



# THE NSWALC CUMBERLAND PLAIN GRANT PROGRAM 2021-23 GUIDELINES AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA



The NSWALC Cumberland Plain Grant Program (NCP Grant Program) is a \$1 million non-contestable grant program open to three eligible LALCs within the Plan's Area, being Deerubbin, Tharawal and Gandangara. The NCP Grant Program is fully funded by the NSW Government and is a key component of delivering the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (the Plan) and the development of an Aboriginal Engagement and Implementation Strategy which is a commitment in the Plan.

## Background

The Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (the Plan), which covers almost 200,000 hectares in Western Sydney, is being developed through strategic conservation planning to facilitate future development of the Western Parkland City while protecting the region's important biodiversity such as threatened plants and animals. The Plan will deliver commitments and actions designed to improve ecological resilience and function, and offset biodiversity impacts from housing and infrastructure development. The Plan takes a landscape approach to urban planning and biodiversity conservation to deliver the greatest safeguards for Western Sydney's natural environment over the long term.

As part of the Plan, DPIE has committed to engage with Western Sydney's Aboriginal communities and stakeholders to co-develop a 10-year Aboriginal Implementation and Engagement Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy aims to:

- ensure Aboriginal people in Western Sydney benefit from the opportunities arising from the Plan's delivery
- build partnerships and relationships with Aboriginal stakeholders, Traditional Custodians, knowledge holders and interested Aboriginal people within the Plan area
- identify how to work together to incorporate Aboriginal cultural values and knowledge into delivering conservation outcomes under the Plan.

Further information on the Strategy is available on the DPIE website [here](#).

## NSWALC Cumberland Plain Grant Program

DPIE is funding the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) to administer the NCP Grant Program which is available to the three Western Sydney Local Aboriginal Land Councils covered by the Plan. This program is one of the early implementation actions being delivered under the Plan and the Strategy.

In 2021 the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) entered a two (2) year funding agreement with the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) to deliver the NCP Grant Program.



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## Program objectives and overview

The NCP Grant Program is a non-contestable grant program open to three eligible LALCs within the Plan's footprint, being Deerubbin, Tharawal and Gandangara and aims to support these LALCs to:

- a. deliver cultural and conservation outcomes on their land or other areas important to them to assist with ongoing land management or future management for conservation
- b. provide economic opportunities for Aboriginal people by building capacity within the LALCs to deliver environmental services and to upskill in natural resource management cultural management activities.

## Funding available to LALCs

\$1 million is available for equal distribution among the three eligible LALCs for Eligible Activities. Eligible LALCs can also access 10% of their portion to assist them with the development of their Project Proposal.

## How LALCs can apply

Eligible LALCs will be invited to submit a Project Proposal to conduct project/s consistent with the Eligible Activities and identifying how the project/s address the **Grant Guidelines** and meet the **Grant Criteria**.

## Assessment and decision making

Completed Project Proposals from the three Eligible LALCs will be assessed and determined by a Management Committee in accordance with the Grant Guidelines, Eligible Activities and Grant Criteria. The Management Committee will comprise of staff from NSWALC, DPIE and an independent organisation. A recommendation to fund/not fund will be provided to the CEO of NSWALC for consideration and determination.

Where a LALC Proposal, or part thereof, has not been recommended for funding, the LALC is able to submit another proposal for consideration of the Management Committee to access the full allocation available.

## Grant guidelines

To support the Plan's proposed economic, environmental, and social outcomes, Project Proposals seeking a grant from the Program are considered within the following framework and ability to:

- Support the assessment and management of biodiversity, culture and heritage on Aboriginal-owned lands within the Plan Area and where possible within or in close proximity the strategic conservation area
- Assist LALCs with ongoing land management or future management for conservation of their land
- Empower LALCs to deliver cultural and conservation outcomes on their land or other areas important to them
- Support the assessment and management of areas of importance with remnant vegetation in preparation for future conservation management
- Promote partnership projects between the Aboriginal community, LALCs, state governments, Shire Council's, the private sector, and the community more broadly
- Build capacity within the LALCs to deliver environment services and to upskill in natural resource management and cultural management activities that contribute to achieving the social conservation outcomes of the Plan.

## Project eligibility

### Eligible activities

The following activities are considered Eligible under the Program:

- a. Ecological restoration including site preparation
- b. Pest and weed control
- c. Fencing and other on-ground works to protect biodiversity values
- d. Feasibility assessments to establish Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements on Aboriginal owned land
- e. New Plans of Management for Aboriginal owned land
- f. Environment and Cultural signage
- g. Capacity building to upskill in natural resource management and cultural management activities
- h. Research or community engagement that can demonstrate clear biodiversity outcomes
- i. Supporting LALCs to commence enterprise/grow their business to deliver natural resource management services that contribute to achieving the conservation outcomes of the Plan.

### Activities NOT eligible for funding

The following activities will not be funded by the Program:

- a. The payment of salaries or wages of existing employees supervising or working on the Project as part of their usual duties
- b. The purchase of vehicles
- c. Activities associated with housing management and housing related infrastructure, including on former reserves and missions.

### Assessment criteria

Project Proposals must address the following criteria:

- a. The potential cultural and biodiversity conservation outcomes of the project/s
- b. The potential ongoing and future conservation management benefits of the project/s on a LALCs land in relation to the Plan
- c. How the project/s supports the Plan's social, economic, and environmental outcomes
- d. The potential to support the LALCs aspirations and delivery of their Community Land & Business Plans
- e. The potential to build partnerships between the Aboriginal community, LALCs, state governments, Shire Council's, the private sector, and the community more broadly
- f. The potential to build the capacity of LALCs to deliver environment services and to upskill in natural resource management and cultural management activities
- g. That the funding amount sought for the project/s is value for money and justified in terms of the Proposal.

## Timeline for NCP Program

