Australian Government

Community Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience

Our Marine Parks Grants - Round 3

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 Thursday, 16 December 2021**. It is recommended that you submit your application **well before the closing time and date**. Please note all grant opening and closing times are in Australian Eastern Daylight Time.

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 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?

For this grant opportunity, up to $8.6 million GST exclusive will be paid over 2 years from 2021–22 to 2022–23.

- The minimum grant amount is $30,000 GST exclusive.
- The maximum grant amount is $500,000 GST exclusive.

4. Is the funding on-going?

The funding is not on-going and all projects must be completed by 30 June 2024.

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. 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.

The expected timing for this grant opportunity is:

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	17 December to February 2022
Approval of outcomes of selection process	March 2022 to April 2022
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	April 2022 to May 2022
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	May 2022
Earliest start date of grant activity	June 2022
Latest end date of grant activity	June 2024
Final reporting on grant activities	November 2024

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.

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.

8. How do I complete the application form, the project plan and budget templates?

You should ensure you answer all questions on the application form. When addressing the selection criteria ensure you have strong evidence to support your claims.

You must also complete and attach to your application a project plan and budget. Please use the templates provided. Depending on the complexity of your project, the project plan should be between 5 and 8 pages (not including example text which you can delete). Make sure your milestones and budget are realistic and can be achieved, particularly within the timeframe of the grant opportunity.

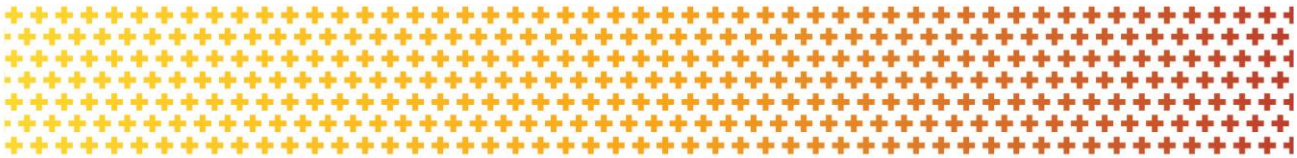
Further information for applicants can be found at the Community Grants Hub website.

You can also contact the Community Grants Hub for assistance:

By phone: 1800 020 283 (option 1)

TTY: 1800 555 677

By email: support@communitygrants.gov.au



9. Can I resubmit the same application that was provided for Our Marine Parks Round One or 2?

No, to ensure that you are referring to the current grant guidelines, eligibility requirements and assessment criteria you should use the new application form provided on the Community Grants Hub website. Applications submitted on incorrect forms will be ineligible.

10. Who are the target sectors for this grant opportunity?

This grant opportunity is looking to support a wide range of industry, community organisations, and Indigenous communities build their capacity to take an active role in the management of Australian Marine Parks and to help improve the health of our parks.

Eligible entity types (refer question 11) should ensure their proposed activity aligns with one or more aims of the grant opportunity, to:

1. improve capacity of regional and Indigenous communities to deliver outcomes that support ongoing management and health of Australian Marine Parks.
2. develop tourism operator capability to deliver environmentally and culturally appropriate, high-quality recreation and tourism experiences in or associated with Australian Marine Parks, contributing to Australia's visitor economy.
3. improve ecosystem health and understanding of marine park values and the pressures impacting on them, including, but not limited to, projects with the recreational and commercial fishing sectors and the seafood industry.

Through these grants, Parks Australia wants to partner with marine park users, communities and marine industries that rely on a healthy marine environment.

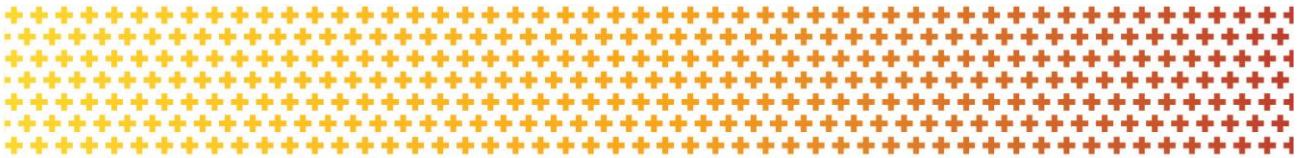
11. How do I know if I am eligible to apply for this grant?

Eligible entity types are listed at section 4.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. If after reading section 4.1 of the Guidelines you are unsure if you are an eligible entity you can seek clarification from the Community Grants Hub for assistance.

If you are not one of the eligible entity types listed, you are not eligible to apply for this grant opportunity. However, please note that consortiums are eligible to apply where the lead organisation is an eligible entity. For consortium applications a written agreement between the members of the consortium must be attached to your application; and the lead organisation must be solely responsible to the Commonwealth for delivery of the grant activities.

12. Are State and Territory government agencies eligible for funding?

No, if your agency is a non-corporate State or Territory Entity you are not eligible to apply unless you form a consortium with an eligible organisation/s. The lead organisation of the consortium must be an eligible entity type.



13. I am a small organisation and don’t have a lot of experience in applying for grants. Should I apply?

We encourage all types of organisations, businesses and community groups to apply and encourage you to use support services available to you to help you apply. However, if you think you do not have experience or the necessary skills to apply or deliver the grant effectively you should consider partnering with an organisation with the relevant eligibility, experience and skills to help ensure the success of your application and project.

14. Will I still be eligible to apply if I don't provide a letter of support from an Indigenous representative body?

Yes, if your project involves or provides benefits to Indigenous communities, you are encouraged to provide a letter of support from an entity or entities with responsibility for representing Traditional Owners of your proposed area of activity, however this is not mandatory. Applications that do provide a letter of support will be considered more favourable during the assessment process (refer section 6 Grant Opportunity Guidelines).

15. Can I include high-cost and low-cost project options in my application?

Yes, your application may include more than one scenario—for instance high-cost (high ambition) and low-cost options (for example smaller scope or duration; higher co-contribution; staged approach).

You will need to outline the project outcomes and deliverables for each scenario in the project plan template. If desired, you can submit up to 2 project plan templates (one for each scenario) or combine both scenarios in one template.

If proposing 2 cost scenarios, you must submit 2 budget templates, one for each scenario.

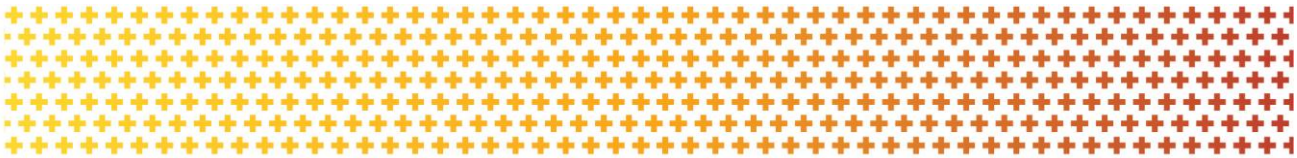
16. What level of co-contribution (financial and in-kind) by applicants and other parties are required?

There is no set amount or percentage required for co-contributions, however, applications with high levels of co-contributions, or those that are able to leverage additional funding through project partners, will be more competitive.

17. Can I submit more than one application?

Yes, however the distribution of funding will aim to provide a spread of projects across the eligible entities, across the Australian Marine Parks (AMP), and across the different AMP management programs.

If you submit more than one application for the same project, only the last received application will progress to assessment.



18. Can I apply for funding elsewhere for the same activity?

Yes, you can apply to more than one Commonwealth, state, territory or local government program to fund your project. However, if more than one application is successful, you cannot receive funding for this grant program for the same activities (duplicate funding). You must disclose in your application if you have applied to receive funding from another government program. You will also need to certify that your proposed project does not duplicate other government-funded management actions that are already underway in the location you are proposing to undertake activities.

If applying for funding for the same activities elsewhere, we encourage you to read and understand the objectives of the funding opportunity (for example, Grant Opportunity Guidelines) to make sure your application is relevant to the program you are seeking funding from.

19. Can I apply for funding for minor capital works?

Yes, you can apply for funding for minor capital works, considered to be capital works with expenditure under $150,000, for example visitor centre installations or aquarium installations. Major capital works with expenditure greater than $150,000 are not eligible. Eligible expenditure is listed at section 5.3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

20. Can I apply for funding for purchase of assets?

Yes, you can apply for funding to purchase assets. You will need to demonstrate in your application that failure to fund these items would have a significant and/or detrimental impact on project delivery. Consideration will be given to the lease or purchase of vessels/vehicles and other large assets on a project-by-project basis.

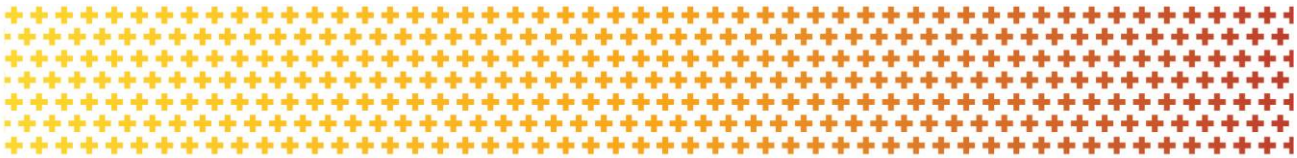
Supplementary provisions will apply to the use of equipment and assets purchased with grant funds. This includes that on expiry of the grant agreement, the grantee must either:

- transfer the asset to the Commonwealth or a third party nominated by the Commonwealth,
- deal with the asset as directed by the Commonwealth.

Note that this is a competitive grant round—the assessment process will consider the relative value for money of proposed project expenditure, to ensure costs are reasonable and contribute directly to grant outcomes (refer criterion 4, section 6, Grant Opportunity Guidelines).

21. Can I use grant funds to pay for the cost of the independently audited financial acquittal report?

Yes, under section 5.3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines you can spend grant funds on contractor costs or expert advice that may be required to conduct an independently audited financial acquittal report at the end of your activity.



22. Does my project have to include activities that occur on-water in an Australian Marine Park?

No, the objective of this grant opportunity is to fund projects that best contribute to the vision and objectives of Australian Marine Parks, and one or more of the 10-year outcomes for one or more of the Australian Marine Park Management Programs. This objective could be achieved in many ways and does not necessarily need to involve on-water activities.

23. Which marine parks are not eligible for funding in this grant opportunity?

- The proposed new Australian Marine Parks in the Indian Ocean Territories
- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- The Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve
- State and Northern Territory marine parks and reserves

24. If my project includes on-water activities in an Australian Marine Park do I need an approval?

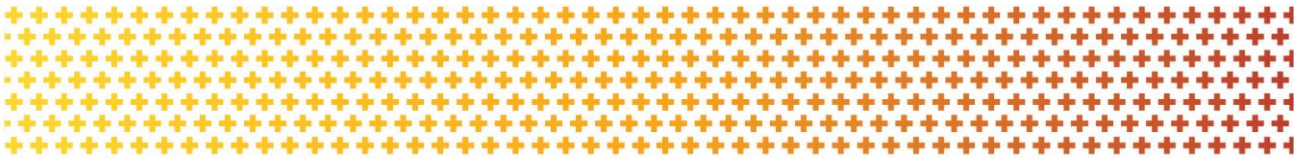
Yes, most on water activities within in an Australian Marine Park will require an authorisation as required under an Australian Marine Park management plan. The management plans provide information on what activities are prohibited or permitted with approval.

You may also require regulatory approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 and other Commonwealth legislation.

Provision of grant funding does not constitute regulatory approval for funded activities. Successful grant applicants must obtain all necessary regulatory approvals before carrying out the funded activities and must comply with the conditions of those approvals at all times. Provision of grant funding does not restrain the right of the decision maker to issue or refuse approvals under applicable legislation.

25. Where can I find more information on the Australian Marine Park Management Programs?

Australian Marine Park management plans can be found at Australian Marine Parks website. They contain further information on the Australian Marine Park Management Programs, including on the 10-year outcomes. Make sure you reference the Management Plans when preparing your application, and explain why your project will contribute to one of more of the 10-year outcomes for one or more of the Management Programs.



26. What if my grant project relates to the South-east Marine Parks Network?

The South-east Marine Park Network Management Plan identifies Management Strategies rather than Management Programs. If your project relates to the South-east Marine Parks Network you should identify how the outcomes of your project relate to those Management Strategies.

27. What kind of conditions might be attached to my grant?

The Community Grants Hub website contains sample grant agreements and grant conditions that will give you an idea of what to expect if your application is successful.

28. If my project is successful can I make public statements and media releases about activities that are funded?

Yes, but in advance of any announcement, you will first need to consult with, and receive approval from the department, via email at AMPGrants and comply with any requirements in relation to acknowledgement of grant funding.

29. If I select on my application form that I would like to be kept informed of future grant rounds that may be suitable to my organisation, what does this mean?

By selecting that you would like to be kept informed, Parks Australia can add your details to our stakeholder register and keep you informed via email of any future Our Marine Parks Grants Rounds within the next 2 years.

30. If I select on my application form that I consent to sharing my application with other areas of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, what does this mean?

By consenting, Parks Australia can share your application (in its entirety) with other areas of the department with responsibility for areas that overlap with your project activities or outcomes within the next 2 years.

If you have applied for more than one grant opportunity within the department, this will allow us to discuss your application with other areas of the department and determine which grant opportunity is most aligned with your project.

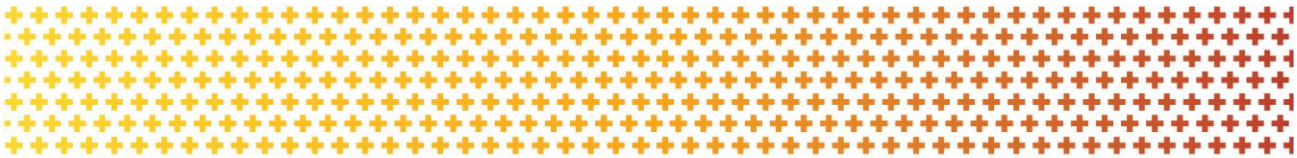
31. Where should I go for further information?

You can contact the Community Grants Hub for assistance:

By phone: 1800 020 283 (option 1)

TTY: 1800 555 677

By email: support@communitygrants.gov.au



Question and Answer added on 28 October 2021

32. There are some marine parks in SA that didn't make the eligible locations list. Was wondering why they were not included, for example, various locations within the Spencer Gulf?

The list of eligible locations for the Our Marine Parks Round 3 grant opportunity is limited to the proclaimed Australian Marine Parks managed by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. Australian Marine Parks are located within Commonwealth waters – those over 5.5 kilometres from the coast. The list of eligible locations does not include marine parks managed by State and Territory Governments.

Question and Answer added on 1 November 2021

33. There is a $9.7 million grant opportunity open to increase the area of sea in Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs), also being delivered by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. What's the difference between that grant opportunity and this third round of Our Marine Parks Grants?

Sea Country IPA Program funding is available to Indigenous organisations and enterprises only. Sea Country IPA projects will consult on the development of new Sea Country IPAs or on expanding the area of sea in existing dedicated IPAs. A significant component of each project budget is employment of Indigenous Australians to undertake on-sea/ground activities like turtle surveys, beach clean-ups, coastal patrols and cultural site protection. There is no requirement that Sea Country IPAs are located within a Marine Park.

Our Marine Parks Round 3 grants is not limited to indigenous organisations. Funding is available to a wide range of applicants, including regional communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, the tourism sector, scientists, recreational and commercial fishing and the seafood industry, to build capacity in the management of Australia's 2.8 million square kilometre network of Australian Marine Parks. Funded projects will contribute to the desired vision, objectives, and 10-year outcomes of the management programs identified in the Australian Marine Parks management plans.

Question and Answer added on 5 November 2021

34. Does this grant round support activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?

No. The list of eligible locations for the Our Marine Parks Round 3 grant opportunity is limited to the proclaimed Australian Marine Parks managed by Parks Australia (Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment). The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is managed separately by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Question and Answer added on 12 November 2021

35. I am currently under contract with the Director of National Parks to undertake activities at a specific Australian Marine Park. Can I apply for funding to undertake the same activities at a different Australian Marine Park?

Yes. When you apply you must certify that your proposed project does not duplicate other government-funded management actions that are already underway in the location you are proposing to undertake activities (refer section 4.2, Grant Opportunity Guidelines).

Question and Answer added on 23 November 2021

36. If we were to submit an application to fund a project in one specific location and wished to submit a second application for the same project but in different location, would that second application be treated as a separate project or would it be considered identical and result in our first application being excluded from consideration?

Your second application would be treated as a separate project if that application is for a project at a different Australian Marine Park.

If you submit more than one application for the same project at the same Australian Marine Park, only the last received application will progress to assessment (refer to section 7, Grant Opportunity Guidelines).