



MFN Environmental Grants Program Criteria

Introduction

The Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists formed with the object: ***To facilitate and promote the knowledge of natural history, and to encourage the preservation and protection of the Australian natural environment, especially that of the Murrumbidgee River Valley.***

The Club established an Environmental Grants Fund to provide grants to assist projects delivering enhancement of biodiversity, conservation or enhanced understanding of the natural environment within the region covered by the Club.

Eligibility of applications

Grants may be provided to Individuals, Community groups or Private organizations but does not include government agencies.

Funds will only be considered for projects which can demonstrate a clear public environmental benefit.

Funding for approved projects will be considered on the following basis:

- Individuals and or Community groups: Funding will be granted on a dollar for dollar basis. (Applicant contribution may be contribution in kind; see attached rules for costing of in-kind contribution)
- Private organizations: All approved projects - funding will be granted on a dollar for each two dollars basis (unless it can demonstrate substantial "public environmental benefit").

Applications for grants

- Calls for applications for grants will be publicised in March.
- Applications for grants will close on May 1 of the year of being advertised.
- Successful applicants will be advised in writing by May 31st.
- Applications will only be accepted when submitted in full on the requisite application form.
- Grants up to a maximum of \$5000.00 will be considered.
- MFN is not bound to accept any of the applications for any one year.
- Decisions of MFN's Environmental Grant Funding Committee will be final and no reasons for any decision are required to be given.
- The EGF Committee will monitor the progress of the application of the grants and report regularly to the MFN monthly meeting.

- In awarding grants, MFN's EGF Committee will assess:
 - o the quality of the application against the Statement of the Fund,
 - o the applicant's ability to carry out the project, and
 - o the likelihood that the successful applicant will achieve the aims intended within the framework of the rules of the EGF.

Obligations of successful applicants

- 50% of the grant will be paid on receipt of the letter of acceptance of the grant, the balance will be paid upon completion of 50% of the project, or against firm orders.
- Successful applicants are required to submit a report to the committee no later than 12 months from receipt of their grant, detailing the results of the project, briefly outlining achievements and outcomes, justifying expenditure of the grant.
- Successful applicants may be requested to provide a presentation on the project at a MFN monthly meeting.

In Kind Contribution

In calculating the value of in-kind contribution, the following guidelines should be followed (note these guidelines are not exhaustive)

Guideline In-kind costs

Community member doing unskilled labouring work - chipping weeds, planting trees, collecting rubbish, etc.	\$20/hour
Community member / landowner doing skilled work - fence repair, weed control, photo monitoring and condition surveys	\$30 - \$35/hr or \$300 per day
Community member providing professional / technical work	\$75/hr
Community member or other attending workshop and giving specialist input or local knowledge	\$30 - \$35/hr
Community member attending education seminar, presentation or field trip where environmental learning is a key outcome and it is likely that a future environmental benefit will occur from the members' new knowledge	\$20 - \$25/hr
Travel - for engine capacity 2600cc and over 1601cc - 2600cc 1600cc or less	30 cents per km 29 c/km 25 c/km
Truck or tractor with driver (can include vehicle for materials delivery)	\$80/hr
Excavator, backhoe etc	\$100/hr
Float hire depending on distance (to transport equipment if required)	up to \$800

Fencing - Full costs	\$3,000 - \$12,000/km ~\$20,000 in really difficult terrain
Delivered fill	\$150/10m ³
Bush regeneration	\$35/hr
Specialist / technical advice	\$50 - \$80/hr
Senior specialist & technical advice (including government agencies etc). May include legal, accounting/ taxation, engineering, scientific, etc advice	\$50 - \$100+/hr
Private purchases of services goods & materials for use in the project eg stationary, telephone calls etc	Receipt costs
Office accommodation and computing costs	Reasonable estimate