

# Proposed Lake Clifton Stewardship Grants Program

3 October 2019, revised 25 October, *Jordon Garbellini Adams & Andrew Del Marco*

## Summary

A Lake Clifton Stewardship Grants Program is proposed to encourage landholders to join Land for Wildlife, a land conservation stewardship scheme, and actively manage their land for conservation. The grants program will be open to landholders in the Lake Clifton Catchment who are registered Land for Wildlife members and make available up to \$1000 per property for on-ground conservation works. The program will contribute towards objectives of the Lake Clifton Land Conservation Stewardship Project and further strengthen ongoing relationships with local landholders. Through the program, it is proposed that up to \$25,000 will be made available to landholders between November 2019 and November 2021.

## Proposed outcomes

Through the grants program, there will be at least fifteen (15) new landholders registered with Land for Wildlife, and an increase in the number of landholders undertaking improved land management to protect biodiversity and water quality in the Catchment. As a secondary outcome, landholders involved in the grants program will enter into Voluntary Management Agreements to recognize their long-term commitment to conservation.

## Details

The grants program will be open to registered Land for Wildlife landholders in the Lake Clifton Catchment (currently 25 landholders). There are 425 landholders in the Lake Clifton Catchment, most who could enter into the Land for Wildlife program, a voluntary, free, and non-binding conservation program. Funding to landholders will support on ground activities such as revegetation, weed control, pest control and habitat augmentation, with a strong focus on managing natural habitats and protecting water resources (Table 1). Funded works will need to be supported by their LfW Site Assessment report. Landholders will be able to apply for small grants of \$250.00 to \$1000.00 to assist in implementing eligible activities. The total pool of funds will be managed and allocated across the three years of the program, with \$5,000.00 available in Year One and \$10,000.00 available in Years Two and Three.

*Table 1: Eligible activities*

Activities	Examples
<b>Revegetation and restoration</b>	Seedlings & Tree Guards.
<b>Habitat Augmentation</b>	Cockatubes, Nesting boxes, Bat Boxes and Installation.
<b>Weed Control</b>	Chemical, PPE, Spraying Equipment.
<b>Feral Animal Control</b>	Cage traps, 1080 accreditation, Baits, free feed (for baiting programs).
<b>Monitoring equipment</b>	Trophy Cams for wildlife monitoring.
<b>Fencing</b>	Wildlife friendly fencing (select areas only e.g. properties adjacent to reserves or wetlands).

The grants program will be delivered in accordance with the PHCC Devolved Grants Policy 4.12 using similar methods and templates developed for the PHCC Local Action Grants. This will ensure that the

assessment of projects and distribution of funding is transparent, equitable, and maximizes outcomes for investment.

Key aspects of the application and assessment process:

- Applications for funding will be open throughout the year, with the first call for applications in November 2019.
- Applicants must be Full or Interim registered Land for Wildlife members at the time of lodgment of their application.
- Applications will be lodged and assessed via email.
- The assessment process will be undertaken by the Project Officer and Program Manager with advice and recommendations from the Land Conservation Steering Committee. Final approval of grants will be determined by PHCC's CEO. The City of Mandurah and Shire of Waroona Environmental Officers will be notified of successful applicants.
- Applications will be assessed and ranked via criteria endorsed by the Land Conservation Steering Committee. These will include achievement of Lake Clifton Project objectives and generally correspond to criteria used in the Community Environment Grants (CEG) process.
- Successful applicants will receive funds upon signing a Voluntary Management Agreement to recognize the importance of the landowner's ongoing conservation stewardship.
- Successful landholders will need to keep records and receipts of project expenditure, with all funds to be spent in accordance with the project budget as stated in their project agreement.
- Projects must be acquitted within an agreed period, with most projects being less than 12 months in duration (The Lake Clifton Conservation Stewardship Project ends Sept 2022). Multiple year projects may be supported with recipients receiving up to \$3,000.00 over the project life, these projects will be reviewed annually to ensure compliance with agreements, allowances for adaptive management and cost-effectiveness.
- The Stewardship grant process will be reviewed annually to determine success of projects and assess the potential need of additional funding from projects with relevant outcome/output demands.

The grant program will be promoted via the PHCC's website, direct email, social media and inclusions in the bi-monthly newsletter, the Lake Clifton Landcare Matters. Funding availability will also be discussed one-on-one with landholders involved in other PHCC projects and events (e.g. RLP Ramsar on-ground project as well as during Lake Clifton events, such as the Seedling Giveaway).

### Project design assumptions

Assumptions used to design the grants program are included in Table 2.

*Table 2: Project design assumptions*

No.	Assumption
1.	Project applicants will deliver projects on-time and in-full.
2.	Each project will receive in-kind contributions to value add to project outcomes.
3.	All funding will be spent on items/ activities relevant to the project, as noted in agreements.
4	All reporting and expenditure evidence will be supplied on completion of project activates.

## Project risk management

Table 3 describes the project's major risks and the management actions that will be put in place to minimise or avoid these risks. The highest project risk relates to the provision of all funds to successful applicants upfront. This 100% upfront payment approach was successfully in the LAG program. By providing all funds upfront there is the risk of projects not being completed on-time, or not being completed. Upfront payment is recommended given the modest size of grants and the need to avoid more than one payment for each project to keep administrative costs low.

*Table 3: Management of project's major risks*

Risk/Threat Description	Likelihood See matrix below for levels	Consequence See matrix below for levels	Rating See matrix below for levels	Management actions	Residual Risk
1. Projects are not delivered on-time or in-full	Possible	Minor	Low	All applications will be assessed through a comprehensive process, and all applicants will be visited as part of the process to assess capacity to deliver projects on-time.	Low
2. Landholders do not value add to the project through in-kind contributions	Possible	Minor		Registration into the Land for Wildlife program is essential for grant eligibility and will demonstrate the landholder's commitment to their projects. Landholders will be required to coordinate and manage their own projects, including implementing a monitoring program.	
3. Funding is spent on items/activities not relevant to project	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Maximum dollar value of projects will be minimal (\$1000.00) and each application will be assessed by a steering committee to ensure relevance to project. Prior to assessment, a site visit will be made to inform landholders of the expectations on them upon entering into a Project agreement.	Low
4. Project and expenditure evidence is not supplied on completion of projects	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Contact with landholders will be continued throughout the life of the project, keeping track of project progress and ensuring compliance with project agreement, implementation and acquittal processes.	Low

## Consequence: Likelihood matrix

		Consequence				
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Critical
Likelihood	Almost	Low	Medium	High	Severe	Severe
	Likely	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Severe
	Possible	Low	Low	Medium	High	Severe
	Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High
	are	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High

## Other relevant references:

- For general information on the Lake Clifton Catchment Conservation Stewardship Project visit:  
<https://peel-harvey.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Lake-Clifton-Stewardship.pdf>
- See Figure 1 for location of Lake Clifton Catchment area.

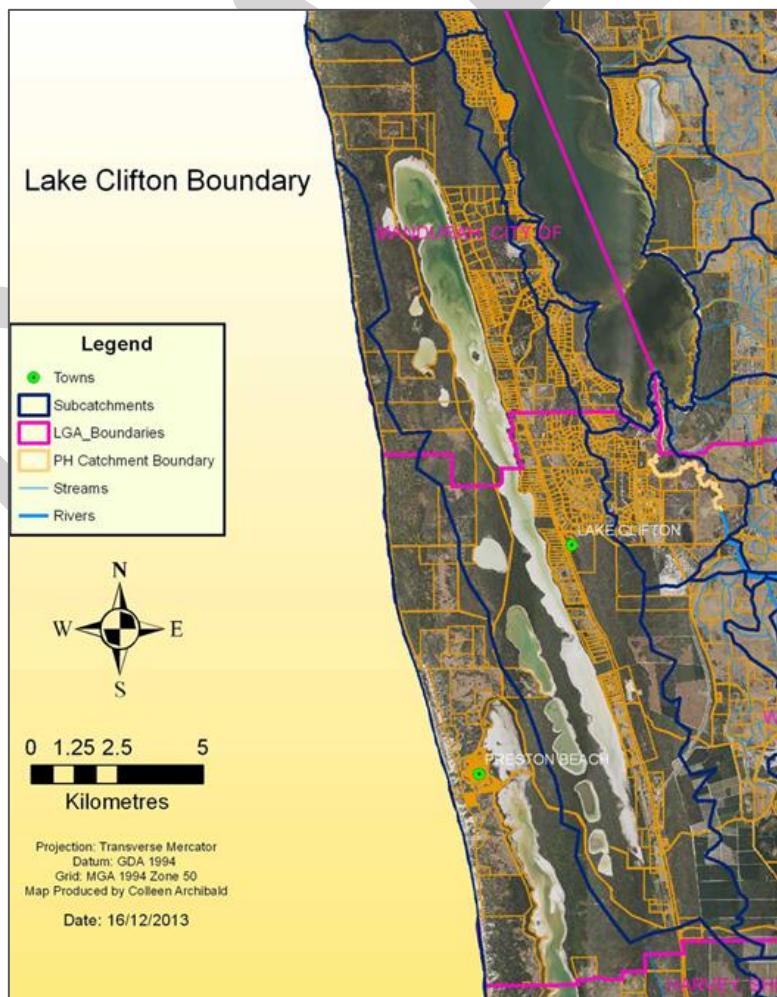


Figure 1: Lake Clifton Catchment area