

Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia

# Linking Landscapes Grant Applicant Guidelines

\$10k-\$250k

Open 6 March to 19 April, 2021



Ned, Stan and Lizette Schofield; Heritage Agreement owners, SA.



REVITALISING PRIVATE CONSERVATION  
IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA







## 1. Introduction

The Native Vegetation Council (NVC) Heritage Agreement Scheme is a program that encourages landowners to conserve and maintain the biodiversity of native vegetation on their properties.

NVC Heritage Agreements are a contract between the landholder and the Minister for Environment and Water.

### The Heritage Agreement Scheme

The NVC Heritage Agreement Scheme is an innovative and effective program that holds many benefits for landowners. These include:

- Rates waiver – the land rates for the Heritage Agreement area are reduced (not applicable to exclusion areas or house sites).
- Bushland management advice.
- Clearance offset – establishing a Heritage Agreement area can act as a significant environmental benefit offset to authorised native vegetation clearance.

Heritage Agreements are a way for landowners to contribute to the conservation of native vegetation.

## 2. Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia Program

The Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia Program is an exciting new collaboration between the government and the conservation and primary industries sectors to improve management and protection of the unique native vegetation on rural properties throughout South Australia. The Program works with farmers, primary producers, rural residents, Aboriginal landowners and existing and new native vegetation Heritage Agreement owners, to expand the number, extent and quality of protected vegetation management areas.

Landholders will be eligible for Linking Landscapes grants from \$10,000 - \$250,000 to improve and protect their existing or proposed Heritage Agreement area.

Aspiring Heritage Agreement landholders are also encouraged to apply – as part of the application process they will be assessed for Heritage Agreement suitability. Non-heritage agreement properties will be required to commit to having the area of work protected under the provisions of the Native Vegetation Act or the Landscapes SA Act. These properties have to be working with a Heritage Agreement site.

## 3. Eligibility

**To be considered for funding, you must:**

- Own, manage, or be working with a Heritage Agreement site under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* or its preceding Act.
- Be an aspiring Heritage Agreement landholder.
- Be in partnership with at least one other property.
- Auspiced or sponsored by an incorporated body.
- Have obtained all necessary planning, regulatory or other approvals.
- Non-heritage agreement properties will be required to have the area of proposed work protected under the Native Vegetation Act and will have to be working with a Heritage Agreement site they own or owned by another who is part of the proposed projects.

If the above cannot be satisfied, Heritage Agreement (and aspiring Heritage Agreement) owners are encouraged to consider applying for the next round of small grants which will open in early May 2021.

**Funding is not available for:**

- Activities that have potential to have negative impacts on natural resources.
- Purchase of assets and equipment, over \$500 unless appropriate justification can be provided.
- Boundary fencing.
- GST components of project expenses.

**Eligible activities include:**

- The development of good conservation strategies.
- Management and/or action planning implementation.
- Effective control of weeds, feral animals or over abundant native species.
- Management of grazing impacts.
- Repair of damaged areas e.g. previously cleared or eroded sites.
- Internal property fencing to exclude stock from or reduce grazing pressure on proposed or current Heritage Agreement area.
- Mapping of native plants or native vegetation communities.
- Native animal survey (permits needed).
- Habitat creation, including for threatened or declining species.
- Improving water quality and quantity including decommissioning water points.
- Revegetation with provenance seed.
- Improving fire management for conservation purposes.
- Trials of innovative conservation management techniques.



Closing date for the  
Linking Landscapes grants:

**\$10,000 to \$250,000**

19th April 2021

#### 4. The following will be strongly regarded

- Working with Aboriginal groups.
- Partnerships with nature conservation not-for-profits, primary producer and conservation groups.
- Partnering with landscape boards and the National Parks and Wildlife service.
- Proposals that demonstrate it will have a clear conservation merit or impact.
- Strong project management approach (such as key actions, scheduling, budgets, responsibilities and risk management).
- Demonstrate value for money.
- Strong community-based connections.
- Projects that will inspire, communicate and share results.
- Proposals that align with local, state and national nature conservation priorities, including Landscape Board plans.
- Applicants who have spoken with, and collaborated with, their neighbours so that across-tenure outcomes are achieved.
- Quotes for all proposed works.
- Projects that focus on climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation.
- Projects that achieve large scale and high impact conservation benefits.
- Demonstrate long term benefit.

#### 5. Need help?

Applications can be lodged during the application period and must be submitted online using the application form available at [www.revitalisingconservationsa.org.au](http://www.revitalisingconservationsa.org.au)

We are here to assist you with any question you may have, please do not hesitate to contact us on:

**E:** [rca@naturefoundation.org.au](mailto:rca@naturefoundation.org.au) **T:** 0436 431 660

[www.revitalisingconservationsa.org.au](http://www.revitalisingconservationsa.org.au)

#### 6. Assessment process

**This will be a 2 step process:**

**Step 1:** Applications will be assessed by a technical group, with recommendations provided to the assessment panel.

**Step 2:** Applications will be assessed by an independent panel, who will take into account the technical assessment. Panel members will represent – agriculture, biodiversity conservation and land management.

The panel will determine the successful applicants.



## 7. Conditions of funding

There are a number of conditions associated with receiving Linking Landscapes grant funding. Please read carefully before submitting your application.

Where an offer to provide a Linking Landscapes grant is made, the Nature Foundation requires the project to be completed by 30th May 2023. Extensions to projects may be granted where a request has been made in writing and the circumstances justify an extension. Projects not completed within the timeframe of the agreed completion date are subject to review and may be terminated. When a project is terminated, all unspent funding received by the applicant is to be returned to the funding body.

Non-heritage agreement properties will be required to commit to having the area of work protected under the provisions of the Native Vegetation Act or the Landscapes SA Act. Any proposed work is to benefit the Heritage Agreement area (or aspiring Heritage Agreement area).

### Reporting

Applicants will need to complete and submit (as set out in the grant agreement and no later than the month after project completion):

- A Financial Acquittal.
- A Final Report.

Reporting templates will be made available to successful applicants.

The final report will be assessed against the aims and objectives of the approved project. If there are changes to the aims and objectives of the original application at any time during the period of the grant prior written approval of the Nature Foundation must be obtained.

### Payment of funds

Depending on the grant amount, milestone based payments will be made and determined with each applicant.

Any portion of the funds that remains unexpended at the completion of the project must be repaid to/ or may be retained by the Nature Foundation.

Motor vehicle use will be costed at standard Australian Tax Office rates.

Equipment purchases over \$500 must be justified to be utilised after the completion of the grant project funded. Funds must not be used for one off purchases for the project.

Contract professional services must be justified and include credentials of persons to whom fees are to be paid, or the names of Native Vegetation Council Accredited Consultants to be used.

### 'In kind' contributions

- Applicants must contribute 'in kind' or an amount approximately equal to the grant, for example, in labour, materials, equipment or funds.
- 'In kind' contributions can be made up of labour (own, family or friends), materials, use of own equipment or funds.
- Administration costs should not equate to more than 10% of the overall grant requested.
- In kind labour is to be costed at \$50 per hour.
- All 'in kind' funding or other sources of external funding should be clearly identified in the application. This forms an important aspect of the application and **preference is given to those who can match in kind (see scaling table below)**.
- The reimbursement of food and beverages will not be considered as a Grant expense.

In kind matching funds scaled to match the funds sought.

\$10,000 to \$50,000	=	100% matching in kind
\$50,000 to \$100,000	=	70% matching in kind
\$100,000 to \$150,000	=	60% matching in kind
Greater >\$150,000	=	50% matching in kind

Explanation of expenditure must be clear and precise when completing the Project Budget Table, indicating the project components for which you have sought Linking Landscapes grant support, and those items for which GST is payable.

### Publicity

All projects funded in full or in part by the Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia Program must acknowledge the program and the South Australian Government in all publications and promotional activities, including electronic media. All successful projects will be announced publicly. Successful applicants will be asked to share their story as part of the program promotion.

### Insurance

The applicant receiving a Linking Landscapes grant is required to assess and consider the risks and scope of insurance required under the project agreement. Necessary insurance arrangements are the responsibility of the applicant.

### Long term outcomes

There is an expectation that the investment is effective in the long term. This applies particularly to activities such as conservation and management of native vegetation. Projects must benefit the biodiversity of the area.



## Any questions?

Contact us

E: [rdsa@naturefoundation.org.au](mailto:rdsa@naturefoundation.org.au)

T: 0436 431 660

For more information visit:

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