

Bass Coast Landcare Network Funding Guidelines

The Landcare program aims to protect agricultural and natural resource assets vital to the future of our region. Funding incentives are now available to assist land managers in the Bass Coast Landcare Network area to undertake on-ground works and training.

The incentives are designed to support private landholders who wish to address land management on their farms. Benefits can include the increased stability and viability of soils, gains in the productivity of your property and increased land values. Some Landcare Groups also undertake works to protect natural areas on public land and welcome volunteer assistance from community members.

Funding is traditionally provided through the following:

- Australian Federal Government
- Victorian State Government
- Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority
- West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
- Bass Coast Shire Council;
- Westernport Water
- Phillip Island Nature Parks;
- Melbourne Water
- Corporate Partners:

Funding may be available for Items listed below

- Fencing off of waterways and gullies and planting out with indigenous plants
- Sus Ag and Soil Health Programs
- Fencing off of Remnant indigenous vegetation
- Weed control in Remnant sites
- Vegetation Management courses
- Whole farm Planning courses

(*Note*** All of the above assistance is subject to available funding in your particular area. Specific terms and conditions will be discussed and agreed upon with your project officer)**

Landholder's role

- Implement management plan for site (provided by Project Officer)
- Complete the project within the agreed timelines
- Ensure any fencing is erected to the agreed specifications and width
- Preparation of the site to **control weeds prior to and following revegetation** (*spraying of the site before planting is highly recommended and practiced by Bass Coast Landcare Network*)
- Plant trees and organise labour support if required

- Keep stock out of the project area
- Maintain the site into the future and provide the management agreement to any new owners
- Provide appropriate financial documentation and photographic evidence of completed works

Revegetation Guidelines

- To be eligible for a fencing subsidy revegetation projects must be developed and agreed upon by both the landowner and Project Officer. Wider project areas will be prioritised more highly for funding support.
- Minimum width of revegetation projects is 10m
- All revegetation projects use only local indigenous plants suited to the site that are based upon ecological vegetation class plant lists. These are ordered on your behalf by Landcare staff

Fencing Guidelines

- Fencing design and erection must be to a standard that is stock proof, permanent and acceptable to the inspecting Project Officer, with well-constructed strainers and end assemblies.
- Examples of suitable fence construction for a range of enterprises are:

Standard fencing	4 steel posts per 20m, 5 plain and 1 barbed or 6 line pre fabricated fence
Electric fencing	2 treated pine posts and dropper per 20m, 5 plain wires (3 line, 2 earth)
Beef	4 strand plain, with minimum 2 electrified
Dairy	3 strand plain wire electrified
Sheep	6 plain wire with any 2 electrified
Other eg flood areas	3 plain wires electrified

- For electric fencing, the landholder must supply an approved energiser and arc limiter compliant with Australian Standard C129.
- Fencing undertaken prior to project approval is not eligible.

Ineligible activities

- Boundary fences or sub division fences are ineligible for funding.
- Conditions stipulated on a planning permit.
- Works that are not compatible with the natural resource objectives set out in the local Landcare group Action plans (copies can be obtained through the Bass Coast Landcare Network Office).

How to Apply

- Complete the Expression of Interest (EOI) form detailing your proposed project and return to the nominated address. Retain a copy of your EOI and these guidelines for your own future reference.
- Please return your Expression of Interest form either via email at admin@basscoastlandcare.org.au or post to 2-4 Bass School Rd Bass 3991
- Once returned, a Landcare representative will contact you to make a time to visit your property to assess the proposed works.

- **Your project will be part of a prioritisation and assessment process. This process involves a site visit from a Project officer, Management plan creation then the Project is presented to the relevant Landcare Group and then appropriate Project steering committee for approval**
- You will receive written confirmation as to whether your application is successful. Successful landowners who accept the grant will be required to enter into a Management Agreement with Bass Coast Landcare Network for the ongoing maintenance of the site. You should wait for this letter of confirmation before commencing any works.
- If you require assistance to complete the Expression of Interest form or would like a visit to help plan the best solution for the site, please contact the Bass Coast Landcare Network on the number listed below.
- **Bass Coast Landcare Network (03) 5678 2335**





Bass Coast
Landcare
Network