



Grassroots Environmental Grants

Round 2: Wildlife Carers

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland
Government

Prepared by: Grants Administration Unit,
Department of the Environment, Tourism
Science and Innovation.

© State of Queensland, 2026.

The Queensland Government supports and encourages the dissemination and exchange of its information. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.



Under this licence you are free, without having to seek our permission, to use this publication in accordance with the licence terms. You must keep intact the copyright notice and attribute the State of Queensland as the source of the publication.

For more information on this licence, visit creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land. We recognise their connection to land, sea and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

The department is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights, and our obligations under the Human Rights Act 2019.

If you need to access this document in a language other than English, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone Library Services on +61 7 3170 5470.

This publication can be made available in an alternative format (e.g. large print or audiotape) on request for people with vision impairment; phone +61 7 3170 5470 or email <library@detsi.qld.gov.au>.

Cover Image: Common brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)

©Queensland Government

July 2026

Table of contents

Table of contents 3

Overview 4

Guidelines for applicants 5

Program objective— rescue and rehabilitation of Queensland’s wildlife 5

Eligible applicants 5

Ineligible applicants 6

Ineligible applications 6

Project timeframes 6

Eligible expenses..... 7

Ineligible expenses 7

Application process 8

 Stage 1 – Submit an application..... 8

 Stage 2 – Reimbursement..... 9

H5 bird flu 9

SmartyGrants Portal..... 10

Applications and GST..... 10

Further information..... 10

Privacy statement 11

Terms and conditions..... 11

Overview

The Grassroots Environmental Grants – Round 2: Wildlife Carers program reimbursement funding to eligible wildlife carers and wildlife care organisations for the purchase of essential items for the rescue and rehabilitation of sick or injured wildlife. A total of \$300,000 (excluding GST) in funding is available in this round of the program.

Funding will be provided under one of the following categories:

- **Category 1 – Individual wildlife carers:**
Reimbursements of up to \$1,000 (including GST) are available to individual wildlife carers.
- **Category 2 – Wildlife care organisations:**
Reimbursements of up to \$5,000 (including GST) are available to wildlife care organisations.

Applications close at 4pm on 22 September 2026 or until funding has been committed.

For more information, please email GEGrants@detsi.qld.gov.au or contact the grants program office on (07) 3330 6360.

Guidelines for applicants

Applicants must read these guidelines in full before applying and are strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with the SmartyGrants online application system and other supporting documentation before beginning the application. Application information is available at www.qld.gov.au/grassroots.

Program objective— rescue and rehabilitation of Queensland's wildlife

This Program reimburses eligible recipients for the purchase of essential equipment, food and supplies required for the rescue and rehabilitation of sick or injured wildlife in Queensland.

Successful applicants will be eligible to seek a reimbursement under the following categories:

- **Category 1 – Individual wildlife carers:**

Reimbursements of up to \$1,000 (including GST) are available to individual wildlife carers. A total of \$120,000 (excluding GST) in funding is available for individual wildlife carers in this round of the program.

- **Category 2 – Wildlife care organisations:**

Reimbursements of up to \$5,000 (including GST) are available to wildlife care organisations. A total of \$180,000 (excluding GST) in funding is available for wildlife care organisations in this round of the program. This may include for distribution to endorsed members.

Total funding available under each category is at the discretion of the department.

The department will commit to reimbursements in the order that eligible applications are received until all funding is committed or until 22 September 2026.

No funding will be provided for purchases made prior to the date the department's Letter of Offer is signed by both parties.

Only one reimbursement per applicant will be provided under this round of funding.

Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are individuals and not-for-profit organisations that meet the following criteria:

- hold a current Queensland rehabilitation permit as an individual wildlife carer or wildlife care organisation; and
- are undertaking or intend to undertake rehabilitation activities in accordance with their rehabilitation permit issued by the department.

The permit must be in the name of the individual or the organisation applying for the reimbursement and be current for at least three months from the date of the application.

Ineligible applicants

The following applicants are ineligible to apply for funding:

- Australia Zoo (including associated entities)
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Queensland) Limited
- Moreton Bay Wildlife Hospital Foundation Ltd
- Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary (including associated entities)
- Sea World Foundation (including associated entities)
- Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre Inc
- Australian Government agencies
- Queensland Government agencies
- political parties or lobbyists.

Ineligible applications

An application will be deemed ineligible if it:

- does not include a Queensland rehabilitation permit in the name of the applicant;
- includes a Queensland rehabilitation permit which is not current for at least three months after the application is submitted;
- is seeking reimbursement under an incorrect category;
- is submitted by an ineligible organisation; and/or
- the applicant has an overdue project acquittal with the department or has not provided documentation requested by the department to acquit a previous project.

The department will notify applicants if their application is ineligible. Applicants may re-apply if they can demonstrate eligibility and if funding is still available. Funding will not be reserved for ineligible applications.

Project timeframes

To receive a reimbursement for expenditure, successful applicants have up to 40 business days from the date the Letter of Offer is signed by both parties to demonstrate evidence of:

- full spend of the requested funding amount; and
- evidence of purchased eligible items.

Eligible expenses

Reimbursements will only be provided for the purchase of the following essential items for the care of sick and injured wildlife in Queensland:

- food (including formula)
- feeding consumables (e.g. dripper bottles)
- prescribed medication for rescued animals
- medical supplies (e.g. syringes, bandages and blankets)
- care equipment:
 - portable carriers for transporting rescued wildlife
 - nest boxes
- general equipment:
 - ladders
 - handheld spotlights
 - nets
 - traps
 - personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, eye/face protection, hi-vis vests, sunscreen, protective clothing, hygiene/washdown etc)
 - items to assist with collection of browse (e.g. handsaws, pruners)
 - food preparation and storage equipment for wildlife care
 - first aid kits.
- Freight and delivery expenses of goods purchased.

Ineligible expenses

Ineligible expenses are any items not listed under 'eligible expenses' above, this includes but is not limited to:

- items not directly related to the care and rehabilitation of sick or injured wildlife
- salaries and wages
- training expenses
- building animal enclosures and aviaries
- whitegoods
- incubators and heat boxes
- holding or attending a workshop or conference (including attendance or registration fees, travel and accommodation costs)
- generators
- purchase of fuel or gift cards

- firearm, captive bolt and darting training and licences
- the purchase of firearms, captive bolt or any darting equipment and any related ammunition, gun safes etc.
- trailers (all types)
- purchase of land
- chainsaws and mulchers
- purchase of any type of vehicle including car, motorbike, 4WD or ATV
- vehicle mounted spotlights
- vehicle registrations, repairs or servicing
- infrared and motion-sensing surveillance cameras
- computers, laptops, tablets, phones or smartphones
- voroscopes
- promotional materials
- utility costs i.e. rates, electricity, water, gas
- insurance (all types)
- vaccinations for carers
- veterinary fees
- lethal injection solution for euthanasia
- trees for rehabilitation
- fuel for travelling to and from rescue sites.

Application process

This Program is a non-competitive round. Reimbursements will be committed in order of the eligible applications received until the total funding has been committed or until 22 September 2026.

Stage 1 – Submit an application

STEP 1: Applicants submit an application via SmartyGrants to apply for funding. This application is to include all required supporting documents:

- Queensland rehabilitation permit in the individual wildlife carer/wildlife care organisation's name; and
- quotes for expenditure items. This can include screenshots from online retailers.

STEP 2: The department assesses the application to ensure that:

- the applicant is eligible;
- proposed expenditure is eligible; and
- funding is available for reimbursement.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their submission in writing if they are eligible to progress to Stage 2.

Stage 2 – Reimbursement

STEP 3: The department issues a Letter of Offer to the applicant. This letter will advise the terms and conditions, including:

- the total amount of funding which will be reimbursed;
- items eligible to purchase; and
- the timeframe in which to purchase the eligible expenditure items, receive the goods and provide evidence of expenditure to the department (40 business days).

The Letter of Offer will be based on the information provided in the application and will be issued to the contact email address/es included in the application form.

The applicant is required to sign and return the Letter of Offer to the department within the timeframe specified in the letter. The department will countersign the Letter of Offer and email it back to the applicant.

Upon receipt of the countersigned letter, the applicant may purchase the approved items.

STEP 4: The applicant purchases items as stated in the Letter of Offer and submits documentation as proof of purchase via SmartyGrants. Proof of purchase must include:

- copies of receipts; and
- photos of purchased items once received.

Purchases made prior to the date of the Letter of Offer will not be honoured by the department.

The department will not reimburse expenditure where evidence of expenditure is not provided.

STEP 5: The applicant completes a Reimbursement Form in SmartyGrants with required proof of purchase documents and evidence of applicant's nominated bank account attached. The department assesses proof of purchase documents to ensure that funding has been spent as agreed (that is, as stated in the Letter of Offer) and reimburses the applicant for expenditure. Reimbursements will be made within 20 business days.

H5 bird flu

Wildlife rehabilitators play a vital role in the care of sick, orphaned and injured wildlife.

With the detection of H5 bird flu in wild birds in Australia, wildlife rehabilitators should be aware of the risks this disease poses to both animals and humans. It is important that rehabilitators who choose to continue caring for susceptible wildlife species have appropriate infection prevention and control measures, as well as biosecurity measures, in place. This can include having a biosecurity plan and hygiene practices, including PPE, when working with wildlife.

More information on developing and implementing a biosecurity plan and hygiene practices can be found at:

[National guidelines for avian influenza – protecting people who work with birds and wildlife](#)

[WHA HPAI Risk mitigation toolbox WCP.pdf](#)

SmartyGrants Portal

[SmartyGrants](#), the department's online grants administration program will open for applications on 28 July 2026, and will close on 22 September 2026 (or until the funding has been committed).

New users will need to set up a free online SmartyGrants account. If you already have a SmartyGrants account, you can login using your existing details.

The [Help Guide for Applicants](#) explains the steps you need to take to complete and submit your application form.

If you experience technical difficulties creating an account or completing an online form, contact SmartyGrants on (03) 9320 6888.

Applications and GST

Applications should include the total cost of items to be purchased (including GST). Costs associated with GST will be reimbursed.

For more information, please email GEGrants@detsi.qld.gov.au or contact the grants program office on (07) 3330 6360.

Appeals

Applicants may lodge an appeal with the department for any decisions made relating to their application by emailing GEGrants@detsi.qld.gov.au within 10 Business Days of advice being received.

Further information

If you have any questions relating to these guidelines or if you would like to discuss your application, please contact the Grants Coordinator by telephone on (07) 3330 6360 or by email at GEGrants@detsi.qld.gov.au.

Please note: a Grants Coordinator can provide you with the best advice based on the information provided. All decisions relating to an application will be made based on the information contained in that application.

Privacy statement

The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) is collecting personal information in the application for the Grassroots Environmental Grants - Round 2: Wildlife Carers, should your application be successful.

All personal information you provide in this application form, including all attachments, will be provided to the following parties for the purpose of assessing your application:

- authorised officers from DETSI; and/or
- other Queensland Government agencies, if required.

Where necessary, relevant information contained in your application may also be provided to the Queensland Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation and the Minister's members of staff for reporting purposes.

If your application is successful, the following information will be published on the Queensland Government website and potentially on the Queensland Environment social media channels:

- your name/your organisation's name;
- total amount of reimbursement allocated; and
- a short description of items purchased.

The department will not otherwise use or disclose your personal information unless you provide your consent, or if the use or disclosure is authorised or required by law.

Applying online using SmartyGrants

DETSI has a contract service arrangement with 'Our Community', which operates SmartyGrants, a secure online grants administration system. For further information, please read:

<https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/privacy>.

Your application and associated documentation is subject to the ***Right to Information Act 2009***. If you wish to access your personal information that is in the control of the department, you may contact [Right to Information Services](#).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the privacy of your personal information, please contact the department's Privacy Services unit by email privacy@detsi.qld.gov.au.

Terms and conditions

Applying for the reimbursement

- Applicants must provide all required information at the time of submission of their application. Required information is clearly identified in the application form by a red asterisk (*). Failure to submit all required documents may result in your application being deemed ineligible.
- By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to abide by all of the terms and conditions as specified in these guidelines.
- Applicants must be covered by their current Queensland rehabilitation permit as an individual wildlife carer or wildlife care organisation.

- The Queensland rehabilitation permit must be current for three months from the date of application.
- Only one funding reimbursement per applicant will be provided.
- The Executive Director, Corporate Governance and Operations, at the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation is the decision maker regarding the allocation of funding under this round of the program.

Letter of Offer and the provision of funding

- A Letter of Offer will be developed using information provided in the application form.
- The Letter of Offer will specify the financial and operational requirements of the reimbursement.
- Successful applicants must sign the Letter of Offer and return it to the department within 10 Business Days of the letter's date.
- If the applicant does not return the signed Letter of Offer by the specified date, the funding reimbursement offer will be terminated.
- Funding will not be reimbursed until:
 - both parties sign the Letter of Offer;
 - purchases have been made; and
 - receipts and proof of goods received provided to the department.
- The department will not reimburse expenditure for items purchased prior to the date the Letter of Offer is signed by both parties.
- Successful applicants have 40 Business Days from the date the Letter of Offer is signed by both parties to purchase the agreed items and submit evidence of expenditure to the department for reimbursement.
- Successful applicants may be required to complete a Conflict of Interest declaration prior to the release of any funding. A conflict of interest exists in instances where a successful applicant has, or could be perceived to have, an interest (whether personal, financial or otherwise) which conflicts or which may reasonably be perceived as conflicting with the recipient's ability to meet the requirements and obligations of the project fairly, objectively and independently.
- Signing of the Letter of Offer indicates the recipient's acceptance of all funding terms and conditions in the guidelines and the letter.
- Variations to expenditure items and timeframes should be applied for in writing to the department. It is at the absolute discretion of the department's delegated officer to provide approval. No variation is to be implemented without the applicant first receiving written approval from the department.
- Variations may be requested but are unlikely to be approved and if your variation is not approved you will not be able to apply for alternate funding.
- If the applicant does not make their purchases and submit their proof of purchase documentation to the department by the specified date, the funding reimbursement offer will be terminated.
- In the event of an application or reimbursement being withdrawn, the department must be notified

in writing.

Reporting requirements

- All successful applicants will be required to submit a Reimbursement form within 40 Business Days from the date the Letter of Offer is signed by both parties. Full financial records of expenditure relating to the reimbursement (including receipts for expenditure and photos) must be maintained and provided to the department in the Reimbursement form in SmartyGrants.
- All promotional material relating to the funding reimbursement must acknowledge funding from the department. This includes promotional flyers, banners and any other promotional material. The final draft of any promotional material using the Funding Acknowledgment statement and/or Queensland Government logo must be approved by the department before going to print in accordance with the timeframes provided in the Letter of Offer.

Announcement of successful applicants

- The Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation may announce successful applicants.
- All successful applicants will be listed on the Queensland Government website.

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland
Government