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| Landcare and Community Programs Volunteering and Grants  Coronavirus (COVID-19) |
| Frequently Asked Questions – 5 August 2020 (Updated) |

We know that your Landcare and environmental volunteering work means a lot to you, as it does to us. While we appreciate the enormous contribution that you make, the message is clear. Stay home and stay safe.

The Victorian Government has declared a State of Disaster and announced changed restrictions for Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Melbourne’s Stage 4 restrictions include having to stay within 5km of your home for shopping and exercise and a curfew from 8pm each night until 5am the next morning.

This means that people living in metropolitan Melbourne can only volunteer from home, and in line with stage 4 restrictions. More information can be found here <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/stage-4-restrictions-covid-19>

In regional Victoria, Stage 3 restrictions will operate from 11.59pm on Wednesday 5 August, meaning you cannot leave home except for one of the following four reasons:

* To shop for food and essential goods or services
* To provide care, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment
* To exercise or for outdoor recreation
* For work or study, if you can’t do it from home.

More information on Stage 3 restrictions can be found here: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/stage-3-restrictions-covid-19>

Under Stage 3 restrictions, although environmental volunteer activities may proceed in accordance with directions, it is strongly discouraged and only allowed with people from the same household and one more person.

Please also note that at this time, Parks Victoria has ceased volunteering programs, bush kinder and junior ranger programs.

We ask that you follow these new restrictions and check up to date advice available from the [Department of Health and Human Services](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus). By staying at home and limiting contact with other people, we can help protect ourselves, our families and our communities from coronavirus (COVID-19).

Your safety and wellbeing are paramount. We are appreciative of your continued patience and your ongoing commitment to Landcare and environmental volunteering.

# Landcare and Community Programs – Funded Projects

## General Guidance

We anticipate that the delivery of some of your funded grants projects will be affected or delayed due to the current public health measures and that is ok. Please follow public health measures and directions. Rest assured that we will provide flexibility around grant project due dates where required.

**Landcare and Community Programs Grant Rounds**

***Biodiversity On-ground Action Tranche 1 - Hubs and Iconic Species Projects***

Hubs and Iconic Species projects have been going since 2017 and should be nearing completion. Please ensure you submit your final report. Please contact [enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au) if you have any queries regarding this.

***Biodiversity On-ground Action Tranche 1 - Community and Volunteer Action Grants***

**2017 -** Please ensure you submit your final report. Please contact [enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au) if you have any queries regarding this.

**2018 -** these projects are due for completion in 2021, but we will consider time extensions and flexibility. Please contact [enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au) if you have any queries regarding this.

***Biodiversity On-ground Action Tranche 1 – Traditional Owner and Aboriginal Victorian Grants***

All Traditional Owner and Aboriginal Victorian projects funded should already be completed and a final report returned, unless an extension has previously been agreed with DELWP. If you have not submitted your final report or received an extension, please contact [enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au).

***Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants (WRG)***

**2019/20** - WRG final reports were due 31 July 2020. Please contact [enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au) if you have any queries regarding this.

***Victorian Landcare Grants (VLG)***

**2019/20** – VLG projects are funded through your local Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and are due for completion by 30 November 2020. An extension of up to six months is available for those who require it, and variations to projects can be made to activities that are within the scope of the VLG guidelines. Please contact your Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) at your CMA if you need a variation.

**2020/21** – Further announcements about the VLG have been delayed due to the delay in the Victorian State budget.

## Landcare and Community Programs Contact Details

The Landcare and Community Programs team at DELWP remains fully operational (and working remotely). Don’t hesitate to contact your Regional Landcare Coordinator (see link below), local Landcare Facilitator, or email us if you have any questions or concerns.

## DELWP’s Victorian Landcare Program staff – [landcare@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:landcare@delwp.vic.gov.au) and your email will be sent onto the appropriate staff member.

## Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) contacts – go to [RLC contacts on Victorian Landcare Gateway](https://www.landcarevic.org.au/home/help/).

## DELWP’s Community Programs and grant staff – [enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au).

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