



# Environmental Sustainability Grant 2026-2027 Guidelines for Landowner Works

## Acknowledgement of Country

Frankston City Council acknowledges and pays respect to the Bunurong People, the Traditional Custodians of these lands and waters.

## Introduction

The **Environmental Sustainability Grant** provides one-off funding to support community group projects and individual landowner environmental works that support the strategic vision for Frankston City’s future. This grant includes two funding categories:

### Landowner Works

- For eligible **individuals** who own rural land in Frankston City

### Community Projects

- For not-for-profit organisations or community groups

This document provides guidance for the **Landowner Works category only**. If you are a not-for-profit organisation, please refer to the Community Projects category guideline document.

**Apply for a \$1,000 grant**, paid in two stages.

### Key dates

**Opening date:** 1 September 2026

**Closing date:** 20 October 2026

**Funding Announcement:** Mid-November 2026

### Need assistance with your grant application?

**Email:** [CommunityGrants@frankston.vic.gov.au](mailto:CommunityGrants@frankston.vic.gov.au)

**Phone:** (03) 9784 1035

**Website:** [www.frankston.vic.gov.au/community-grants](http://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/community-grants)

## Where to apply

Submit your application online through Frankston City Council SmartyGrants portal on <https://frankston.smartygrants.com.au>

① New to SmartyGrants? You will need to create a free account to get started.



**Need help in another language?**

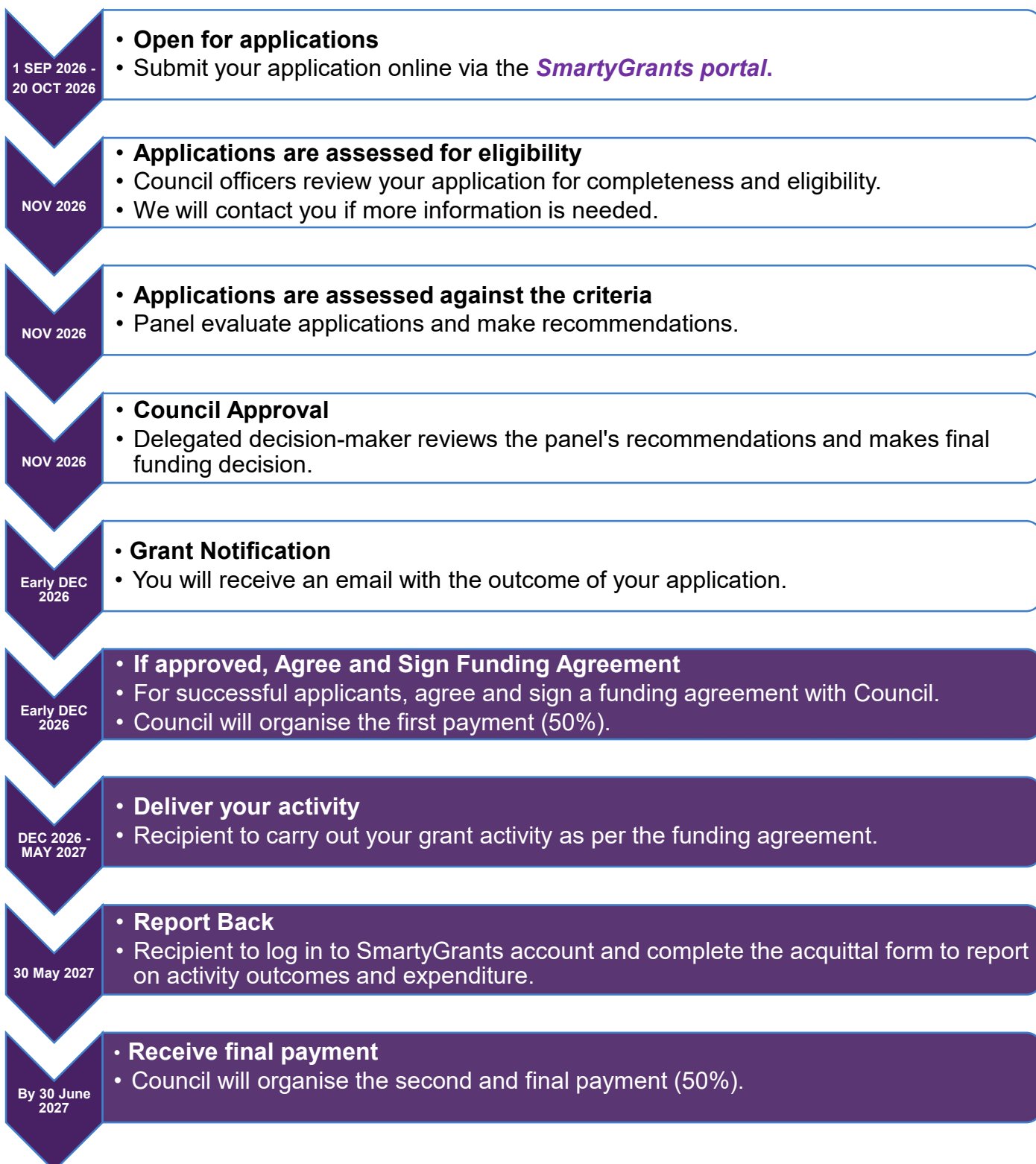


**Hearing or speech impaired?**

**Call 131 450** and state ‘Frankston City Council’ as the organisation and quote our number 1300 322 322.

Visit: [www.communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs](http://www.communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs)

## Timeline



## Funding Priority and Objectives

### Priority

Revegetation works on private land that contribute to mapped biodiversity corridors connecting native vegetation across the landscape.

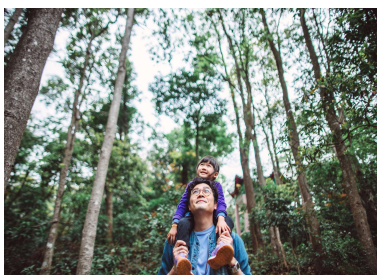
### Objectives

Your environmental works must align with the following:



Support the Greening our Future Strategy 2014-2024, or Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030.

Enhance wildlife corridors to improve biodiversity and contribute to ecosystem restoration, while supporting sustainable land management practices that protect and enhance native vegetation.



Build the community's capacity for climate action and resilience to the impacts of climate change through initiatives such as community education and awareness programs and local climate adaption projects.

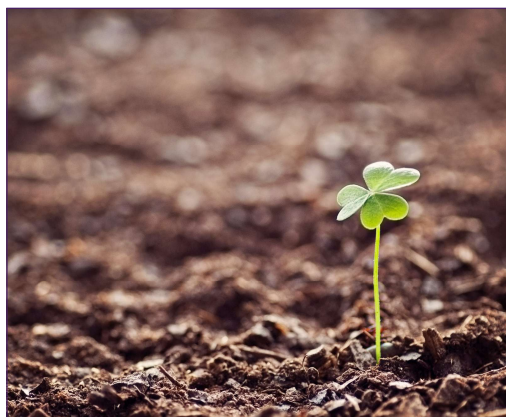
## What can be funded



### Revegetation works

- Complement remnant vegetation on private properties
- Link or strengthen significant habitat areas or corridors
  - Are required in a land management plan
  - Aim to increase canopy cover

Works to help **control and or manage minor erosion.**



**Environmental weed control** in good quality native vegetation, in association with other vegetation protection measures such as revegetation.

## Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible, Landowners must fulfil **all** the following requirements:

<b>Rural ownership</b>	Be <b>rural landowners</b> .
<b>Land size</b>	Your property must be <b>minimum of 2/3 Acre (2,697.9sqm)</b> .
<b>Location</b>	The property must be <b>located within the local Government area of Frankston City*</b> .  <i>*Frankston City includes Carrum Downs, Karingal, Langwarrin, Sandhurst, Seaford, Skye, Frankston, Frankston Heights, Frankston North and Frankston South</i>
<b>Zoning</b>	The property must also be <b>zoned as one of the following</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low density</li> <li>• Rural conservation</li> <li>• Green wedge</li> <li>• Located within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recognised Biodiversity corridor</li> <li>- Environmental Significance Overlay.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Commitment</b>	<b>You must commit to maintaining the vegetation</b> for at least 5 years.

### Helpful tips

- If you're **unsure if your organisation or community group is eligible**, we're happy to help you check before you apply. Get in touch with the Community Grants Team early by calling (03) 9784 1035 or emailing [CommunityGrants@frankston.vic.gov.au](mailto:CommunityGrants@frankston.vic.gov.au)
- Unsure if your property is under an eligible **zoning area**? Check the [Vicplan website](#).

## What the panel are looking for (Assessment Criteria)

Applications will be assessed based on the responses to questions in the criteria below:

Criteria	What the panel are looking for
<b>Environmental Impact</b> <i>35% weighting</i>	Project has potential to significantly improve wildlife corridors and biodiversity.
<b>Feasibility</b> <i>35% weighting</i>	Outlines a clear, realistic plan and timeline for project implementation.
<b>Sustainability</b> <i>30% weighting</i>	Demonstrates a long-term maintenance plan for the project.

## What cannot be funded

### The applicant cannot be:

- **Non-Compliant with Grant Conditions:** Funding to applicants who have not previously complied with grant conditions or are in debt with Council.
- **Council staff, Councillors, or Contractor run activities.** Exceptions in unique circumstances require approval from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and full disclosure of interest.
- **For-profit business or works, including commercial businesses or political parties.**

### Proposed works cannot be:

- **Contravene legislation, local laws, or the Frankston Planning Scheme.**
- **Council-related statutory fees** such as planning or building applications, environmental health registration and its inspection fees, or similar charges.
- **Goods or services from family members:** Applications must declare no Conflict of Interest with potential supplier or goods or activity providers.
- **Prohibited items** include, but are not limited to, alcohol, tobacco products, illicit drugs or controlled substances, fireworks, or gambling-related expenses, or any goods or services that are illegal to purchase, possess or use under applicable laws.
- **Retrospective funding:** activities already completed or items already purchased.
- **Required as a condition of a local law or planning condition.**
- Funding that would otherwise be **covered by insurance.**
- **Major capital assets, structural building works, or routine maintenance** that involve constructs, repairs, upgrades, or installation costs where works relate to a building or major asset, or any upkeep that is normally the responsibility of the property owner or tenant.
- **Waterway revegetation projects:** Assistance is available through [Melbourne Water's Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways Program](#).
- Works that **require additional building permits and/or planning permits.**

#### Helpful tips

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## What you need to provide (Required Documents)

### Site plan

- Provide a map or diagram of the property showing the location of the proposed activities.

### Photographs

- Submit "before photos" of the project area.

### Costs for works / material

- Provide a breakdown and evidence of cost.

## How we assess your application (Assessment Process)

### After you have submitted your grant application:

Eligible grant applications will be assessed in accordance with the criteria and weighting as outlined in each Council grant's application guidelines and assessed by Council Officers outlined in the Community Grants Policy.

Council reserves the right to:

- Decline any application that does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- Request further information in considering applications and decline any application that does not provide requested information by the requested due date.
- Consider information generally available about the applicant or information received by Council in connection with previous Grant Programs.
- Cancel any funding where circumstances change.

## Conditions of Funding

- **Merit-based assessment.** Each application will be assessed against the criteria outlined in these guidelines.
- **Eligibility does not guarantee funding.** All funding decisions are made at the full discretion of Council and are final.
- **Funding is limited.** Community Grants funding is subject to the total amount allocated in Council's annual budget.
- **Competitive grant.** This is a competitive grants program with limited funding available. Submitting an application does not guarantee funding, or the full amount requested.
- **No ongoing commitment.** Funding received in any given year does not imply support in future years.
- **One application per financial year.** Applicants may submit only one application per financial year.
- **Council contribution is limited.** Council's contribution will be limited to the amount granted. Applicants are responsible for any additional costs.
- **Policy compliance required.** All applicants and recipients must comply with Council's **Community Grants Policy**.
- **Canvassing is prohibited.** Applicants must not attempt to influence decisions by contacting Councillors, Council staff, or assessment panel members.

## Successful applicants for Landowner Works must:

- **Enter into and sign a funding agreement:** Sign the funding agreement to accept the conditions of the funding.
- **Provide bank details** and notify Council of bank account detail changes **by 30 June 2027**. If this information is not submitted on time, payment cannot be processed.
- **Deliver the funded activity.** Undertake the activity to Council's reasonable satisfaction, within approved budget and timelines.
- **Report back.** Complete an acquittal form via SmartyGrants **before 30 May 2027**.
- **Second and final payment** will be released upon review of a satisfactory acquittal report.
- **Use funds for approved purposes.** Grant funds must only be used for the approved activity unless written approval is obtained (*see Variation Request instructions, page 10*).
- **Notify Council of contact detail changes.** Inform Council of any changes to contact details or circumstances during the funding period.
- **Request approval for any significant and substantial changes** such as:
  - Changes to activity details.
  - Reallocation of funds to new, unrelated activities.
  - Deadline extensions (acquittal submission or activity completion).

To request changes (excluding funding amounts), submit a **Variation Request** form through SmartyGrants. Do not proceed with revised activities until Council provides written approval.

- **Support Council publicity efforts, as required.** Cooperate with Council's promotional activities, provide notice of events, and invite Council representatives where appropriate. Council reserves the right to publicise funded activities including organisation's name, activity description, funding outcome, and grant amount.
- **Comply with Federal, State or local laws and regulations** while undertaking the funded activity.

- **Maintain financial records.** Retain receipts and invoices related to the grant. **Council may request evidence of compliance at any time.**
- **Return unspent funds.** Unspent or uncommitted funds totalling 5% or more of the grant (and at least \$75) must be returned by the end of the financial year.

### **Cancellation of Grant**

Council reserves the right to cancel and request return of grant funds if:

- The application contains false or misleading information.
- The applicant withdraws from the activity.
- The applicant is not delivering the activity as proposed.
- The activity is cancelled

## Key Terms

### Activity

means the project, program, service, or event proposed in your grant application. It refers to what the grant funds will support and what your organisation will deliver.

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### Acquittal

means a report provided by the grant recipient demonstrating that the funds were used responsibly and in accordance with the conditions of the grant.

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### Grant

means sum of money awarded to an organisation to deliver a specific activity, with the expectation that the funds will be used only for the agreed purpose.

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### Guidelines

means a document that outlines the eligibility criteria, application requirements, and processes for a specific grant program.

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### SmartyGrants

means an online grant management platform used by Council for the submission, tracking, and administration of grant applications.

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## Support Available

Assistance with	Contact
<b>General enquiries and advice regarding the Environmental Sustainability Grant</b>	<b>Community Grants and Networks Team</b> During business hours: (03) 9784 1035 <a href="mailto:communitygrants@frankston.vic.gov.au">communitygrants@frankston.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Technical issues with SmartyGrants website</b>	<b>SmartyGrants</b> 03) 9320 6888 <a href="mailto:service@smartygrants.com.au">service@smartygrants.com.au</a>
<b>Multilingual support</b> In you need the assistance of an interpreter	Call 131 450 and state 'Frankston City Council' as the organisation and quote our number 1300 322 322
<b>Communication Access</b> Support service for people with a hearing, speech or communication impairment and for text telephone or modem callers.	<b>National Relay Service</b> To find the NRS call option that best suits you visit: <a href="http://www.communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs">www.communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs</a>  Most NRS call options are available 24 hours, 7 days a week.