



Australian Government

**Community  
Grants Hub**  
Improving your grant experience



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# Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration Grants

## Questions and Answers

### 1. What is the closing time and date for applications?

The application form must be submitted by 9.00 pm AEDT on Tuesday, 15 February 2022. It is recommended that you submit your application well before the closing time and date.

### 2. If I am not able to submit my application by the due time and date, can I be granted an extension?

No, extensions will not be given.

If an application is late or the Community Grants Hub is requested by an applicant to approve a lodgement after the closing date the [late application policy](#) available on the Community Grants Hub website will apply.

### 3. How much funding is available for this Program?

This grant opportunity will provide a total of up to \$9.5 million (GST exclusive) over 4 years from 2021–22 to 2024–25.

It is anticipated that each grant will be between \$1 million and \$4 million (GST exclusive), depending on the scope of the grant activity and its complexity.

### 4. Is the funding on-going?

The funding is not on-going and all projects must be completed by 31 March 2025.

### 5. When will I know the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application at the end of the selection process, consistent with the timeframes set out in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. For probity reasons, to treat all applicants fairly and equally, it is not possible to give you information about the status of individual applications during the assessment process.

### 6. How can I submit the application form?

The form is an online application form that you must submit electronically. The Community Grants Hub will not provide application forms or accept application forms for this grant opportunity by fax, email or through Australia Post unless otherwise stated in the grant opportunity documents

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**7. Do character limits apply to my application?**

Yes, the application form includes character limits – up to 6000 characters (approximately 900 words) per assessment criterion. Please note spaces are included in the character limit. Character limits do not apply to the mandatory project activity and budget templates.

**8. Why do I need to agree to work with a service provider to develop environmental economic accounts (EEA) for my restoration project?**

These grants are part of the Blue Carbon Restoration, Conservation and Accounting Program. A key objective of the program is to help pave the way for scaling-up investment in coastal blue carbon ecosystems, support management decisions, and contribute to global goals for climate and the environment.

The restoration projects funded through these grants will serve as demonstration projects and together with project level EEA will improve our understanding of the biodiversity and financial benefits of restoration, including carbon and non-carbon outcomes.

**9. What are my obligations (and associated costs) to work with the environmental economic accounting service provider?**

Your obligations will be to provide the EEA service provider site access to collect data, share your monitoring and assessment data collected as part of the project, and participate in workshops and meetings to discuss EEA design and implementation needs.

These obligations are not expected to have a significant cost burden. The EEA service provider may establish a separate funding agreement with successful grantees if necessary (for example, to collect data for EEA over and above the monitoring and reporting requirements for the restoration projects). Successful grantees would not be expected to cover travel and accommodation costs to attend workshops or meetings in person.

**10. Does my project need to restore more than one blue carbon ecosystem and deliver a range of ecosystem benefits (for example, tourism, fishing, cultural and coastal protection)?**

No. Your project can be focused on just one ecosystem and the key ecosystem benefits for that ecosystem, or address a number of ecosystems and a broader number of ecosystem benefits. We will assess all projects on their merits and recommend projects that collectively address a range of blue carbon ecosystem types and ecosystem benefits so we can develop a broad set of environmental-economic accounts across the projects.

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**11. Are kelp forests included as an eligible blue carbon ecosystem type in the grant program?**

No. The scope of eligible blue carbon ecosystems is in line with the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) definition of 'coastal' blue carbon, focusing on rooted vegetation in the coastal zone, and does not include kelp forests.

**12. Does my project need to have additional financial or in-kind third party contributions?**

No. It is not a requirement for your project to have third party financial or in-kind contributions. However, additional contributions will be taken into account as part of the assessment process (refer to criterion 4 of the assessment criteria in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines).

**13. If successful, does my project need to be ready to commence as soon as we sign the Grant Agreement**

No. You don't need to have all the planning and required approvals in place by the time you sign the project agreement. Readiness to commence and your delivery timeframes will be taken into account as part of the assessment process (refer to criterion 3 of the assessment criteria in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines).

**14. Can I apply for a grant if I have registered or I'm planning to register my project under an Emissions Reduction Fund blue carbon method?**

Projects registered or seeking to register under an Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) blue carbon method are eligible to apply for a grant. However, you are encouraged to contact the Clean Energy Regulator on 1300 553 542 prior to applying for the grant, if you also intend to register your project under the ERF, to ensure you meet the ERF eligibility requirements.

**15. Where should I go for further information?**

Please email your enquiries to [support@communitygrants.gov.au](mailto:support@communitygrants.gov.au)

**Question and Answer added 24 January 2022**

**16. Will the Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration Grants Program involve a carbon credit scheme?**

No. However, you are able to apply for a grant if you have registered or are planning to register your project under an Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) blue carbon method.

Projects registered or seeking to register under an ERF blue carbon method are eligible to apply for a grant. However, you are encouraged to contact the Clean Energy Regulator on 1300 553 542 prior to applying for the grant, if you also intend to register your project under the ERF, to ensure you meet the ERF eligibility requirements.

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**Question and Answer added 27 January 2022**

**17. I am wondering if Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration grants would consider inland water bodies, such as wetlands, billabongs and Indigenous wells as areas needing restoration?**

Inland water bodies will only be eligible if they are consistent with the ecosystem types and definition of blue carbon ecosystems as per the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. This will largely be determined by the extent to which they are 'inland' and whether they previously existed as a part of, or influenced by coastal tidal waters. As per the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, on-ground restoration must be undertaken to result in the restoration of one or more of these blue carbon ecosystem types: mangroves, seagrasses, tidal marshes and/or supratidal forests. Blue carbon ecosystems are referred to as "ecosystems that are influenced by tide water either regularly or irregularly (also known as coastal wetland ecosystems) – these ecosystems form a continuum on coastal land and floodplains and can include seagrass, mangroves, tidal marshes (saltmarsh), sparsely vegetated saltmarshes (salt flats), mudflats and supratidal swamp forests".

