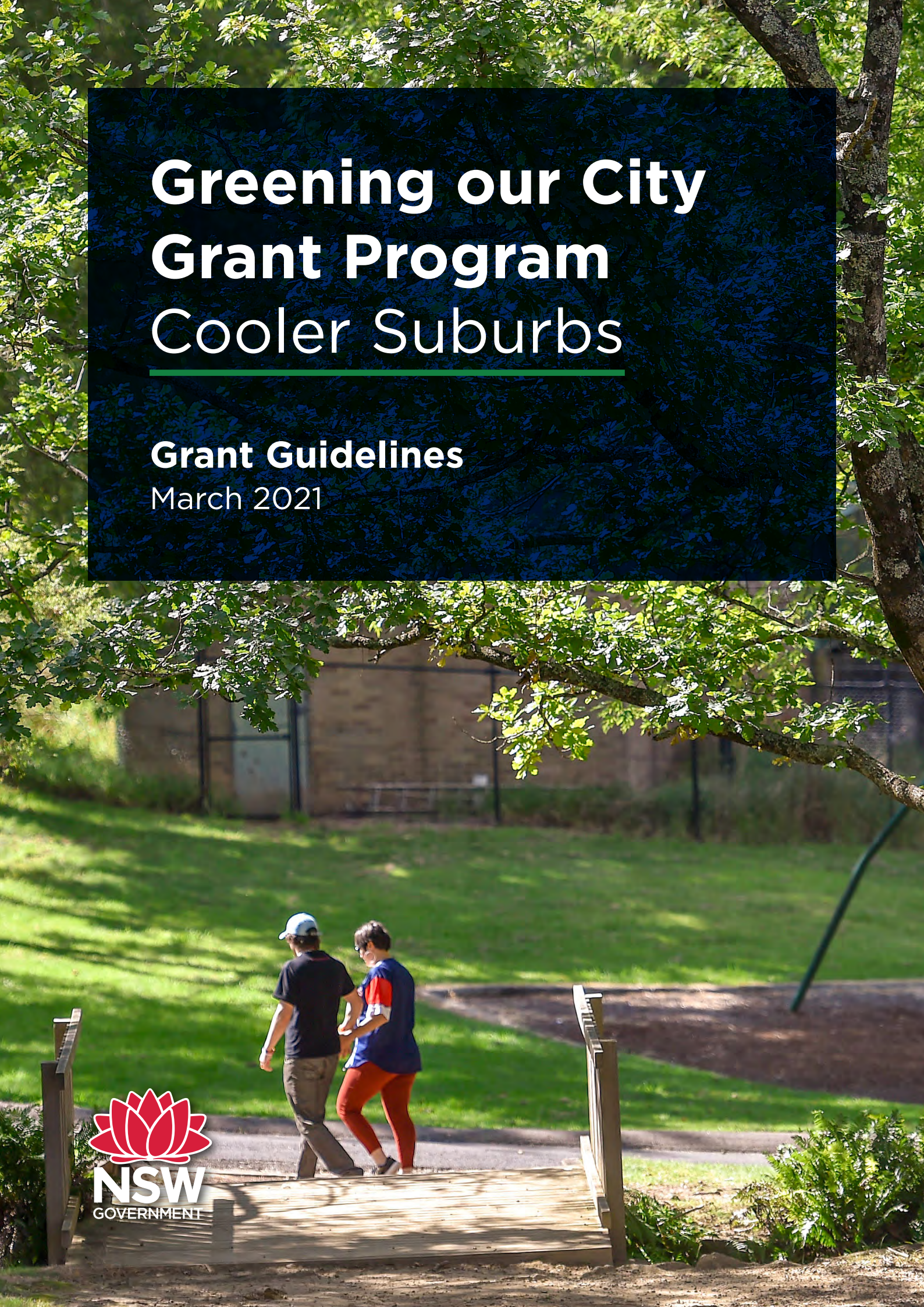


Greening our City Grant Program Cooler Suburbs

Grant Guidelines

March 2021



Acknowledgement

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to all Elders past, present and future.

Greening our City Grant Program Grant Guidelines March 2021

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Introduction

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is inviting local councils across Greater Sydney to apply for *cooler suburbs* grants to fund tree-planting projects under the \$10 million Greening our City Grant Program. The program supports the NSW Premier's Priority to increase tree canopy and green cover in Greater Sydney.

Grant funding will support projects that increase urban greening by increasing tree canopy in our local parks, streets and neighbourhoods. More trees mean more shade, cooler suburbs and attractive places to live and work.

The 2021 grant program follows the success of two previous grant rounds that have funded the delivery of 82 tree planting and demonstration projects. These projects will result in over 60,000 trees being planted in areas where they are most needed, creating greener, shadier and more attractive suburbs across Sydney.

Greening our City— Premier's Priority

In June 2019, the Premier of New South Wales announced Greening our City, a Premier's Priority to increase green cover and plant one million trees.

The objectives of the Greening our City priority are to:

- plant one million trees in Greater Sydney by 2022
- enhance Greater Sydney's urban tree canopy and green cover, particularly in areas with low canopy cover
- help prepare for climate extremes and mitigate urban heat islands through tree planting and other green cover initiatives to cool urban areas and provide shade
- promote partnership projects between local and state governments, organisations, industry, the private sector and the community
- support projects that demonstrate a commitment to canopy expansion, including improved outcomes for health, resilience and climate adaptation.





Five Million Trees initiative

Five Million Trees for Greater Sydney (5MT) is the over-arching initiative that is delivering the Greening our City Premier's Priority. The department administers the 5MT initiative on behalf of the NSW Government. The initiative was created in 2018 to expand the tree canopy across Greater Sydney by planting more trees in our streets, parks, private yards, neighbourhoods and schools.

The first four years of 5MT is funded through the NSW Government's Climate Change Fund under the 'increasing resilience to a changing climate' program. Funding under the 5MT initiative has been allocated to deliver the Greening our City Premier's Priority.

The Climate Change Fund was established to address the impacts of climate change, encourage energy and water saving activities, and increase public awareness and acceptance of climate change.

Previous Greening our City grant rounds

2019 grant round

20
councils
awarded
funding



32
projects



21,000
trees being
planted



2020 grant round

Stream one: cooler suburbs

29
councils
awarded
funding



38
tree-planting
projects



44,000
trees being
planted



Stream two: green innovations

10 councils and
1 **Regional Organisation
of Councils (ROC)**
awarded funding

12
demonstration
projects



8 out of 12
projects focussed in
Western Sydney

Benefits of trees



100,000 trees can provide **\$1.45 million** worth of **electricity and water savings** every year.¹



A 10% increase in street tree canopy can **increase the value of a property** by an average of **\$50,000**.⁴



Trees provide urban animals with **food and habitat**.²



Trees can filter pollutants from stormwater through their canopy, trunks and roots.⁵



The shade that trees provide can **reduce temperature**, with every 10% increase in tree canopy reducing temperatures by 1.13 °C.³



Trees are good for wellbeing. Hospital patients with a view of greenery recover faster than those without.⁶



Program overview

Purpose of funding

The 2021 Greening our City Grant Program is helping to deliver the Premier's ambitious target to plant one million trees by 2022. The purpose of the grants is to support local councils to enhance urban tree canopy by planting trees in public spaces such as parks, plazas and streets. The grant program will give priority to applications addressing canopy deficits by planting trees in suburbs with low canopy cover and increased exposure to heat. Planting more trees to enhance tree canopy will provide vital shade that reduces ambient temperatures for local communities and will help mitigate the urban heat-island effect.

Available funding

Up to \$10 million is being made available through the 2021 grant round. This funding will be available to eligible local councils through a competitive grant process.

The requirements for this round of *cooler suburbs* grants have also been updated, removing the requirement for matched funding from councils and including a minimum grant amount of \$50,000 (ex-GST). These changes respond to feedback from councils and recognise that additional financial support is required as the community recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local Government NSW will administer the program in partnership with the department.



Eligible councils

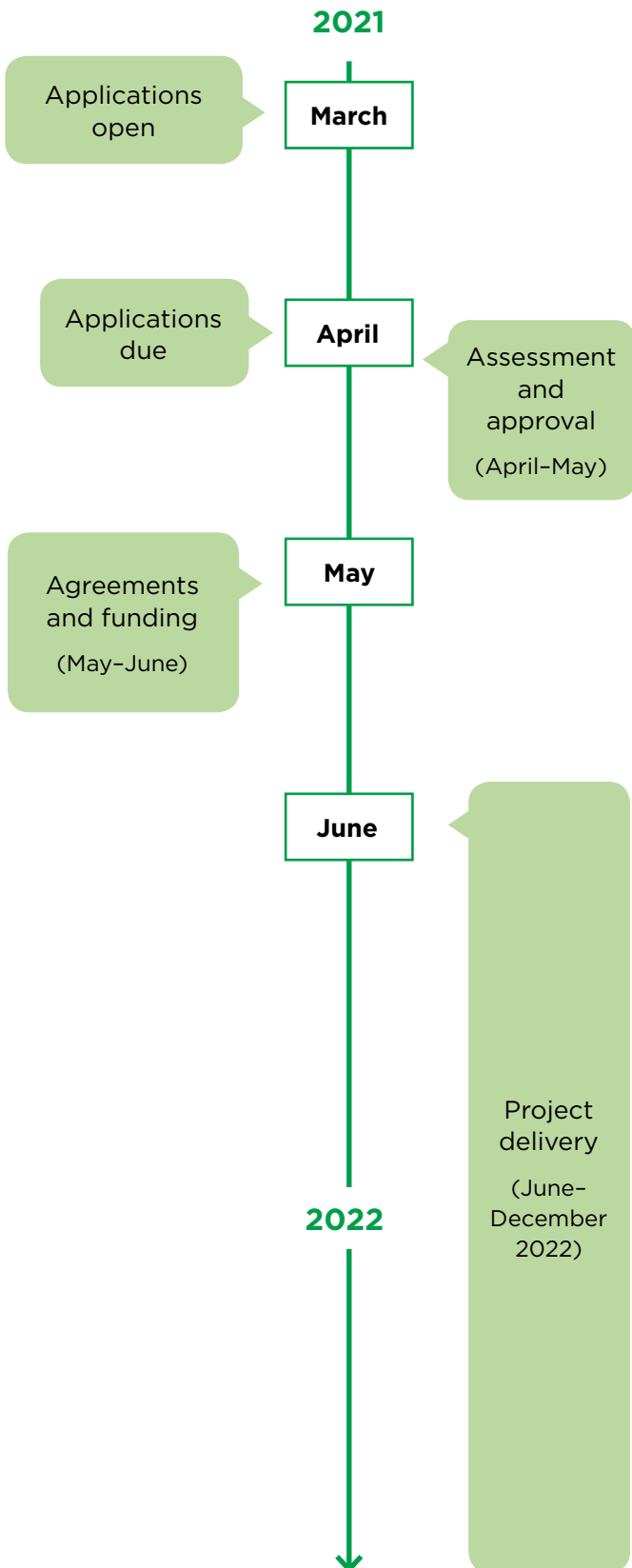


All councils in the Greater Sydney region are eligible to apply. These councils are:

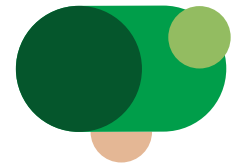
- Bayside Council
- Blacktown City Council
- Blue Mountains City Council
- Burwood Council
- Camden Council
- Campbelltown City Council
- City of Canada Bay
- Canterbury-Bankstown Council
- Cumberland Council
- Fairfield City Council
- Georges River Council
- Hawkesbury City Council
- Hills Shire Council
- 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

Councils outside of Greater Sydney are **not** eligible to apply.

Timeframes



Funding opportunities



Eligible projects

To be eligible for funding, applications must demonstrate:

- **canopy expansion** – projects must demonstrate the extent of impact they will have on local tree canopy
- **policy alignment** – projects must align with [Climate Change Fund](#) objectives and Greater Sydney district-specific priorities
- **minimum project value** – applicants must seek a minimum of \$50,000 (ex-GST) in funding for each project. There is no maximum grant amount under this funding round.
- **extent of funding** – applicants can seek grant funding to cover all project costs (i.e. no requirement for matched funding), except items that are ineligible for funding. However, councils are invited to include cash and/or in-kind contributions to increase the value of the project.
- **project management** – applicants are responsible for providing the necessary labour, equipment and materials, management and supervision to complete the project.
- **establishment and ongoing maintenance** – councils must take responsibility for the establishment and long-term maintenance of any trees planted
- **timing** – trees must be planted within 18 months of execution of funding agreement. Each tree planted must be maintained for a subsequent 12-month establishment period from the date of planting.
- **community engagement** – applications must show how the community will be engaged and involved during the delivery of the project
- **water supply** – projects must demonstrate that there is a reliable water supply to the newly planted trees during the first-year establishment period. We encourage applicants to incorporate efficient water supply or water-efficient technologies such as recycled water or stormwater in their projects.

Ineligible for funding

The following are **not** eligible for funding under this program:

- bush regeneration/revegetation works
- direct funding of personnel or staff positions:
 - staff and resource time can be included in an application as in-kind contribution to the project
- planning and strategy projects.

Works that may be funded

We will consider capital works such as:

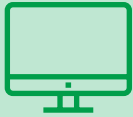
- street tree planting
- tree planting projects in new and existing open space areas such as:
 - corridors
 - parks
 - plazas
 - carparks
 - roads
 - pocket forests
- community tree-planting programs.

We may also consider funding infrastructure to support tree-planting projects such as:

- tree pits
- soil/mulch
- structural soil cells or similar
- root barriers
- irrigation
- drainage
- tree guards
- root ball support
- other protective measures.

How to apply

1



Visit the website

dpie.nsw.gov.au/greeningourcitygrants

Read the information about the grant program to determine if you are eligible.

2



Read these grant guidelines

Familiarise yourself with the grant program requirements.

3



Complete and submit the application by the closing date and time

Follow the instructions at dpie.nsw.gov.au/greeningourcitygrants

Attach relevant pages or sections for supporting evidence for your application.

Applications must be submitted by:

11.59pm (AEST) on
Wednesday, 21 April 2021

Applicants must:

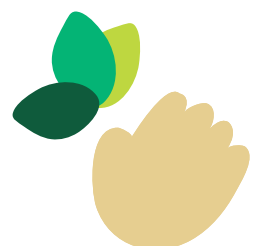
- answer all questions in the application portal
- attach copies of plans/reports referred to in your application. Attach only relevant pages or sections, not reports in their entirety
- provide general manager endorsement of the application at the time of submission or no later than **11.59pm (AEST) on Friday, 30 April 2021**.

Applications must satisfy the grant criteria and applicants must accept the conditions outlined in these guidelines.

Advice and guidance

[Local Government NSW](#) is our administrative partner in this grant round. It can provide information on the interpretation of these guidelines, including the types of projects eligible for funding and the application process.

To maintain a fair and equitable process, departmental staff will not be able to edit or correct any applications but can provide feedback if your application is unsuccessful.



Assessment

Assessment criteria

An expert panel will assess applications against the following criteria:

1. Merit (50%)

- Clear vision and need for the project
- Demonstrated alignment with the program objectives (see **page 2**), inclusive of outcomes from the online spatial tool:
 - the tree canopy level
 - urban heat island level
 - heat vulnerability index
 - soil infiltration rate
- Number of trees to be planted and proposed canopy cover increase
- Methodology to ensure the first-year establishment of the trees, including commitment to put measures in place to ensure the efficient supply of water for the establishment period.
- Quality of evaluation methods

2. Engagement (10%)

- Strategies for ongoing engagement of the community and participants
- Consideration of community expectations and how these will be addressed

3. Viability (20%)

- Whether the project and budget are supported by council and stakeholders
- Whether the project is well planned with appropriate risk management in place
- Realistic project scope, resourcing and timelines to complete the project

4. Value for money (20%)

- Detailed and accurate budget
- Value for money and realistic budget relative to the scale and impact of the project
- Appropriate use of public funds and provision for contingencies
- Insurance and other liabilities
- Supports tree establishment in the context of council's broader strategies to maintain or increase tree canopy

Online spatial tool



We have developed an online spatial tool to assist with the application and assessment of grant proposals. Using the layers provided, you can identify your project spatially to calculate:

- the tree canopy level
- urban heat island level
- heat vulnerability index
- soil infiltration rate.

Distribution of funding

In allocating funding, we will prioritise suburbs with lower canopy levels. The expert panel will assess each project on its merits. The outcomes of this assessment will be compared with projects in similar canopy ranges to determine the recommended funding allocation.

Notification of assessment outcome

All applicants will be notified by email or letter of the assessment outcome.





Requirements for successful recipients

Other funding

Grant funding provided as part of this program must not be used to substitute any existing committed funding for successful projects.

Registration of trees

All trees planted by council since the inception of the Five Million Trees for Greater Sydney Program (April 2018) must be registered with the department to show the council's contribution to collective tree-planting targets. This includes trees planted as part of this program.

Tree management plan

You must provide a management plan for all plantings to demonstrate how trees and green cover will establish and grow successfully, and how water will be used efficiently throughout the project.

Project launch and promotion

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the NSW Government and the Green and Resilient Places Division of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment must be:

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

Reporting and monitoring

Successful applicants must submit a project progress report at least every six months.

Progress reports must include the spatial location and certain characteristics of each tree planted and may also include photographs and other evidence of progress as agreed to by the program administrator.

Local Government NSW will provide details about the progress report process to successful applications.

The funding recipient is responsible for alerting Local Government NSW of any issues or risks to completion of the project at the first available opportunity.

Project management

Local Government NSW will ask councils to nominate a project manager for each project and to notify Local Government NSW in writing of any changes in project management. Councils are responsible for project management and budgetary control.

Project completion

Projects must be completed within 18 months (excluding an establishment period for tree planting) of the date of accepting the terms and conditions under the funding agreement. Due to funding constraints, it is unlikely that we will grant variations to extend the duration of projects.

Payment of grants

Local Government NSW will make grant payments at specific milestones, with timing and phasing to be confirmed in funding agreements.

A final project report must be submitted as part of the final payment claim. The report must outline the process and outcomes achieved by the applicant and be accompanied by the tree management plan for a 12-month establishment period for plantings, including a commitment to ongoing maintenance of all trees planted as part of the project.





Insurance requirements

Organisations applying for funding via this program must have minimum public liability insurance cover of \$20 million.

We recommend that applicant organisations have personal accident and professional indemnity insurance, however this is not a condition of funding. Organisations that employ staff must comply with the *Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998* (NSW).

Disclaimer

Submission of an application does not guarantee funding. The costs of preparing an application are borne by the applicant.

Privacy policy

The department will collect and store the information you voluntarily provide to enable processing of your grant application.

Any information provided by you will be stored on a database that will only be accessed by authorised personnel and is subject to privacy restrictions. The information will only be used for the purpose for which it was collected.

The department is required to comply with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1988*. It collects the minimum personal information to enable it to contact an organisation and to assess the merits of an application.

Applicants must ensure that people whose personal details are supplied in applications are aware that the information is being supplied to the department and how this information will be used.

End notes

- 1 Endreny, Theodore. *We calculated how much money trees save for your city*. In *The Conversation*, April 27 2018. theconversation.com/we-calculated-how-much-money-trees-save-for-your-city-95198
- 2 Wintle, Brendan and Saran Bekessy. *The small patch of bush over your back fence might be key to a species' survival*. In *The Conversation*, December 13 2019. theconversation.com/the-small-patch-of-bush-over-your-back-fence-might-be-key-to-a-species-survival-108672
- 3 NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Government 2015, *Technical Guidelines for Urban Green Cover in NSW*, NSW Government, Sydney.
- 4 AECOM. (2017) *Green Infrastructure: a vital step to brilliant Australian cities Report*.
- 5 AECOM. (2017) *Green Infrastructure: a vital step to brilliant Australian cities Report*.
- 6 Franklin, Deborah. *How Hospital Gardens Help Patients Heal*. In *Scientific American*, 2012. scientificamerican.com/article/nature-that-nurtures





dpie.nsw.gov.au