
- fire management
- managing native vegetation, revegetating and establishing windbreaks

#### Directory of Service Providers

To assist with managing your land, Council's Directory of Service Providers provides an up to date list of local contractors and suppliers that service the Hume area. Contractor services include such things as weed control, pest animal control, fencing, revegetation, slashing and farming maintenance/assistance. Suppliers include farm supply stores and plant nurseries.

#### Priority weeds and pest animals

Council's WEEDeck is a waterproof durable weed identification guide that covers the priority weeds in the Hume area





## Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.





# HumeLink

Multilingual telephone  
information service

**Enquiries 9205 2200**

للمعلومات باللغة العربية	9679 9815
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## Connect with us



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