

Community Conservation Assistance (CCA) 2017-18

Fact sheet

Brisbane City Council is committed to keeping Brisbane clean, green and sustainable.

To help achieve this goal, Council provides support and assistance to enable private landholders and community groups to play an important role protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of our city.

This fact sheet provides additional information about Community Conservation Assistance (CCA).

What is CCA?

CCA provides assistance to groups and individuals within Council's Community Conservation Partnerships program (CCPP) to undertake environmental restoration or rehabilitation works. This assistance allows Council and community environment groups to collaboratively deliver projects within priority biodiversity areas that would otherwise be difficult for groups or individuals to undertake.

What is the difference between this type of assistance and the Lord Mayor's Community Sustainability and Environmental Grants?

Unlike the Lord Mayor's Community Sustainability and Environmental Grants (LMCS&EG), CCA is not a cash grant. Rather, Council works in partnership with groups and individuals to deliver on-ground weed control and restoration works.

Who can apply for CCA?

Habitat Brisbane, Creek Catchment groups, and private landholders who are members of the Wildlife Conservation Partnerships program (Land for Wildlife) are eligible to apply. Projects on Land for Wildlife properties that are listed for sale along with projects on state and federal land are ineligible to apply.

How much funding is available?

Up to \$500,000 is available in 2017-18 to be distributed across the three programs. Funding allocation will depend largely on the merits of the proposed projects.

Applicants can apply for up to \$200,000 worth of assistance per project.

What projects are eligible?

Priority will be given to projects that:

- reduce the impact of invasive weed species
- rehabilitate and expand core habitats, including natural areas
- strengthen ecological and riparian corridors and linkages
- reduce erosion and sediment runoff into waterways.

The funding can be allocated for materials that are to be used directly in the project and are effectively 'disposable'. The items include, but are not limited to:

- locally-native plants, tree bags, weed mats, mulch, water crystals or other materials designed to protect and assist plant growth
- products for soil stabilisation such as jute matting and coir logs
- weed control, including large weed tree removal.

What projects are ineligible?

This assistance can only be used for on-ground bushland restoration works and cannot be used for:

- any activity that is the legal responsibility of the landholder
- payment for specialist advice such as hydrologists or ecologists
- replacement of culverts or other engineering works
- work on non-Council land except for private landholders that are members of the Wildlife Conservation Partnerships program
- work on private land listed for sale
- work on state and federal land.

Note – If you currently have a Voluntary Conservation Covenant or Voluntary Conservation Agreement with Council, annual works identified within a current Bushland Property Management Plan that relate directly to your annual cash management payment will need to be reviewed and renegotiated before your submission can be accepted.



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How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted online via Council's website. Visit brisbane.qld.gov.au and search for 'Community Conservation Assistance'. The online application system will allow you to develop, save and print your application before you choose to submit it. Supporting documentation can also be attached to your online application.

Your Council program officer is available to assist you with planning your application. Please ensure that you discuss your project ideas with your program officer prior to submitting your application. Applicants must have consulted with their relevant program officer. Your program officer may need to visit the site to provide this advice, please allow enough time for this step in your application process.

How will submissions be assessed?

All applications will be evaluated on the proposed project's ability to:

- meet best practice requirements
- adhere to relevant annual or property management plans developed by Council where required
- demonstrate biodiversity and/or water quality outcomes in priority areas
- target weeds of significance
- demonstrate long-term community commitment and capacity to follow up on works funded by CCA
- link with nearby projects in the landscape for enhanced biodiversity outcomes.

What are biodiversity priority areas?

Your Council program officer can guide you to the highest priority biodiversity area for your project proposal.

Principally, biodiversity priority areas will be assessed based on criteria below:

- continued enhancement and linkages to existing investments
- significance of the vegetation
- significance of the habitat.

In conjunction with the values listed above, weed infestation levels and the opportunity to successfully reinstate habitat will also be considered.

When will we know the outcome?

All applicants will be notified of their application outcome in October 2017.

If our proposal is successful, what happens next?

Your Council program officer will work with you on finalising an agreed scope and scheduled delivery of the works. They will also provide updates on the works being carried out. If work is to be undertaken on private land, the landholder will be contacted and meeting times will be arranged to discuss the ongoing coordination of works.

How many rounds of CCA will be available?

There will be one round of CCA in 2017-18.

If I/we have applied for a Lord Mayor's Community Sustainability and Environmental Grant for our project, should we also lodge a submission for this type of assistance?

Proposed projects may receive direct funding or assistance either through the CCA or LMCS&EG, but not both. If you have a secondary project on Council land, that is not the same, you are encouraged to submit an application for a LMCS&EG.

Key dates

3 July 2017	Opening date for Community Conservation Assistance applications.
31 July 2017	Closing date for Community Conservation Assistance applications.

Contact us

For more information please contact your Habitat Brisbane, Creek Catchment or Wildlife Conservation Partnership program officer, or call Council on (07) 3403 8888.