

Heritage grants FAQ

2025–27 funding round

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Frequently asked questions for applicants

Grant categories and funding

Question	Answer
What grant categories are available?	<p>Funding is available under 4 grant categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Aboriginal cultural heritage grants: You can apply for up to \$30,000 to develop a management document or up to \$80,000 to carry out works at declared Aboriginal place.2. Activating state heritage grant: This category provides only one \$1 million grant to activate and enhance public access to a single heritage site of major state significance.3. Caring for state heritage grants: This category offers up to \$50,000 in funding for the preparation of management documents or up to \$300,000 works related to items listed on the <u>NSW State Heritage Register</u>.4. Local government heritage grants: These \$25,000 grants are available only to local councils to help protect and promote local heritage.
How much funding can I apply for?	<p>Depending on the category and the type of project you have, the grants offered are as follows:</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural heritage grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• up to \$30,000 to develop a management document or• up to \$80,000 to carry out works at declared Aboriginal place. <p>Activating state heritage grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only one \$1 million grant with matched funding will be awarded. <p>Caring for state heritage grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• up to \$50,000 in funding for the preparation of management documents or up to \$300,000 works related to items listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. <p>Local government heritage grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$25,000 per local council.
Are these grants competitive?	<p>Yes, 3 of the categories are competitive including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activating state heritage grant• Aboriginal cultural heritage grants• Caring for state heritage grants

Question	Answer
	<p>If a category is oversubscribed, applications will be scored against the assessment criteria and ranked. Note that not all applications can be funded due to limited funding.</p> <p>The Local government heritage grants category is not competitive and all eligible applications from local councils in New South Wales will be funded.</p>
Will all eligible applications be funded?	<p>No, Heritage NSW typically receives more applications than can be funded. Due to limited funding, not all eligible projects will be able to receive grants.</p>
Do I need to provide matched funding?	<p>Yes, in some cases. The level of matched funding required depends on the project, the applicant type, and the amount being applied for. Please refer to the funding guidelines on the NSW Grants and Funding Finder website for each grant category and their specific details.</p> <p>All matched funding must be accurately documented in your grant reporting and deemed reasonable.</p> <p>Note: other NSW Government grants cannot be included in your contribution but grants from sources outside the NSW Government can be included.</p>
Can I use in-kind donations, or other financial contributions, towards the matched funding?	<p>Yes, in some cases. Non-financial contributions, such as in-kind support or donations, may be allowed as part of your contribution. Please refer to the funding guidelines on the NSW Grants and Funding Finder website for each grant category and their specific details.</p> <p>All eligible contributions must be accurately documented in your grant reporting and deemed reasonable.</p> <p>Note: other NSW Government grants cannot be included in your contribution but grants from sources outside the NSW Government can be included.</p>
Can I apply for more than one grant?	<p>You can only apply once for an individual State Heritage Register listed item. However, if you own or manage more than one State Heritage Register listed item, you can apply for more than one grant. You must complete a separate application for each project, and each project should be independent and not reliant on other applications being successful.</p> <p>Additionally, each project must meet the eligibility requirements of the program.</p>

Question

Answer

Please refer to the funding guidelines on the [NSW Grants and Funding Finder website](#) for each grant category and their specific details.

Eligibility and application process

Question	Answer
How do I know if I'm eligible to apply for a grant?	<p>To confirm if you meet the requirements for the grant category you're interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• watch our videos about eligibility• review the funding guidelines on the NSW Grants and Funding Finder website.
Where can I access the funding guidelines?	<p>The grant funding guidelines for each of the 4 categories are available on the NSW Grants and Funding Finder website.</p> <p>The categories are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aboriginal cultural heritage• Activating state heritage• Caring for state heritage• Local government heritage
Can I apply for a grant if my item is heritage listed?	<p>Not necessarily. These grants are primarily for individual items (places or objects) listed on the NSW State Heritage Register.</p> <p>To determine your eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• watch our videos about eligibility• review the funding guidelines on the NSW Grants and Funding Finder website. <p>Only one application per State Heritage Register listed item will be accepted. If there is more than one owner of the heritage item, you must obtain written support from all owners or owner's corporation for the application.</p> <p>Note that if your item is listed only on a Local Environmental Plan, it is not eligible for these grants. In that case, contact your local council to enquire if they offer small grants for conservation work.</p>
Can the NSW or Australian Government apply?	<p>No, state and federal government agencies are not eligible to apply for any of the NSW Heritage Grants.</p>
Where can I access the application form?	<p>The links to the application forms are on the web page about each grant category on the NSW Grants and Funding Finder website.</p> <p>The categories are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aboriginal cultural heritage• Activating state heritage• Caring for state heritage

Question	Answer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government heritage
<p>How do I apply for a grant?</p>	<p>To apply, find which category you wish to apply for. The categories are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal cultural heritage • Activating state heritage • Caring for state heritage • Local government heritage <p>Click on “Apply now” to be directed to the SmartyGrants portal where you can begin your application.</p> <p>All applications and supporting materials must be submitted through the online SmartyGrants portal by the deadline of 10 am on 30 January 2025. Emailed or late applications will not be accepted.</p>
<p>How do I access SmartyGrants?</p>	<p>If you have not used SmartyGrants before, you will need to register your details to set up a user account. Once registered, you can log in and start your application.</p>
<p>Who can help if I am having a technical problem with SmartyGrants?</p>	<p>If you’re experiencing technical issues with SmartyGrants, they provide help desk support. You can contact them at Phone: 03 9320 6888 Email: service@smartygrants.com.au</p>
<p>What information will I need to provide in the application form?</p>	<p>Understand the information and documentation required for your grant application before you start applying by using the preview feature on the NSW Grants and Funding Finder website.</p>
<p>Can I submit a late grant application?</p>	<p>No, all applications with their supporting documentation must be submitted via the SmartyGrants portal by 10 am on Thursday 30 January 2025.</p> <p>Late applications will not be accepted under any circumstances, nor will applications via email or any other method.</p> <p>We strongly advise against waiting until the last minute to submit your application, as this can lead to slower internet processing. To avoid any issues, we recommend submitting your application well in advance of the deadline, ideally a few days before or as early as possible.</p>

Project oversights and approvals

Question	Answer
Will I need a heritage specialist to oversee my project?	<p>Yes, a heritage specialist is required to oversee funded projects to ensure the quality and compliance of the work.</p> <p>If your project involves any works on a <u>State Heritage Register</u> listed item, it is highly recommended to engage a specialist with relevant expertise and experience in planning and implementing heritage projects.</p> <p>Should you receive a grant, you will need a qualified heritage professional to supervise the project and certify the work. The level of oversight will depend on the project's complexity, and you may include these costs in your project budget.</p> <p>Heritage NSW provides a <u>free pre-lodgement service</u> for State Heritage Register-listed items where you can discuss your proposed works or activities before lodging a <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> application for an approval or permit. You are required to consult this service for any grant application relating to any works on a <u>State Heritage Register</u> listed item.</p>
Do I need approvals, permits or will an exemption apply for my project?	<p>Yes, undertaking works and activities at a <u>State Heritage Register</u> listed item or archaeology site will usually require an approval or permit, or it may be covered by an <u>exemption or exception</u> under the Heritage Act.</p> <p>For work at a declared Aboriginal place, an <u>Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit</u> is typically required under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>.</p> <p>Heritage NSW offers a <u>free pre-lodgement service</u> for State Heritage Register-listed items and declared Aboriginal places. This service allows you to discuss your planned work or activities before lodging an application for an approval or permit.</p>
Does a grant approval mean I have approval under the Heritage Act?	<p>No, a grant approval does not mean you have approval under the Heritage Act. You must apply for any permits and approvals separately. The grant approval is for the general project scope and concept, while the permit and approval processes examine the methods, materials and heritage impact of your project in more detail.</p> <p>Heritage NSW provides a <u>free pre-lodgement service</u> for State Heritage Register-listed items and declared Aboriginal places where you can discuss your proposed works or activities before lodging an application for an approval or permit.</p>

Important dates

Question	Answer
When are the grant applications due?	All grant applications are due by 10 am on Thursday 30 January 2025 . Applications will be open from 4 November 2024 to 30 January 2025. Late applications will not be accepted under any circumstances, nor will applications via email or any other method.
Will there be another opportunity to apply for heritage grant funding in 2025–27?	Heritage NSW does not anticipate another funding round during this period. This current funding round is for projects to be implemented during the 2-year period from July 2025 to June 2027. The next round is expected to open in late 2026 for projects to be delivered in the 2027–29 financial years. However, this may change if government funding and priorities shift.

Application outcomes and project start dates

Question	Answer
When will I know if my grant application has been successful?	Grant application outcomes are anticipated to be announced around May 2025. All applicants will receive written notification regarding the outcome of their application, whether successful or unsuccessful.
If I get a grant, when does my project need to start?	Your project must start within the first 3 months of signing the funding agreement, specifically during the period of July to September 2025.

Additional information

Question	Answer
What other grants may I be eligible for?	For information on all grants offered visit the NSW Government Grant and Funding Finders website .
When will the next round of heritage grants be available?	These heritage grants are offered every 2 years. The next round is expected to open in late 2026 for projects to be delivered in the 2027–29 financial years. However, this may change if government funding and priorities shift.
How do I get notified of the next grant round?	To stay up to date and notified of the next grant round, sign up to the Heritage NSW Grants mailing list by filling out the form on the bottom of the Heritage grants website .
Can I ask a specific question about my application?	Yes, you can email Heritage NSW at heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au with your enquiry. A member of the team will respond within a few business days.

Environment and Heritage

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

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