

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 136
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: Grants
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 19 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. What guidelines are in place to administer grants?
2. How are grants applied for?
3. Are there any restrictions on who can apply for a grant? If yes, please detail.
 - a) Can these restrictions be waved? If yes, please detail the process for waving them and list any grants where the restrictions were waved.
4. What is the procedure for selecting who will be awarded a grant?
5. Who is involved in this selection process?
6. Does the Minister or the Minister's office play any role in awarding grants? If yes, please detail.
 - a) Has the Minister or the Minister's office exercised or attempted to exercise any influence over the awarding of any grants? If yes, please detail.
7. Provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc, one-off discretionary grants awarded to date. Provide the recipients, amount, intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those locations.
8. Update the status of each grant that was approved prior to the specified period, but did not have financial contracts in place at that time. Provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those grants.

Answer:

1. Consistent with the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)*, the Department of the Environment (the Department) and relevant portfolio agencies issue grants programme specific guidelines and publish information on grants and grant programmes on the respective entities' websites. These websites are accessed as follows:

The Department of the Environment

<http://www.environment.gov.au/about-us/grants-funding>

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/about-us/corporate-information/grants>

2. Publicly available grant programme guidelines provide information on how to apply for grants. Refer to websites provided in the answer to Q1.
3. Guidelines provide information on eligibility criteria and are published on entities' websites. Eligibility requirements can be waived by the Minister or delegate. No such decisions have been made in the period in question.
4. Grants are awarded to eligible applicants on the basis of merit within available funding. Published grant programme guidelines include information on the assessment criteria by which grant recipients will be deemed eligible. These are specific to each granting activity.
5. The determination of eligible applicants and recommendations on the ranking of applicants varies depending upon the nature of the granting activity and may include departmental officers only, or departmental officers working in consultation with external assessors.
6. For the Department of the Environment, the Minister for the Environment is the delegate for approving administered grants over \$5,000. Other administered grants and all departmentally funded grants may be approved by departmental delegates.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has responsibility for, and control over, operations, including the approval of grants. The Minister for the Environment is advised of formal announcements, and upon request of the agency, may be asked to exercise approval for a grant or grant programme.

7. This information is publicly available on the websites provided in the response to question 1.
8. Refer to **Attachment A**.

Attachment A

Name of Recipient	Amount (GST Incl) unless otherwise Stated	Program / description	What locations have / will benefit from the grant?	State	Electorate	Status of the Grant
Macquarie University	\$149,431 (GST excl)	Programme 3.1: Antarctic Science, Policy and Presence	North Ryde, Hobart, Canberra	NSW	Bennelong	Contract Executed
Kimberly Land Council	\$36,636 (GST excl)	Programme 2.2: Adapting to Climate Change	Broome	WA	Durack	Contract Executed
The Trustee For Framlingham Aboriginal Trust	\$81,290	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Purnim	VIC	Wannon	Withdrawn
Wellesley Island Land and Sea Social Economic Development Pty Ltd	\$1,161,820	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Cairns	QLD	Leichhardt	Contract Executed
James Cook University	\$250,000 (GST excl)	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Townsville	QLD	National	Contract Executed
Greening Australia (NSW)	\$548,782	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Greater Western Sydney	NSW	Lindsay	Contract Executed
Greening Australia (NSW)	\$596,683	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Greater Western Sydney	NSW	Lindsay	Contract Executed
Greening Australia (NSW)	\$764,859	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Greater Western Sydney	NSW	Lindsay	Contract Executed
Greening Australia (NSW)	\$1,267,746	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Greater Western Sydney	NSW	Lindsay	Contract Executed
Muru Mittigar Ltd	\$29,017	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Greater Western Sydney	NSW	Lindsay	Contract Executed

Name of Recipient	Amount (GST Incl) unless otherwise Stated	Program / description	What locations have / will benefit from the grant?	State	Electorate	Status of the Grant
Greater Sydney Local Land Services	\$74,250 (GST excl)	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Greater Western Sydney	NSW	Lindsay	Contract Executed
Muru Mittigar Ltd	\$867,708	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Greater Western Sydney	NSW	Lindsay	Contract Executed
Muru Mittigar Ltd	\$70,798	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Greater Western Sydney	NSW	Lindsay	Contract Executed
Greater Sydney Local Land Services	\$ 49,500 (GST excl)	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Greater Western Sydney	NSW	Lindsay	Contract Executed
Muru Mittigar Ltd	\$49,555	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Greater Western Sydney	NSW	Lindsay	Contract Executed
Greater Sydney Local Land Services	\$583,750 (GST excl)	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Greater Western Sydney	NSW	Lindsay	Contract Executed
Greater Sydney Local Land Services	\$21,450 (GST excl)	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Greater Western Sydney	NSW	Lindsay	Contract Executed
Greater Sydney Local Land Services	\$22,721 (GST excl)	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Greater Western Sydney	NSW	Lindsay	Contract Executed
A.L Watters & T.D Watters	\$10,291	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Glen Innes	NSW	New England	Withdrawn
Far South Coast Landcare Association	\$13,750	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Bega	NSW	Eden-Monaro	Withdrawn

Name of Recipient	Amount (GST Incl) unless otherwise Stated	Program / description	What locations have / will benefit from the grant?	State	Electorate	Status of the Grant
Kerri Johnson	\$22,000	Programme 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	Tallebudgera	QLD	McPherson	Withdrawn
University of New South Wales	\$13,050	Programme 1.6: Management of Hazardous Wastes, Substances and Pollutants	Kensington	NSW	Kingsford-Smith	Contract Executed
WA Department of Parks and Wildlife	\$280,000	Programme 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment	Shark Bay, Denham	WA	Durack	Approved Not Contracted
WA Department of Parks and Wildlife	\$280,000	Programme 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment	The Ningaloo Coast, Exmouth, Coral Bay	WA	Durack	Approved Not Contracted
WA Department of Parks and Wildlife	\$280,000	Programme 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment	East Kimberley, Kununurra	WA	Durack	Approved Not Contracted
Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection	\$290,000	Programme 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment	Fraser Island	Qld	Wide Bay	Approved Not Contracted
Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection	\$290,000	Programme 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment	Riversleigh, Mount Isa	Qld	Kennedy	Approved Not Contracted
Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection	\$180,000	Programme 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment	Many sites in Qld	Qld	Maranoa, McPherson, Wright	Approved Not Contracted
NSW Office of Environment and Heritage	\$370,000	Programme 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment	Many areas of the Greater Blue Mountains	NSW	Calare, Hume, Hunter, Lindsay, Macquarie, Robertson	Approved Not Contracted
NSW Office of Environment and Heritage	\$180,000	Programme 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment	Many sites in NSW	NSW	Cowper, Hunter, Lyne, New England, Page, Paterson, Richmond	Approved Not Contracted

Name of Recipient	Amount (GST Incl) unless otherwise Stated	Program / description	What locations have / will benefit from the grant?	State	Electorate	Status of the Grant
NSW Office of Environment and Heritage	\$660,000	Programme 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment	Willandra Lakes, Balranald	NSW	Farrer	Approved Not Contracted
Lord Howe Island Board	\$353,400	Programme 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment	Lord Howe Island	NSW	Sydney	Approved Not Contracted
SA Dept of Environment, Water and Natural Resources	\$200,000	Programme 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment	Naracoorte	SA	Barker	Approved Not Contracted