



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment

Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration Grants Information session

Steve Clark

Acting Director

Blue Carbon, Ocean Accounting
and International Partnerships

Climate Adaptation and Resilience Division
Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

12th January 2022



Session overview

- 1) Blue carbon conservation, restoration and accounting program
- 2) Blue carbon ecosystem restoration grant opportunity
- 3) Eligibility
- 4) Assessment criteria
- 5) How to apply
- 6) What happens next



An aerial photograph of a lush mangrove forest. The dense canopy of green trees is visible, with some areas showing the intricate root systems extending into the water. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing three lines of bold, dark blue text.

Australia is a blue carbon hot-spot

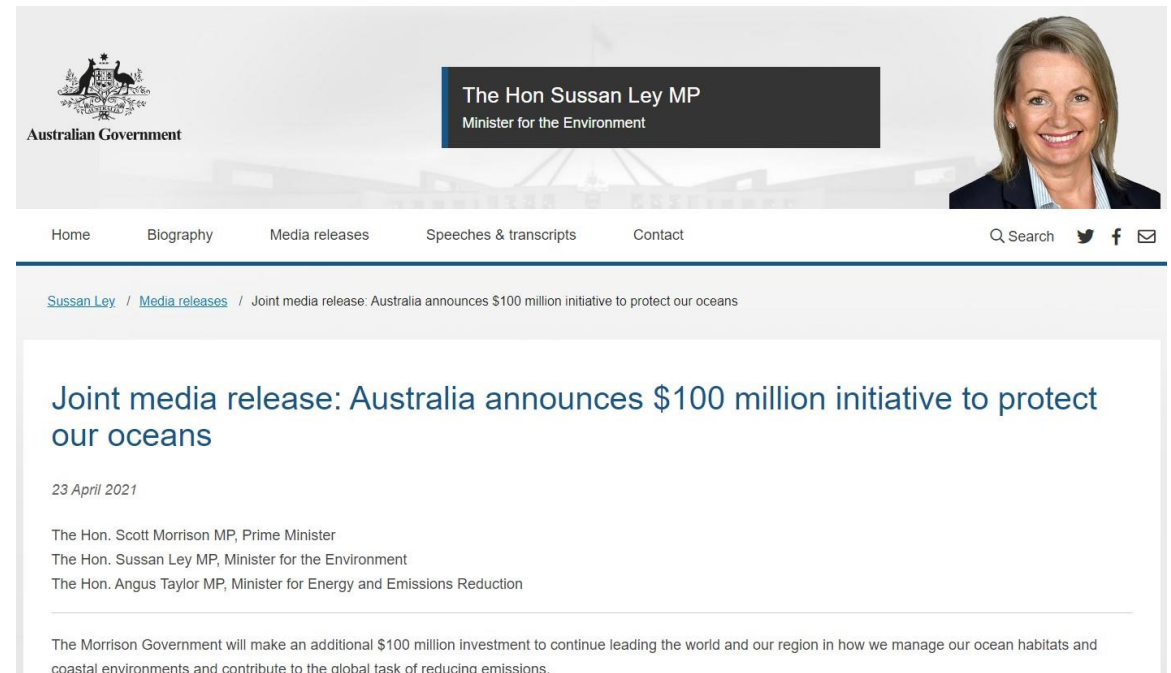
Private sector interest in blue carbon conservation and restoration is high

However, consistent and trusted information and valuation of blue carbon ecosystems are needed to attract private sector funding

Blue Carbon Conservation, Restoration and Accounting Program


- \$100M Ocean Leadership Package
- \$30.6M for blue carbon ecosystem action

Objective is to scale-up participation and investment in coastal wetland conservation and restoration in Australia and globally



The program achieves this by

 Funding on-ground restoration activities in Australia and internationally

 Using environmental economic accounting to value carbon sequestration and co-benefits

 Capacity building and partnerships



Blue carbon ecosystem restoration grants

Objectives

- Restore or re-establish blue carbon ecosystems
- Inform on the benefits of restoration to climate, biodiversity and livelihoods within various ecosystems and socio-economic settings

Intended outcomes

- Improve the health of blue carbon ecosystems
- Improve understanding of co-benefits and build knowledge and expertise in restoration and environmental economic accounting
- Generate restoration case studies
- Contribute to a wider 'Community of Practice'



Blue carbon ecosystem restoration grants

- Fund at least 4 on-ground restoration projects
- Across a variety of ecosystems and socio-economic benefits
- Run over 4 years until 2024-2025
- Anticipate \$1-4M per project (\$9.5M total)
- The Department will contract and fund Environmental Economic Accounting for each project separately



Eligibility

Indigenous Corporation | Company | Corporate Commonwealth Entity | Commonwealth Company
Non-corporate State or Territory Statutory Authority | Corporate State or Territory Entity | Local Government
Cooperative | Incorporated Association | International Entity | Statutory Entity

- ✓ Undertake on-ground restoration of a coastal wetland ecosystem (mangroves, tidal marshes, seagrasses and/or supratidal swamp forests)
- ✓ Agree to provide environmental economic accounting service providers access and data
- ✓ Provide evidence of project endorsement by board, a feasible timeline and that external costs to the grant can be met
- ✓ Demonstrate legal title or letter of consent from site owner(s)/manager(s)
- ✓ Provide letter of consent from Traditional Owners if grant activity directly affects Indigenous places, values or communities, and/or Indigenous rights and interests in the project site
- ✓ Identify areas under legal dispute or where Indigenous claims have been made but not resolved

Emissions Reduction Fund

Please contact the Clean Energy Regulator

1300 553 542

if you also intend to register your project under the Emissions Reduction Fund to ensure you meet the eligibility requirements.

Welcome to the Interactive Emissions Reduction Fund Questionnaire

This questionnaire will provide you with an overview of what is required for a project to be eligible to register an Emissions Reduction Fund project.

It will take about 15 minutes and will help you to consider application requirements for project registration.

The answers you provide in this questionnaire are not legally binding. They will only serve as a guide for you to know the basic requirements for participating in the Emissions Reduction Fund.

Successful completion of this questionnaire should not be considered as assurance that your project will be eligible to register for the Emissions Reduction Fund. The Clean Energy Regulator will assess the information provided in the project registration form and client information form (if any) to determine whether your project is eligible for registration.

Helpful signs

 To do

When you see this label, you may need to do further reading on a topic before completing the questionnaire.

 Unable to continue

When you see this label, it means the answers you have given indicate you may not be eligible to participate in the Emissions Reduction Fund.

 Completed

When you see this label, you will have completed the questionnaire.

Question: Are you ready to begin?

☐ Yes

[< Back](#)

[Next >](#)


[Start over](#)

Eligible activities

- ✓ Create hydrology
- ✓ Enhance natural recruitment
- ✓ Revegetate with native species
- ✓ Fence to prevent access
- ✓ Surveying, mapping, spatial modelling and hydrological assessments
- ✓ Seed collection, germination and propagation
- ✓ Local eradication of invasive species
- ✓ Erosion control
- ✓ Education e.g. workshops & website development
- ✓ Engagement with local communities &/or Traditional Owners



Rachel Austin Marine Bio Hub CC BY 3.0

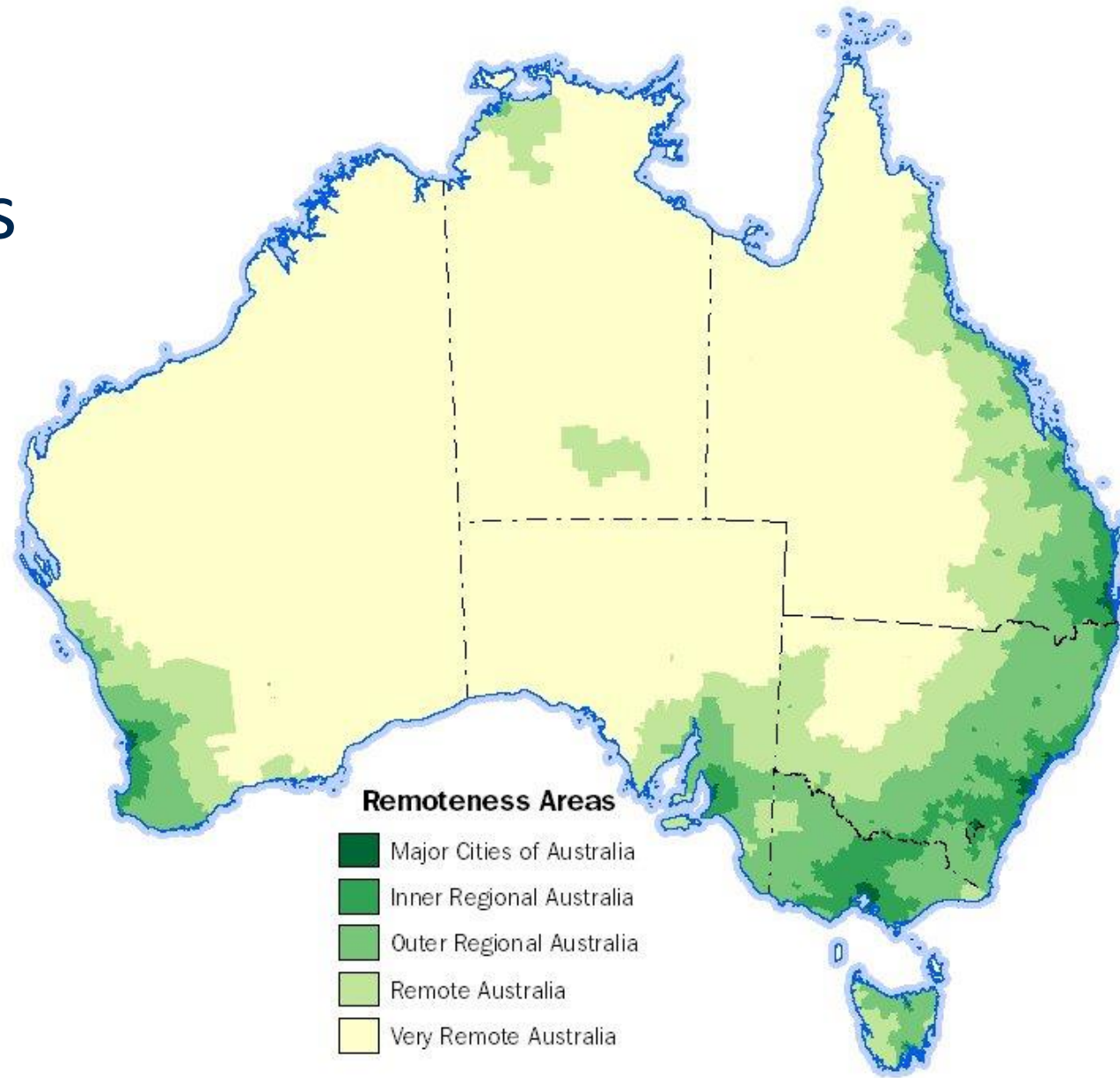
A man in a khaki uniform is walking through a mangrove forest. He is smiling and looking to his left. The forest is composed of dense, green mangrove trees with visible roots. The ground is sandy. In the background, a body of water is visible under a clear blue sky. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**Participation and partnerships with
Indigenous peoples is encouraged, including
co-design, co-management and the sharing of
their ecological knowledge**

Photo credit: Dragi Markovic, DAWE
Wuunambal Gaambera Uunguu Land and Sea Management Ranger at Banjal Bay

Eligible locations

Anywhere outside the
Major Cities of Australia
as defined by the
Australian Bureau of
Statistics



Offset areas are ineligible

Map

Satellite

Search Box

🗺️

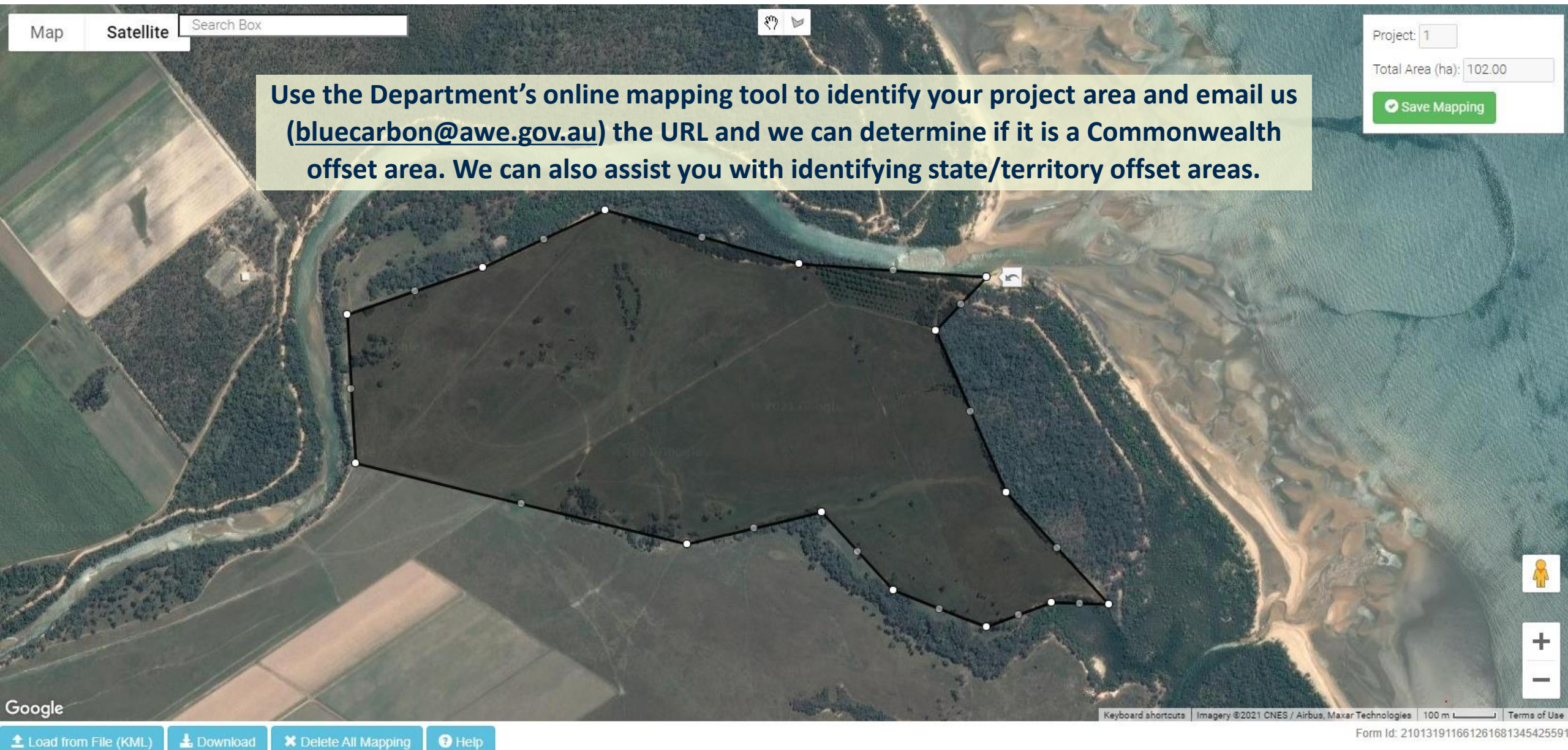
🐦

Use the Department's online mapping tool to identify your project area and email us (bluecarbon@awe.gov.au) the URL and we can determine if it is a Commonwealth offset area. We can also assist you with identifying state/territory offset areas.

Project: 1

Total Area (ha): 102.00

Save Mapping



Google

Keyboard shortcuts | Imagery ©2021 CNES / Airbus, Maxar Technologies | 100 m | Terms of Use

Load from File (KML)

Download

Delete All Mapping

Help

🧑

+

-

Form Id: 210131911661261681345425591

Eligible expenditure

- ✓ Salaries
- ✓ Contractor costs
- ✓ Planning, environmental or other regulatory approvals
- ✓ Equipment hire or purchase
- ✓ Communication, educational and promotional costs
- ✓ Venue hire for stakeholder engagement
- ✓ Admin support, project mgmt or co-ordination (10% max.)
- ✓ Monitoring, evaluation and reporting costs (10% max.)



Vishnu Prahalad Marine Bio Hub CC BY 3.0

You cannot use the grant for

- × Restoration where coastal wetlands previously didn't exist because of coastal processes
- × Costs of purchasing, leasing, depreciation of, or development of land
- × Cost of fencing for the primary purpose of stock management or standard boundary fencing
- × Planting of weeds, this may include some native Australian species when planted out of region
- × Activities that will have a negative impact on ecosystems outside the project boundaries
- × Costs for unlawful activities or where there is legislative and/or regulatory responsibility of others
- × Cost for activities where the primary purpose is to beautify or improve amenity, e.g. picnic tables
- × Catering expenses, except for provision of light refreshments/drinks at community events
- × The covering of retrospective costs incurred prior to the start date for the grant activity
- × Costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- × Subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone and rent
- × Lobbying activities and media campaigns that could be considered political in nature
- × Overseas travel, or domestic business class travel
- × Activities for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have primary responsibility

Assessment criteria

- 1) Project need
- 2) Likelihood of success
- 3) Restoration approach
- 4) Ability to deliver
- 5) Ability to monitor

6000 characters (~900 words) per criterion
Equally weighted

Activity and budget template to assist
addressing criteria



How to apply

Online only

**Closing date 9:00 pm AEDT on 15
February 2022**

Assistance with submission process, tech
difficulties or an error found in your
application after submission contact:

1800 020 283 (option 1)

support@communitygrants.gov.au



What happens next

Activity	Timeframe
Applications close	15 February
Assessment of applications	6 weeks
Approval of outcomes of selection process	4 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	Up to 6 weeks
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	2 weeks
Earliest start date of grant activity	May 2022
End date of grant activity	31 March 2025



support@communitygrants.gov.au

bluecarbon@awe.gov.au