

Protecting Our Places program application guide 2024

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

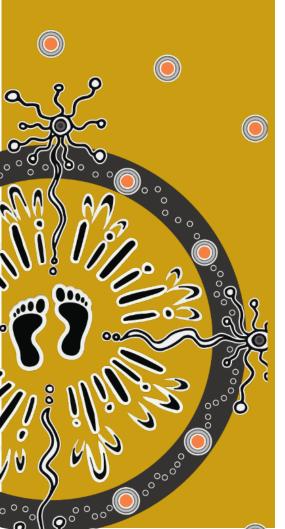


Acknowledgement of Country

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This resource may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.



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Find out more at:

environment.nsw.gov.au

Contents

How to use this guide	1
Feedback	2
Enquiries or questions	2
How to apply	3
Step 1	3
Step 2	3
Step 3	3
Application form	4
Important information	4
Part A: About your organisation and people	5
Applicant and organisation details	5
Part B: About your project	8
Tangible environmental outcome	8
Project justification	11
Capacity to deliver	14
Indicative project budget	15
Part C: Referees	19
Part D: Application feedback	19
Part E: Application submission	19
Document naming	19
More information	21
Protecting our Places guidelines and application forms	21
Other useful websites	21
Glossary	22

List of tables

Table 1	Example of threatened species	12
Table 2	Example of project collaborator list	14
Table 3	Example of budget breakdown: Stage 1 – Planning	17
Table 4	Example of budget breakdown: Stage 2 – Implementation	17

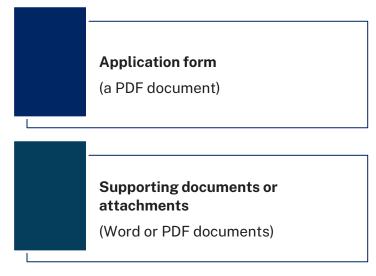
List of figures

Figure 1	Components of Protecting Our Places grant application	1
Figure 2	Example of a project location map for the Glen Davis Valley Connection project	9
Figure 3	Example of a project works map located in the Glen Davis Valle Connection project site	еу 10

How to use this guide

This application guide is designed to provide step-by-step directions to help you complete and submit your application to the NSW Environment Trust's 2024 Protecting Our Places grants program.

The structure of this guide mirrors the application form, for example, the guide has each of the 5 parts of the form (A to E), subheadings and questions in the same order as the form. This means you can easily find the question you are working on.



Your application will consist of 2 components:



Note

The following resources will help you complete your application and are available on the Protecting Our Places grants program webpage:

- Protecting Our Places application form 2024
- Letters of support: Protecting Our Places tips and sample
- Letter of endorsement: Protecting Our Places tips and sample.

The 'More information' section at the end of this guide has links to the program webpage and all documents and webpages referred to in this guide.

Supporting documents may be submitted either as Word or PDF documents. Applications must not be larger than **50 MB** (compressed/zipped files will not be accepted).

Feedback

We appreciate feedback on the NSW Environmental Trust's application process. There are some questions at the end of application form for you to provide some feedback, but you can also contact the Trust directly if you wish.

Enquiries or questions

NSW Environmental Trust

Telephone: 02 8837 6093

Email: info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

How to apply

Step 1

Open the **application form** from the Trust's website (see link in 'More information' section).

Download and save a copy of the form to your computer. Download Adobe Acrobat Reader if needed so you can fill out the form electronically.

Complete the form using this **application guide**.

Step 2

Email your entire application to the Trust, including:

- completed application form (PDF)
- supporting documents/attachments
 - 2 mandatory maps (project location map, project works map)
 - letters of support (optional but preferred)
 - letter of endorsement if your organisation is governed by a board or management/steering committee (mandatory)
 - studies undertaken on the site (optional).

Important

Applications should be sent to: apply@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

Closing date: 5 pm Tuesday 2 April 2024

Late, ineligible or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Important information for Step 2

- A maximum of 2 applications can be submitted per organisation, however, only one application may be funded.
- Applications must not be larger than **50 MB**.
- Applications must be submitted via email.

Step 3

The Trust will acknowledge receipt of your emailed application within 3 working days.

Within 2 weeks of the closing date, you will receive a confirmation email with a unique reference number for your application (e.g. 2024/PP/0023). This reference number should be used in all correspondence with the Trust.

Note

If you have not received notification of receipt of your email within 3 working days, **it is your responsibility** to contact the Trust to ensure that your application has been received.

Information on the assessment and approval process can be found in the *Protecting Our Places program guidelines 2024–25* (the **program guidelines**). A link to the guidelines is included in the 'More information' section.

Application form

The application form is split into 5 parts:

- Part A: About your organisation and people
- Part B: About your project
- Part C: Referees
- Part D: Application evaluation
- Part E: Submission checklist.

In addition to your application form, you will need to submit 2 maps – a project location map and a project works map. Additional attachments can be added, but only if you think they enhance your bid for funding.

Important information

All applicants should use the step-by-step instructions provided in this guide when completing each question in the **application form**.

Information on the criteria used by the Technical Review Committee when assessing applications can be found in the **program guidelines**.

Part A: About your organisation and people

Applicant and organisation details

Question A1: Applicant details

Please provide all relevant information about your organisation.

Here, and in Question A2, you should double-check that your organisation meets the eligibility criteria (refer to section '**2. Eligibility**' of the **program guidelines**).

Question A2: What is the legal status of your organisation?

Depending on the status of your organisation, you may need to submit additional documentation — such as evidence of the organisation's objectives, purpose or mission statement — to support your eligibility for the program as an attachment. Refer to the links referred to in this section of the application form for further information.

Eligibility assessments

When assessing your application, the Technical Review Committee will review your eligibility to ensure:

- the program remains available only to not-for-profit Aboriginal-led organisations that have a genuine link with the local Aboriginal community
- the project provides direct benefits and outcomes to and involves and consults with the local Aboriginal community and stakeholders.

Question A3: Has this application been endorsed by your organisation's governing body/board?

Written confirmation that your body/board is aware of the project and they endorse the project is required. It is important for them to confirm their understanding and commitment to support the proposed activities. This is done by providing a **letter of endorsement** (a mandatory attachment). There is a link to an example letter of endorsement in the 'More information' section.

If no letter of endorsement is provided as part of your application, then you need to explain when approval will be granted.

Note: failure to include a letter of endorsement without an adequate reason may impact the assessment of your application.

Question A4: Who is the applicant's primary contact?

Who is the person that will be the main, and most appropriate, contact person for the application? This will be the person the Trust will notify of the outcome of your application. The primary contact does not need to be the person completing the form.

Should you be successful in gaining funding, you can choose another person, if necessary, to be the contact for the project moving forward.

Question A5: Who has authorised the application?

This person must have the authority delegated by your organisation to approve this application. They will also become the secondary contact.

If your organisation is unincorporated, it is essential to have an **external manager** that is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation (or government entity) to be eligible to apply. Please include details of the external manager's primary contact here.

Projects supported by an external manager

If your organisation or group is not incorporated or cannot manage the financial aspects of the project for other reasons, you may nominate another organisation to auspice the grant funds on your behalf – an external manager. The nominated external manager must be an incorporated or registered organisation, for example, a local Aboriginal land council (LALC), non-government organisation (NGO) or a local council.

The Trust expects the project to be led and implemented by the applicant (an Aboriginal group or organisation), not the external manager. See link to *Role of the external manager tips and information* in the 'More information' section.

Note

Funding agreements are prepared in the external manager's name, who signs on behalf of the applicant. Payments are made to the external manager who is responsible for dispersing funds on the grantee's behalf and for the preparation of financial reports.

The Trust recommends that an agreement be reached, in writing, between the grantee and the external manager, such as an MoU (memorandum of understanding), to provide clear understanding of each group's roles and responsibilities throughout the project.

Question A6: Current status of your organisation

This question helps the Technical Review Committee gain a sense of the age, size and scale of your organisation. It is also important for the Trust to understand how your organisation makes decisions. The size of your organisation will not influence the Technical Review Committee's decision to grant funding, it simply helps them form a better understanding of who you are.

Question A7: Insurance

It is a condition of your grant that you have adequate insurance cover, including public liability insurance of \$10 million (minimum), workers compensation and volunteer

insurance. You are also required to ensure the policy remains active over the full duration of your project.

Question A8: Has your organisation previously received Environmental Trust funding?

This helps us understand what other projects funded by the Trust you have been involved in (including any at this project site) and any previous experience your organisation may have.

Question A9: Has your organisation received grant funding for this project site from a body other than the Trust?

Knowledge of the receipt of funding for this site from a body other than the Trust helps the Technical Review Committee understand how various grants might be integrated to maximise the environmental and cultural benefits of this Protecting Our Places funding at your site.

Part B: About your project

Tangible environmental outcome

Question B1: Project title

Provide a title for your project (maximum 100 characters). Your title should be descriptive of your intended outcomes and, where possible, include the Aboriginal location name. If your application is successful, this project name will be used on all grant documentation and for promotional purposes.

Question B2: Project summary – tell us what your project is about

Your project summary should provide a brief overview of what you want to do, and include some details on objectives, activities and the proposed outcomes of your project. Ensure that the summary clearly describes the environmental outcome you hope to achieve. This project summary will be used to promote your project in reports and media.

Question B3: Project location and map – where will the project take place?

Specify the project's relevant LALC area, Local Land Services region, local government area and state electorate. This information is required for program reporting purposes. Links provided in the application form can help you answer this question.

Provide the decimal degree coordinates for your project location. You can find these using a conventional map or visit **Google Maps** (see link in 'More information'). To find the decimal degree coordinates on Google Maps, locate your site, **right-click** on the map on the project location and in the menu that appears select **what's here**. The coordinates will appear in the search box. Copy these coordinates into the latitude and longitude spaces provided in the application form.

For example: Latitude -32.190189, longitude 149.945062.

Maps

You must attach 2 maps to your application: a project location map (this question) and a project works map (see Question B4).

Your **project location map** must show the project boundaries within a regional context. It should include major regional landmarks, such as rivers, major roads, towns, cities and national parks, as well as standard inclusions like a scale, north point and legend. This map allows the Technical Review Committee to understand where the project is located within the landscape and how it will interact with other environmental assets.

The Trust recommends that you keep the file names for your map short and concise. For example, the Scrubland Culture Custodians Network used 'SCCN Project Location Map' as their file name.

You can get some tips on how to prepare a map using the Trust's *Guide to developing maps for NSW Environmental Trust grant applications* (see link in 'More information' section).

Below is an example of a project location map. If you do not include maps your application is incomplete, which may prevent it from being assessed.

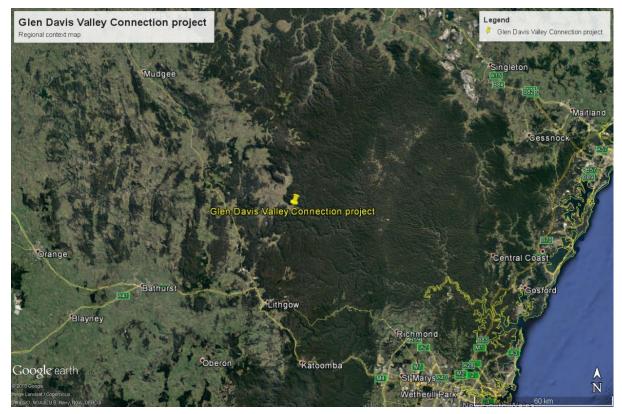


Figure 2 Example of a project location map for the Glen Davis Valley Connection project

Important

Your project location map should:

- be A4 (anything larger than A4 will not be sent to the Technical Review Committee)
- include a scale, north point and legend
- show the project boundary within the regional context
- include all major landmarks.

Question B4: Project works map – to show what works will occur on site

A **project works map** must be submitted with your application. Your project works map must clearly show the on-ground activities proposed in your application.

This map is specifically focussed on your project site and should provide a clear picture of your project's activities and/or work zones. It is also helpful to include standard mapping elements such as a scale (even if it's only an approximate scale), north point and legend. These will allow the Technical Review Committee to clearly understand what you are planning for your project. It is good to think of the map as a visual representation of all the words you have written in your application.

If your proposed works extend over more than one site, please attach a project works map for each site.

Maps should be produced using either a geographic information system (GIS), **NSW Spatial Viewer**, or similar free mapping software such as Google Earth. If you are unfamiliar with or do not have access to GIS, your local council or Local Land Services should have GIS officers who can assist you.

The Trust recommends that you keep the file names for your map short and concise. For example, the Scrubland Culture Custodians Network used 'SCCN Project Works Map' as their file name.

You can get some tips on how to prepare a map using the Trust's *Guide to developing maps for NSW Environmental Trust grant applications* (see link in 'More information' section).

Below is an example of a project works map. If you do not include maps your application is incomplete, which may prevent it from being assessed.

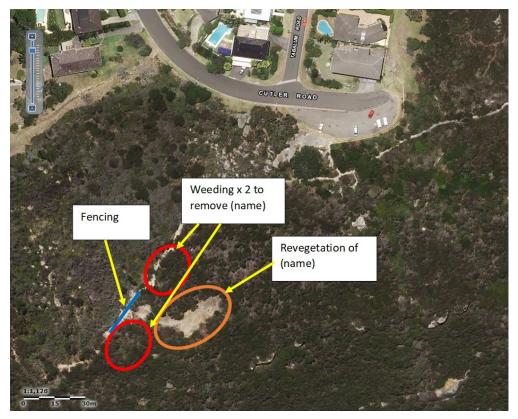


Figure 3 Example of a project works map located in the Glen Davis Valley Connection project site

Important

Your project works map(s) should:

- be A4 (anything larger than A4 will not be sent to the Technical Review Committee)
- show activities and/or work zones within the project boundary
- include a scale, north point and legend.

Question B5: Land ownership – who owns the land and/or holds a lease over the land?

You will need written approval/permission from the landowner, manager and/or leaseholder to undertake works on the site. Written approval in the form of a **letter of support** should be attached with the application (see link to example letter in the 'More information' section). If, when you lodge your application, you are awaiting approval from the owner and/or leaseholder, explain the cause of the delay.

Project justification

Question B6: What are the cultural and environmental issues you want to address?

It is important to clearly describe the cultural and environmental issues you are addressing, and explain their significance to the NSW environment. Use evidence to demonstrate that there is a strong need for action. The issues must directly relate to your project site and cannot be generic, like stating 'climate change'.

It is also important to identify why the site and/or issue is important to your community.

Question B7: What studies, reports, assessments or management plans exist for the site and/or the environmental issues?

Not all sites will have had studies undertaken to identify the environmental issue or problem. If, however, documentation does exist that identifies the environmental issue or problem for your proposed area of work, please reference it (e.g. local environment plans, catchment plans, vegetation management plans, plans of management, state of the environment reports).

Evidence is not essential. If no studies exist, your application will still be considered.

Question B8: What work do you want to do? List activities in sequence.

List the activities you will do in the sequence you plan to do them. Include all the works required for your project to be a success, for example:

• talk to community Elders about what they think should happen at the site, etc.

- develop site plans and get agreement with community and partners
- request licences, permits and quotes
- calculate the number and type of plants required
- calculate the length and type of fencing required
- calculate the amount of concrete needed for fence posts
- identify the best time and conditions to plant
- order plants and fencing materials
- site preparation including removal of weeds
- training community members in planting and fence construction
- store and water plants safely before planting
- store fencing material safely before use
- when planting is done, hold a community open day on site.

This list will help you later when we ask for budget information.

Question B9: Mandatory project management workshops

As outlined in the **program guidelines**, the Trust will deliver mandatory project management workshops regionally, depending on the location of the successful grantees, early in project planning (Stage 1). We ask that you consider this now and tentatively name who will attend these workshops on behalf of your organisation. Please note that they should be people expected to have a key role in the project development and delivery.

These workshops occur over 2 orbits, both 2-days in duration:

- Orbit 1 is scheduled for **October 2024.**
- Orbit 2 is scheduled for **November 2024.**

You must attend all 4 days of the workshops.

You can contact the Trust directly should you wish to discuss this further.

Question B10: Is the protection of a specific threatened species the primary focus of your project?

If your project will focus on a threatened species, provide information on that species and its conservation status. For assistance, go to **Threatened biodiversity profile search** page or the department's **Threatened species** webpages (see links in 'More information' section). Fill out the table in the form like the example in Table 1.

The 'NSW conservation status' refers to the whether the species is listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable.

No.	Common name	Scientific name	NSW conservation status
1	Eastern chestnut mouse	Pseudomys gracilicaudatus	Vulnerable

Table 1 Example of threatened species

2	Leafless tongue orchid	Cryptostylis hunteriana	Vulnerable
3	Superb parrot	Polytelis swainsonii	Vulnerable
4	Greater glider	Petauroides volans	Endangered

Question B11: Will your project be carried out in a threatened ecological community?

If your project will be implemented in an area where there is a threatened ecological community (TEC), provide information on the community type and how you know it's present within your proposed area of works (e.g. plan of management, mapping, field assessment by ecologist).

For more assistance, please go to the **BioNet Atlas** search page (see link in 'More information' section) and follow the instructions below:

On the Home page, select the 'Species sightings search' tab.

- 1. Which species or group? Select: Communities.
- 2. Legal status? Select: All records
- 3. What area? Select: Select a geographic area.
 - a. Then use the drop-down 'Choose a layer type' menu to select LGA (local government area), or another suitable geographic area for your project.
 - b. Then select your LGA from the list.
- 4. Period of records? Select: All records
- 5. Status? Select: Valid records only.

Click 'Submit search' button at the bottom of the page.

A list of threatened ecological communities in the area will appear. The status of the community is provided (NSW status and Commonwealth). Click the information icon on the right-hand side of the table which will open a tab containing the profile of the threatened community you have selected. There may be multiple threatened communities across the geographical area you searched on or on your project site.

Question B12: Is this project part of a larger, ongoing program?

Please outline what is already being done, if anything, about the issue/problem you are addressing. How does your project fit in with the larger program? How is it different? How will your project build on previous work?

If nothing is currently happening, please state this.

Question B13: Are the environmental issues or the activities proposed core business or the legal responsibility of any person or organisation involved in the project?

The Trust will not fund projects that are clearly the core business of local or state government authorities, private landholders or the applicant organisation.

Core business can be difficult to define as it varies for different organisations. As a general guide, core business is considered to be the essential business or legal responsibility of an individual or organisation. The Trust will not fund core business, however, will consider funding works that are related to, or additional in nature to the organisation's usual work or responsibilities.

Please see sections '3. Eligible activities' and '4. Ineligible activities' in the **program** guidelines for more information.

Capacity to deliver

Question B14: Collaborators

You need to provide details of up to **4 key people** who will be working with you on this project. Outline their roles and responsibilities within the project. To assist in the project's success, we recommend you ensure that there are adequate levels of supervision, skills, knowledge and support available throughout the lifespan of the project.

Note: While contractors may assist you in developing your application, if the application is successful, you will still be required to show that the engagement process was competitive.

Fill out the table in the form like the example in Table 2. In the application form, the 'Letter of support confirming participation included' column provides a drop-down list of responses (Yes/No) to select.

Person's name, position and group/organisation	Reason for involvement	Intended role in project design and delivery	Letter of support confirmed (Yes/No)
Mara Jones, Coastal LALC	LALC Project Coordinator	Project manager	Yes
Jesse Burton, Blue Sky Council	Significant project management experience (10 years with council)	Project administrator and manager of River Reserve	Yes
Local Aboriginal youth	Development of land management skills and knowledge	Trainees	No
Jo Brown, Coastal Landcare Network	Bushcare volunteer 15 years	Volunteer in River Reserve	Yes
Tyler Smith, Coastal TAFE	Head Teacher Cert II Conservation and Land Management	Bush regeneration training	Yes

Table 2 Example of project collaborator list

Question B15: Experience

The Technical Review Committee will consider any previous experience your group or organisation has in implementing environmental projects, as well as their size and how well they worked.

Experience is not mandatory and first-time applicants are encouraged to apply as support and training will be provided to successful grantees.

Question B16: Please declare any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest

Applicants are required to declare any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest that they would reasonably be aware of in relation to the awarding of a grant.

This is particularly relevant where the project is to be carried out by the applicant or a contractor closely associated with the applicant, or where the applicant will derive a personal or family benefit from the project. Each situation will be assessed on its merits and the governance arrangements in place to manage potential/perceived conflict.

Note: It is better to declare any potential conflicts and have them cleared on consideration rather than withholding information.

Indicative project budget

Question B17: Please provide an indicative budget breakdown of the funding you are seeking

You need to provide an indicative budget for both the planning and implementation stages of your project. This will include general expenditure items and their amounts. Please ensure that only eligible activities are listed for each stage. A more detailed budget will be prepared during the project management workshops.

Stage 1-Planning

The main Stage 1 activities include:

- obtaining agreements with partners, such as MOUs or committee terms of reference
- consulting with community and stakeholders
- obtaining any licences, permits or approvals
- associated costs to attend both 2-day **mandatory** capacity-building workshops by key project personnel.

Your total Stage 1 budget is a maximum of \$12,000. Do not list on-ground implementation activities (e.g. fencing, weeding, safety training, bush regeneration) in Stage 1 because they are Stage 2 activities.

Stage 2 - Implementation

Your total Stage 2 budget is a maximum of \$68,000. This being \$67,000 for project activities and \$1,000 for a mandatory independently audited financial statement at the end of the project, which is already identified in the budget template table in the form.

Eligible activities include a wide range of on-ground environmental and cultural management activities, including:

- seed collection, type and quantity
- number of native tubestock to be planted
- weed removal, manual or chemical treatment
- track construction with signage to preserve/protect cultural/environmental assets
- length and type of fencing
- number of ecological/cultural burns
- design, manufacture and erection of interpretive signage
- design and distribution of educational resources
- pest animal baiting, trapping, shooting
- erosion control activities based on site needs
- habitat creation based on site and animal needs
- formalisation of tracks to control access
- removal of dumped waste, quantity, type and method of removal
- design, manufacture and erection of warning signage
- training for project participants to do project-related works
- wages for project participants to do project-related works
- project management and project administrative costs

When entering dollar amounts into budget tables, you do not need to use a dollar sign (\$) or comma – e.g. enter \$10,000 as 10000.

Fill out the tables in the form like the examples in Tables 3 and 4.

Stage 1 – Planning (maximum \$12,000) Expenditure item	Estimated funds sought from the Trust \$	Estimated contribution by others \$
Hours for project planning (7 hrs/day for 7 days @\$42/hr)		2058
Hours attending mandatory project management workshop		2352
(7 hrs/dav for 4 days @ \$42/hr) for 2 participants		
Archaeological and site surveys	4500	
Aboriginal heritage impact permit (AHIP)	500	
Community consultation meetings and catering x 3 meetings @\$650/meeting	1950	
Elder (project ambassador)	840	
7 hrs/dav for 4 davs @\$30/hr		
Project management	4209	1000
(capped at 30% of total project value)		
_7 hrs/day for 14 days @\$42 95/hr		
Stage 1 – Planning Total	: \$12,000.00	\$5,410.00

Table 3 Example of budget breakdown: Stage 1 – Planning

Table 4 Example of budget breakdown: Stage 2 - Implementation

Stage 2 – Implementation/on-ground activities (maximum \$68,000) Expenditure item	Estimated funds sought from the Trust \$	Estimated contribution by others \$
Local council contribution for signage		5000
Bush regeneration supervisor (contractor) (7hrs/day for 40 days @ \$45/hr)	12600	
Fencing materials – 2 km (2 barb, 3 plain wires, strainers, droppers etc.)	2478	
Employment of 3 young people – training and on-site works	25000	
TAFE – Conservation and Ecosystem Management modules (Commonwealth funded)	0	7500
2,000 plant tube stock x \$1.50 per plant	3000	
Materials and PPE	750	
Tools	750	
Open day community event, including promotional materials	1500	
Elder (project ambassador) 7 hrs/day for 4 days/year x 2 @\$30/hr	1680	

Stage 2 – Implementation/on-ground activities (maximum \$68,000) Expenditure item	Estimated funds sought from the Trust \$	Estimated contribution by others \$
Project management	19242	
(capped at 30% of total project value) 7 hrs/day for 64 days @\$42.95/hr		
Mandatory independently audited financial statement	1000	
Stage 2 – Implementation total	\$68,000	\$12,500
Total Project Value	\$80,000	\$17,910
Stages 1 and 2		
Note: Trust funds maximum \$80,000		

Part C: Referees

We require 2 independent and external referees to support your project.

Referees should be outside of your organisation and not be actively involved in the project. However, they should be able to verify your organisation's capability to undertake the project and the merits of the project. They must be available during the application assessment period.

Part D: Application feedback

The Trust uses feedback confidentially to help guide future program design. Please take a few moments to provide us with some information.

Part E: Application submission

It is recommended that you read all sections of the **program guidelines**, particularly those sections covering the objectives of the program, eligibility and assessment criteria.

Document naming

Applicants must adhere to these specific naming instructions for submitting their application documents:

- Application form: Organisation name POP application
- Attachments:
 - Organisation name Attachment 1 Project location map (mandatory)
 - Organisation name Attachment 2 Project works map (mandatory)
 - Organisation name Attachment 2a Project works map site 1 (if more than one works site attach separate map for each site)
 - Organisation name Letter of endorsement from insert organisation name (mandatory)
 - Partner/stakeholder/landowner/land manager name Letter of support (optional but preferred)
 - Organisation name Site photo 1 of 1 (optional)
 - Organisation name Management plan extract (optional).

Before submitting your application, please refer to Part E of the form and ensure that you can tick off each item in the checklists.

Important

Any application that is late, incomplete or ineligible will not be considered.

Supporting documents may be submitted either as Word or PDF documents. Applications must not be larger than 50 MB.

Contact Trust Administration before **2 April 2024** if you have any issues in submitting your application on time.

More information

- NSW Environmental Trust webpage
- Protecting Our Places webpage

Protecting Our Places guidelines and application forms

- Protecting Our Places application form 2024
- Protecting Our Places program guidelines 2024–25
- <u>Sample letter of support and tips (Protecting Our Places 2024)</u>
- Sample letter of endorsement and tips (Protecting Our Places 2024)
- Guide to developing maps for NSW Environmental Trust grant applications
- Role of the external manager tips and information

Other useful websites

- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Google maps
- BioNet Atlas
- <u>Threatened species webpage</u> NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Threatened biodiversity profile search

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Activities	Significant steps or actions that are needed to produce the identified projected outputs. They relate to dates by which specific actions will be achieved. They map out the key steps for the project and set dates for ensuring the program's objectives are met.
Collaborators	Individuals or organisations that have reached a formal agreement to collaborate on a project. They directly contribute to the project with time, money and resources, and incur any risks and benefits from it.
Tangible	Something that is real or physical/concrete.
Threatened species	Threatened species are any species (including animals, plants, fungi) which are vulnerable to or in danger of becoming extinct soon. Species that are threatened are sometimes characterised by the population dynamics measure of critical depensation, a mathematical measure of biomass related to population growth rate.
External manager	An organisation responsible for auspicing grant funds and financial reporting obligations of the project on behalf of the applicant should a project be awarded (where the applicant organisation is either unincorporated or will be unable to manage the grant funds). A senior representative for the external manager organisation (e.g. general manager, chairperson, CEO or executive officer) is required to confirm the accuracy of the information within the application and be able to commit the organisation to the financial management of the project, if funded. They will be signatory to the funding agreement.