



Landcare and Community Programs Volunteering and Grants Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Frequently Asked Questions – 22 September 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: As much as you can, you must stay home.

The Victorian Government has announced changed restrictions for Melbourne and regional Victoria.

From 11.59pm on 13 September, metropolitan Melbourne moved to the First Step to reopening:

Melbourne's First Step includes having to stay within 5km of your home and a curfew from 9pm each night until 5am the next morning.

You are able to undertake exercise or recreation for two hours maximum with one other person outside of your household:

- You must not travel more than 5km from where you live to exercise.
- You can exercise with members of your household or a friend or family member as long as you both do not travel more than 5km. Please use common sense and limit the number of people you see in person right now. It is safer to connect with friends and family using phone calls, social media and video calls. If you are exercising with someone else, you should keep at least 1.5 metres distance between you. Don't hug, kiss or shake hands.
- You must limit your exercise to twice a day and for no more than two hours in total.
- If you are a parent or guardian who is caring for a child or someone who cannot be left unattended then they may go with you.

More information can be found here www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

From 11:59pm on Wednesday 16 September, regional Victoria moved to the Third Step

There are no restrictions on the reasons to leave home.

Stay safe by washing your hands regularly, wearing a face covering when you leave home, coughing and sneezing into your elbow, and keeping at least 1.5 metres from others.

Keep your friends and family safe by meeting outdoors. There is a lower risk of spreading coronavirus (COVID-19) between people if you are outdoors. Groups of up to 10 people will be able to meet outdoors.

Environmental volunteering can be done within these restrictions if the following are observed:

- Before undertaking any activity, please contact your program manager or land manager and adhere to any program specific safety requirements
- Activities must operate with local regionally based volunteers only, participants from Metropolitan Melbourne cannot join
- Collect an attendance record on site with name and phone numbers of all volunteers
- Follow the maximum participation numbers



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- Adhere to wearing face coverings, physical distancing and good hygiene practices as per DHHS guidelines.

More information on these restrictions for regional Victoria can be found here: <https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-reopening-roadmap-regional-victoria>

We ask that you follow the most up-to-date advice and check [here](#) before doing your activities

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

At home, there are still opportunities to be involved in environmental volunteering, such as citizen science and contributing data, looking after your private land and collecting rubbish when exercising in your neighbourhood. Some ideas include:

- iNaturalist is doing an Environment Recovery Project - Australian Bushfires: <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/environment-recovery-project-australian-bushfires-2019-2020>
- For other localised citizen science opportunities: <https://citizenscience.org.au/>
- You can also do work in your own backyard and consider signing up for Gardens For Wildlife if it is in your area.

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 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 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 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.

Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants (WRG)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

2019/20 - WRG final reports were due 31 July 2020. Please contact 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 and your email will be sent onto the appropriate staff member.
- Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) contacts – go to [RLC contacts on Victorian Landcare Gateway](#).
- DELWP's Community Programs and grant staff – enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au.

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