**Frequently Asked Questions**

Peri-urban Weed Management Partnerships Program 2025-27





[deeca.vic.gov.au](https://delwpvicgovau-my.sharepoint.com/Users/fionadurante/Downloads/deeca.vic.gov.au)

### Q. What is the Peri-Urban Weed Management Partnerships (PWMP) program?

The PWMP program is a collaborative initiative between state and local governments designed to protect key environmental values on public land in Melbourne’s peri-urban areas from high threat weeds. The program applies a partnership model involving government agencies, local councils, community groups and Traditional Owners.

A new 2-year competitive grants round from 2025-27 aims to build on the achievements and investment delivered under the PWMP 2016‑21 and 2021-25 initiatives.

The PWMP program supports the goals of the Victorian Government’s biodiversity plan, *Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037*, which encourages more Victorians to value nature and to ensure that Victoria’s natural environment is healthy and resilient.

The objectives of the 2025-27 PWMP program include:

* **Objective 1: Increase the number of Victorians acting to protect nature in the project areas**  
  This objective is in place to encourage more Victorians to value nature and increase the number of Victorians acting to protect nature.
* **Objective 2: Establish effective environmental partnerships within the program footprint** This objective is in place because the PWMP program is a partnership program and encourages collaborative management. Projects must engage and empower all key stakeholders, including community and Traditional Owners, in the approach, purpose and delivery of the program.
* **Objective 3: Target weed control within priority locations**   
  This objective is in place to ensure that Victoria’s natural environment is healthy and has flourishing plant and animal populations, improved habitats, and functioning resilient ecosystems. To ensure the greatest return on investment, the PWMP program targets the most valuable assets, under the greatest threat, where there is the greatest likelihood of intervention success, in accordance with *Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037*. These areas have been identified using the Strategic Management Prospects ([SMP](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/natureprint)) biodiversity investment decision support tool.

The 2025-27 grants round opened to applicants on 12 February 2025 and will close on 9 April 2025.

For more information around the funding details, eligibility, assessment criteria and the application process, please refer to the [PWMP guidelines](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0030/734196/PWMP-guidelines-2025-27.pdf). If you have further questions, please email [enviro.grants@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:enviro.grants@deeca.vic.gov.au) and include “2025 PWMP” in the subject.

To apply, go to the [Peri-urban Weed Management Partnerships Program Grants 2025-2027](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/grants/pwmp-program-grants) and click ‘Apply Now’.

Who is eligible to apply for PWMP funding?

PWMP funding is targeted towards weed management projects that are collaboratively developed and implemented on public land across the peri-urban area defined as the 17 local government areas (LGA’s) that intersect with one of Melbourne’s Green Wedges and French Island.

Project leads eligible to apply for funding include three Registered Aboriginal Parties, Parks Victoria and 17 local councils:

* + Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
  + Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
  + Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
  + Parks Victoria
  + Brimbank City Council
  + Cardinia Shire Council
  + City of Casey
  + City of Greater Dandenong
  + Frankston City Council
  + Hobsons Bay City Council
  + Hume City Council
  + Kingston City Council
  + Knox City Council
  + Manningham City Council
  + Maroondah City Council
  + Melton City Council
  + Mornington Peninsula Shire
  + Nillumbik Shire Council
  + City of Whittlesea
  + Wyndham City Council
  + Yarra Ranges Council

Other individual agencies or organisations, community groups, Committees of Management and private landholders are not eligible to apply directly, however are encouraged to be included as delivery partners.

### Q. How does the program funding work?

The PWMP 2025-27 is a competitive grants program. Projects can apply for up to $100,000 per year per project. The total amount that can be applied for over the 2-year program is $200,000 per project. Applicants are encouraged to keep projects scalable as partial funding could be offered. There is only one funding stream available for this program.

This program operates as a matched 1:1 funding partnership between the State Government and project partners. Projects must contribute at least 50 percent of the total cost of the activities, which may be sourced from any project partners and/or stakeholders engaged in the project. Matched funding can be provided as cash contributions and/or in-kind co-contributions (non-cash contributions where goods, services, or time are provided).

To be funded, projects need to meet the objectives and eligibility criteria. The program will focus on collaboration, capacity building and community engagement as well as on-ground weed management. Projects will be required to collect data and report on target outcomes and indicators. Complete information is available in the PWMP Guidelines on the 2025-27 PWMP website: <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/grants/pwmp-program-grants>

Successful applicants must enter into a funding agreement with Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). Projects must be completed by 30 June 2027.

### Q. We have received a grant during a previous PWMP round, can we still apply?

Yes, you can still apply if you’ve already received a grant in a previous round. Your project can build on the success of past or existing projects.

Note: Lead organisations that have failed to comply with the funding agreement or haven’t completed the milestones in a previous round may not be eligible for funding.

### Q. Can we apply for more than one project?

Yes, a lead may submit more than one application. However, projects would need to be clearly operating in a separate and distinct landscape. Projects will not be accepted if they are dependent on another project getting funded or are a scaled version of the same project.

### Q. What can be provided as matched funding?

Matched funding aligned to the project objectives can be provided in two forms: Cash contributions, and; In-kind co-contributions (non-cash contributions where goods, services, or time are provided).

Activities can include project facilitation, on-ground weed control; community education and awareness activities; community weed control programs; and capacity building in community groups.

Matched funding may be from any source or project stakeholder except other DEECA grant funding programs. Matched funding will need to clearly describe what is being done in addition to the PWMP program funding.

### Q. What type of in-kind support can I include in my co-contribution?

Your co-contribution or matched funding can include a combination of:

volunteer time or dedicated to the project (including planning, designing and organising)

in-kind support (e.g. free loan of equipment, donation of materials)

staff time allocated to completing the project, where the salary comes from another source

funding from other sources except from DEECA grant funding (e.g. donations, philanthropic, other Victorian and Australian Government Grant Programs).

### Q. How do I calculate the value of our volunteer contribution?

The volunteer contribution for the PMWP program should be calculated as $40/hr.

### Q. Should I include GST in my budget?

If you are registered for GST:

The budget provided should be exclusive of GST. Where applicable, DEECA will pay the grant amount plus GST.

If you are **not** registered for GST:

The budget provided should be inclusive of GST. Ensure that the budget in your application covers your total costs so you are not out of pocket.

### Q. How do I obtain land manager consent?

Applicants will need to demonstrate that land managers, both public and private, support the project being carried out on the land they manage. A short letter or email of support from the land manager will need to be attached to your application.

Formal approval is not required at the application stage; however, it will be required should your application be successful. Formal consent involves gaining official approval to work on the site. Your land manager will check that your project meets relevant obligations, which could include cultural heritage and planning overlays.

For advice about land manager consent, please refer to the relevant contacts below:

DEECA for crown land on 136 186, or your DEECA local office <https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/communities-and-regions/regions-and-locations>

Parks Victoria for parks and reserves on 131 963 or your local Parks Victoria office <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/>

Local government planning staff for council-owned land <https://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/>

Melbourne Water <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/>

### Q. Is there a minimum land area for projects?

There is not a minimum land area. However, projects will be assessed against a biodiversity benefit criteria including the *“Extent to which project delivers habitat improvement to benefit biodiversity”* andthat “*The* *project footprint is at an appropriate geographic scale to adequately address the threat and protect biodiversity assets”.* The total number of weed control hectares and the number of weed control hectares within priority locations are the measures for the biodiversity benefit.

### Q. Can works be undertaken on private land?

The PWMP program funds activities on public land aimed at protecting the highest biodiversity assets under threat from weed invasion. Actions must not replace a private landholders' statutory obligations for the management of established weeds listed as [regionally controlled or regionally prohibited](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/funds-grants-programs/%3Chttps:/agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/invasive-plant-classifications) under the [*Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*](https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/catchment-and-land-protection-act-1994). Actions on private land, and adjacent to the public land estate, will only be considered if there is significant justification of the biodiversity benefit and evidence that the landholder is contributing to the effort.

### What are the reporting requirements for funded projects?

Grant recipients are required to comply with project reporting requirements which will be outlined in each project’s funding agreement with DEECA. This may include progress reports (six month and annual), site inspections, completion reports and acquittal documentation and will link to outcomes in *Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037* plan*.*

Activities delivered by Projects (weed control/assessments) are to be mapped spatially and submitted at the time of Annual Reporting. Shapefiles must meet the DEECA Biodiversity 2037 Activity data requirements and be completed with all attributes.

Detailed guidelines and documentation for spatial data submission, including mapping activity data and species reporting, are available on the DEECA website [www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/activity-data](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/activity-data). Specifically, guidelines on how to report weed control activities can be found here: [Creating spatial features for reporting: weed control (environment.vic.gov.au)](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0031/680917/CreatingSpatialFeatures_WeedControl_NewDEECA.pdf). Please find references for providing data spatially here: [Bio2037\_ActivityDataRequirements.V1.1.pdf (environment.vic.gov.au)](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0029/466409/Bio2037_ActivityDataRequirements.V1.1.pdf).