

# Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee Community Grants 23/24

## Guidelines



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## Background

### Introduction

The Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee (GLCC) is tasked with making recommendations to the Minister for Water on the allocation of funding for the internationally significant Gippsland Lakes, with a specific focus on improving the environmental condition of the Gippsland Lakes.

The GLCC Community Grants Program complements the wider Gippsland Lakes program being implemented from 2021-2024 by a range of organisations across the Gippsland Lakes catchment.

This document provides information on the GLCC Community Grants Program, including guidance on general eligibility, priorities based upon the Gippsland Lakes Priorities Plan, and the Victorian State Government investment principles.

Applicants are encouraged to read these guidelines and discuss your project idea before preparing project applications.

### Applicant Eligibility

For a project application to be eligible for consideration and assessment, the proponent must:

- Be a 'not-for-profit' and community based.
- Have natural resource management (NRM) as a primary focus.
- Be incorporated or operate under the auspices of an incorporated organisation.
- Have current public liability (\$10M) and personal accident insurance. (Or operate under the auspices of an organisation that carries such insurance)
- Be able to provide a copy of the certificate of currency for public liability and personal accident insurance.
- Have submitted all due project reports for previous grants/funding to the EGCMA (where applicable).

### Project length

Projects must be completed by the **31<sup>st</sup> of December 2024**, no extension time is available after this date.

Applicants should consider the additional time required for an assessment and ministerial announcement process when designing their project.

### Project Eligibility (eligible or not)

Eligible project must contribute to one or more of the priority actions or strategies as listed in the Gippsland Lakes Priorities Plan.

**Table 1: Priority action or strategy, as specified in the Gippsland Lakes Priorities Plan.**

Priority action / strategy
Implement mitigation and adaptation strategies and actions to address the identified risks to ecological character from climate change.
Implement the priority identified options for improving the ecological condition of the fringing wetlands of Lake Wellington.
Increase areas under permanent protection and implement actions to maintain and improve habitat corridors.
Protect and where necessary, enhance, shorebird and beach nesting bird habitat in priority locations, including those predicted to be impacted by sea level rise and other climate change effects.
Implement the Gippsland Lakes pest plant and animal strategy. Review the pest plant and animal strategy to insure alignment with Biodiversity Response Plan for the Gippsland Lakes.
Monitor and where possible, control, off-road vehicle use at priority locations within the Ramsar site.
Implement predator control at priority locations for waterbird breeding and migratory wader refuges within the Ramsar site.
Continue to implement a public awareness campaign to reduce harassment and boating injuries to Burrunan dolphins.
Implement the priority actions within the Gippsland Lakes Recreational Fishery Plan. Improve structural fish habitat in estuaries and lakes.
Undertake a risk assessment, then implement priority actions to address the risks from introduced marine pests.
Continue to reduce nutrient and sediment loads to the Gippsland Lakes through riparian, in-stream and catchment works to improve water quality of river flows to the Gippsland Lakes.
Investigate the impact of high nutrient and sediment loads to the Gippsland Lakes following bushfires.
Maintain and where necessary improve hydrological connectivity and freshwater inflows to the Gippsland Lakes for fish migration and breeding.
Implement actions that facilitate Traditional Owner joint management, self-determination and involvement in decision making.
Implement actions that address risks to cultural heritage from sea level rise and shoreline erosion on the outer barrier.
Identify and implement priority actions to protect culturally significant species (e.g., Australian pelican, musk duck, freshwater eels)
Continue to monitor seagrass recovery from disturbance events to evaluate the effectiveness of restoration efforts.
Continue to monitor the persistence of freshwater dependent threatened species in the Gippsland Lakes. Where necessary identify and implement mitigation actions to assist in climate adaptation of these species.

### **Project requirements and general conditions**

- Project management cost must not exceed 15% of the total funding requested. Project management costs are to be included within the project budget.
- Funds may be used for contractors or consultants essential to the delivery of the project for technical or capability reasons.
- Weed control on private land will not be funded unless the activity is preparatory to revegetation works or associated with native vegetation management.
- Capital items exceeding a value of \$3,000 will not be funded unless communal benefit can be demonstrated. Purchases must also be directly related to the delivery of the project.
- When promoting GLCC community grants funding it is a requirement that the Victorian Government be acknowledged as the source of these funds and be badged as being funded by the Victorian State Government according to branding guidelines and include the appropriate “Love Our Lakes” logo when promoting the projects (A style guide will be provided to successful applicants).

### **Reporting Requirements**

Successful applicants will be required to sign and enter into a funding agreement with the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (the Authority). Reporting requirements will be defined in the agreement and are aligned with the Authority’s reporting obligations. Templates for progress and final reports will be provided by the Authority to guide supply of the required information.

### **Occupational Health and Safety**

A safe system of work is required to be in place for your project to protect the health and safety of your group, volunteers and anyone else on your project site. You can find resources on OHS tailored to volunteers and community groups on the Worksafe Victoria website: [Volunteer health and safety: A handbook for community service organisations - WorkSafe](#)

### **Child Safety Standards**

Successful applicants must ensure they meet Child Safe Standards. More information on the child safe standards can be found on the Commission for Children and Young People website. [CCYP | Recognising, respecting and defending the rights of children and young people](#)

### **Coronavirus**

Successful applicants must ensure they follow public health measures, advice and restrictions when planning and implementing your project. More information can be found at [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au).

### **Aboriginal Culture Heritage**

It is important that applicants consider Aboriginal Cultural Heritage checks early in the planning stage. More information can be found by clicking on the following link: [Cultural heritage sensitivity | First Peoples - State Relations \(firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au\)](#) If a Cultural Heritage Permit is required, you may need to include budget in your grant application and allow 30 days to complete the permit process. If an unregistered Aboriginal site is found during the delivery of your project, you must STOP IMMEDIATELY and contact First Peoples – State Relations on 1800 762 003. Successful applicants will be asked to attend a cultural heritage information session.

## Assessment

The following factors will be considered in the assessment of individual projects. The weighting of each project component is shown in brackets.

### **Alignment to Gippsland Lakes Priorities Plan (25%)**

The extent to which the project addresses a priority action or strategy specified in the Gippsland Lakes Priorities Plan. Applicants must show that the project proposal clearly links to the action or strategy.

### **Project impact (25%)**

The extent to which the project addresses the following.

- Proposed activities directly address and contribute to one or more of the GLPP priority actions or strategies.
- The longevity of impact.
- The project demonstrates a clear public/community benefit that has strong community and/or stakeholder support.

### **Project Design (25%)**

The extent to which the proposal demonstrates the following.

- The project has a well-considered timeline, that is clear and has considered risk to investment.
- The applicant is adequately resourced, has the technical feasibility to deliver the project and is appropriately connected to expertise as required.
- The budget represents good value for money, including realistic costs and a clear justification for the requested budget items.

Project design evaluation will also consider the applicants history of previous project implementation and completion (if applicable), e.g. reporting, timely applications for variation and project completion, project quality.

### **Contribution to GLCC objectives (25%)**

The extent to which the project contributes to one or more of the following objectives.

- To maintain or improve the health of the Gippsland Lakes
- To foster cooperation and coordination between agencies and organisations with an interest in the health of the Gippsland Lakes
- To promote awareness of and participation by communities in the management of the Gippsland Lakes.
- To maximise outcomes for the Gippsland Lakes through leveraging investments.
- To empower Traditional Owners through joint management and self-determination, supporting capacity building and involvement in management of the Gippsland Lakes.

## Submission of Proposals

Applications must be submitted through the online grants program called Smartygrants. Please click on the link below to start your application.

[https://egcma.smartygrants.com.au/GLCCCommunityGrants23\\*24](https://egcma.smartygrants.com.au/GLCCCommunityGrants23*24)

**Applications close Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 at 10.00am.**

You must submit your application by the due date; late applications will not be accepted. We recommend you start your application as early as possible. You can save your application as you go and continue to work on it until its ready for submission.

### Contact

Project proponents are encouraged to discuss their proposed project while preparing their proposal. Staff from the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority are available discuss project ideas and provide information and guidance for groups preparing project proposal for submission.

### Further information

If you have any questions or queries, please contact:

**Sharon Eyssens**

Community Projects Officer

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