
TASMANIAN NATURE CONSERVATION FUND GRANT GUIDELINES



PURPOSE

Wildcare Tasmania Inc. (Wildcare) 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 CAN APPLY?

To eligible to apply, applicants must be a Wildcare group, individual Wildcare member, not-for-profit organisation, established partner, or social enterprise.

GRANTS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The [Wildcare Grants Assessment Committee](#) is comprised of six volunteers, who have been elected by the Wildcare Board.

PROCESS

- 1) The TNCF opens to grant applications twice per year, generally in March and September.
- 2) The Grants Assessment Committee assesses applications.
- 3) The Wildcare Office informs applicants of outcomes, including acquittal requirements and publicity opportunities.

Applications are assessed on merit.

An applicant 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 occasionally be considered outside of the advertised opening times, where there is a compelling and urgent need that cannot wait until the next grants round.

The process for urgent assistance grants is:

- 1) authorisation is sought from the Grants Assessment Committee Chair before an out of session grant to be considered by the Committee.
Contact the Wildlife Office on (03) 6165 4230 or office@wildcaretas.org.au in the first instance.
- 2) If an out of session application is authorised, the following parameters apply:
 - for applications up to \$5,000, the Grants Assessment Committee will determine the application, subject to funds being available, and
 - for applications above \$5,000, the Grants Assessment Committee will consider the application on a preliminary basis. If the preliminary view is yes, approval will be sought from the Wildcare Board to release the funds.

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, and
- 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,
- applications to boost facilities operated by commercial, as opposed to not-for-profit or social enterprises.
- purchase of consumables that would ordinarily be purchased by volunteers, eg. food.
- assistance with transport costs for groups working in remote areas, where funding for transport is available through the relevant land manager, and
- Speculative projects and/or explorative research, unless in exceptional circumstances such as where there is a funding partner.

PRE-APPROVALS OR ENDORSEMENTS REQUIRED

Endorsements

The Grants Assessment Committee will only consider applications that have all relevant endorsements and permits. Applications that do not have the supporting documentation will be returned.

Please attach the following documents that relate to your application:

- evidence of endorsement from the manager or owner of the land on which the works will take place. For example, a signed letter of support from Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), if you are working on a State reserve. An email may meet the endorsement requirements provided that it contains sufficient information and comes from the email address of, and under the signature block of, the person with relevant authority, and
- an approved Activity Plan or Volunteer Program Plan, eg. from PWS or your local Council, if applicable.

Permits

Some projects require an environmental or scientific permit to proceed. Information about permits is available from the [Department of Natural Resources and Environment - Wildlife Management \(NRET\)](#). In preparing your application, please allow sufficient time to obtain any necessary permits.

Before an application is presented to the Committee for consideration, the Wildcare Office team may contact NRET to confirm that the required permits have been obtained.

Approval of signage and flyers

All signage and communication materials need to be approved by the Wildcare office and relevant land manager. In most cases, Wildcare's logo should be included.

BACKGROUND CONDITIONS THAT WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO YOUR APPLICATION

A history 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

The source of the grant, being the Wildcare Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund, must be acknowledged in all media promotions.

An acquittal report will be required within 2 months of completion, containing a financial report and a summary story. Funds should be spent within 12 months, unless approval is obtained from the Grants Assessment Committee, through the Wildcare Office, 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

Please email the completed application form and supporting documents to the Wildcare Tasmania team at office@wildcaretas.org.au.

If you have any questions, please email office@wildcaretas.org.au or phone 0486 034 067.