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# TASMANIAN NATURE CONSERVATION FUND GRANT GUIDELINES



## PURPOSE

Wildcare Tasmania is a Registered Environmental Organisation and operates a public fund called the Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund (TNCF) to support the care of the natural environment. Through the TNCF Wildcare brings together:

- the work of volunteers,
- the work of our organisational partners, and
- the generosity of philanthropists.

As prescribed by Section 30-265(1) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, the Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund receives tax deductible public donations for:

- the protection and enhancement of the natural environment or of a significant aspect of the natural environment; or
- information or education, or research, about the natural environment or a significant aspect of the natural environment.

## WHO MAY APPLY?

Applications may be made by Wildcare groups, or by organisations who are established partners in Wildcare's work and/or who work with Wildcare groups.

## GRANTS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The [Wildcare Grants Assessment Committee](#) assesses applications made to the TNCF. The Committee is comprised of 6 volunteers, who have been elected by the Wildcare Board. The Committee meets the Responsible Persons criteria as required by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

## PROCESS

- 1) The TNCF opening dates, causes and amounts are announced generally twice per year in March and October and are communicated direct to Wildcare groups and organisational partners.
- 2) The Grants Assessment Committee assesses applications.
- 4) The Wildcare CEO informs applicants of outcomes, including acquittal requirements and publicity opportunities.

Applications are assessed on merit and groups or organisations may apply for more than one grant each year, provided that prior grants have been successfully acquitted to the satisfaction of the Grants Assessment Committee.

## URGENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Grant applications may be considered outside of the advertised opening times, where there is an urgent need. The process for urgent assistance grants is:

- for urgent grant applications above \$5,000, the Grants Assessment Committee may choose to consider the grant application out of session on a preliminary basis. If the Grants Assessment Committee considers the application and is of the view that the application is worthy of approval, the Wildcare Board will be asked to consider whether to open the TNCF out of session and if so, the funding amount that may be made available; and
- for grant applications up to \$5,000, the Grants Assessment Committee may consider the application out of session, subject to funds being available. Generally, no prior approval from the Wildcare Board is required.

### **WHAT IS IN SCOPE?**

Applications that relate to the care and conservation of Tasmania's wild places, wildlife and reserves, either directly, or through fostering community interest or education in the care of the natural environment, are in scope.

Clause 2.1 of the Registered Environment Guidelines sets out what is meant by the natural environment:

*The natural environment and concern for it would include, for example: significant natural areas such as rainforests; wildlife and their habitats; issues affecting the environment such as air and water quality, waste minimisation, soil conservation, and biodiversity; and promotion of ecologically sustainable development principles.*

The types of things that the Grants Assessment Committee considers includes:

- Contribution to conservation of Tasmania's wild places, wildlife and reserves, either directly, or through fostering community interest or education.
- Compliance with the objectives of any management plans and/or alliance with current research programs and research protocols.
- Alignment with land managers' goals and standards.
- Whether appropriate permits have been obtained from relevant government authorities.
- Involvement of Wildcare volunteers in meaningful on-ground activities.
- Raising community awareness about Wildcare's purpose and activities.

### **WHAT IS NOT IN SCOPE**

Clause 2.1 of the Registered Environment Guidelines sets out what is not in scope for care of the natural environment:

*The natural environment would exclude, for example: • constructions such as the retaining walls of dams; • cultivated parks and gardens; • zoos and wildlife parks (except those parks and zoos principally carried on for the purposes of species preservation); and • cultural sites and heritage properties.*

The types of things that the Grants Assessment Committee would typically not approve include:

- Applications that do not support care of the natural environment.
- Items that would otherwise be funded from the current budgets of state or local governments, if the TNCF grant was not provided.

- Applications where commercial businesses stand to benefit from the works.
- Purchase of consumables that would ordinarily be purchased by volunteers e.g. food.
- Assistance with transport costs for groups working in remote areas, where funding for transport is available through the relevant land manager.
- Speculative projects and/or explorative research, unless in exceptional circumstances such as where there is an aligned ongoing funding partner.

## **PRE-APPROVALS OR ENDORSEMENTS REQUIRED**

### **Land manager/owner or Program Manager endorsement**

The endorsement of landowners, land managers or program managers must be obtained, where relevant. A letter of support is always required to accompany grant applications. Any applicable DPIPWE Volunteer Program Plan may be provided as a supporting document.

### **Permits**

Some proposals require an environmental or scientific permit to proceed. Please attach a copy of any relevant permits obtained. Contact the Wildcare office for assistance if unsure.

### **Approval of signage and flyers**

All signage and communication materials need to be approved by the Wildcare office and relevant land manager. Wildcare must be acknowledged in all promotional materials.

## **BACKGROUND CONDITIONS THAT WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO YOUR APPLICATION**

A track record of and/or commitment to:

- working in a risk aware manner,
- acting in accordance with the [Wildcare Code of Conduct](#),
- working in positive partnership with land managers and the community, and
- being proactive with fundraising efforts.

## **CONDITIONS OF GRANT**

Wildcare must be acknowledged in relation to all media promotions.

An acquittal report will be required within 2 months of completion, containing a financial report and a summary story. Funds should generally be spent within 12 months, unless approval is obtained from the Grants Assessment Committee, through the CEO, to extend the acquittal time-frame. Further grants will not be considered until any outstanding acquittal reports have been submitted.

The Wildcare Grants Assessment Committee may place conditions on funding.

## **SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**

**IMPORTANT** - Before preparing your application, please contact Wildcare's CEO, Sharon Smith, ph 61654149 or email [ceo@wildcaretas.org.au](mailto:ceo@wildcaretas.org.au) to discuss your application and the potential funding amounts available.

**To apply:** complete the TNCF Application Form and email to [memberservices@wildcaretas.org.au](mailto:memberservices@wildcaretas.org.au)