

Round 25 Environmental Levy Grants 2023 - 24

No.	Applicant and Project name	Amount applied for	Amount agreed inc GST	Brief description	Summary of Comments	*Avg score out of 5
1	Macquarie University : Fungal Biodiversity and Management of Native Bushland	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Assess fungal diversity along transects spanning weedy, regenerated and pristine areas. By identifying fungi characteristic of healthy, pristine vegetation, we will set the stage for future re-inoculation studies that will promote resilience of our native bushland.	Very valuable project, scientific knowledge would be gained and shared with the community. Meets all the criteria. Potential for very high-impact outcomes. Budget itemised.	5
2	Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society Inc. : Wallaby exclosure repairs to support canopy restoration	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	Since 2019 several storms have reduced the tree canopy needed by the grey-headed flying-fox camp. Wallaby exclosures have proved effective in reducing browsing of young trees planted to restore the tree canopy. Funding is needed to repair exclosure fencing damaged by storms.	Project is feasible. Proposed works form a critical component of a high-value conservation program. Volunteers involved. Benefitting the bushland condition. Benefits the community and fauna and flora.	5
3	St Ives High School : Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest Bushcare – invasive vine and weed removal	\$5,000	\$5,000	Control of invasive vines and weeds smothering remnant Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest on School grounds.	The grant is succinct, a quote has been provided and volunteers from the school have already shown commitment. provides a measurable benefit to the Ku-ring-gai environment. Very necessary intervention.	4.6
4	Kimo Street Bushcare	\$2,912.00	\$2,912.00	Site Management Plan identified the need for professional bush regenerators to maintain the sensitive and (relatively) newly-burnt area. This burn resulted in many plant species regenerating that have not previously been seen on the site for at least 20 years. We are seeking assistance to maintain the burn area.	Bush regeneration and improvement of biodiversity for native fauna and flora. Some community involvement and skill development. Quotation supplied.	4.6
5	KBA Committee: Keeping cats safe at home	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	To encourage local residents to keep their cats contained. Offer 20 x \$250 Vouchers for enclosure nets. 20 residents will have installed containment nets for their cats. 1800 flyers distributed highlighting the issue of roaming cats to neighbours of bushland.	Brilliant idea. Meets criteria to increase the community understanding of the value of protecting the native fauna. Good community involvement. Great benefit to Ku-ring-gai.	4.6
6	Macquarie University: How do aerially deployed fire retardants impact aquatic ecosystems	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Investigate effects of retardant on frog, fish and aquatic invertebrate abundance, diversity, composition, frog body condition, and frog disease levels while conducting field surveys. Assess sublethal effects of retardant on frog behaviour, physiology, and morphology using controlled laboratory studies. Examine if early-life exposure results in carry-over effects that persist into adulthood and across generations.	Very important project that should be supported as a way of getting a better understanding of issues related to the natural environment in Ku Ring Gai and Australia broadly. We need to know this. This will be a continuing issue as the climate heats up. Potential for very high-impact outcomes.	4.6
7	WildThings NSW : Inspection for Occupancy of Hollows for Wildlife	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	To inspect a sample of installed hollows to determine the success of the project in providing habitat for fauna in Ku-ring-gai. Report concisely on conclusions from the findings and assist with suitable recommendations for future actions.	Inspection and reports of previously installed hollows is a very worthwhile project to ascertain the value of the hollows as helping to preserve biodiversity. Benefits Ku-ring gai. Good community involvement.	4.5
8	St Ives High School : Native garden educational signage	\$3,454	\$3,454	Provide signage to teach students about the types of plants Indigenous Australians would have eaten and used in medicines. The garden contains a range of Australian native plants chosen through consultation with Laurie Bimson from Hornsby AECG (NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group In).	Project aims meet objective of increasing the community understanding. Partners with Volunteers from the school and school children. Evidence of their commitment.	4.4
9	Pymble-Turramurra Pre-School: Re-wilding the native garden	\$5,000.00	\$3,937.00	Restore the Pre-School's existing native sensory garden to enrich and extend its use as an outdoor classroom to engage the students in learning about the environment around them; attract and provide sanctuary and a food source to local wildlife.	Good project that meets all the criteria. Great community involvement. The quotes add up to \$3937.00.	4.4
10	Minns Rd Streetcare group: Minns Road streetcare project enhancement	\$2,500	\$2,500	Assist volunteers to complete the regeneration of the entire street. Clear woody weeds in a steep area of site and begin the removal of weed from the cliff face/rock wall.	Project aims to meet objectives b & c. Quote from a preferred supplier. Longstanding Care group with demonstrated commitment so appropriate follow-up work is likely.	4.2
11	Turramurra Memorial Park Bushcare : Regeneration & replanting of a section of Blue Gum High Forest in Turramurra Memorial Park	\$2,970	\$2,970	Remove weeds, protect existing native plants & replant appropriate native species, particularly shrubs for small bird habitat. Define the boundary of this area with logs. Raise awareness of what can be achieved in restoring natural areas through focussed regeneration work. Attract more volunteers to the group .	Project aims meet objectives b & c. Bush regeneration and improving of biodiversity. Working with community members.	4.2

Round 25 Environmental Levy Grants 2023 - 24

No	Applicant and Project name	Amount applied for	Amount agreed inc GST	Brief description	Summary of Comments	*Avg score out of 5
12	FOKE: Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion	\$5,000	\$5,000	Interpretive signage to apply to geotrails and geosites within the Ku-ring-gai LGA that details the geography and landscape development tracing this back to the earlier volcanic periods. Build community understanding of the natural environment and the appreciation and need for protection of these areas. Enhance education of the importance of our landscape, flora and fauna.	Meets criteria of increasing understanding of the natural environment and impacts, increases community action that benefit to the natural environment. Good benefit to the Ku-ring-gai community. Can meet objectives.	4
13	Princes Park Bushcare: Princes Park invasive vine control	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	By 2019 Bushcare Volunteers had reduced the area of morning glory infestation to the steep slope below the Recreation Club carpark to the creek. During covid and with high rainfall since, morning glory has expanded rapidly. Help is needed to remove morning glory and properly treat Anredera on the steep slope.	Project aims meet objective c and seems feasible. STIF remnant that needs regenerating. Working with Community volunteers.	4
14	Lindfield Public School: Bush Tucker Garden	\$3,000	\$500	Rehabilitate the existing school Bush Tucker Garden area. The garden will provide 'hands-on' experiences for students to engage with local, native plant species and learn about the interdependence of all living things. An invaluable tool for teachers to present an Indigenous perspective to many parts of the curriculum. Working with an Indigenous artist will allow students to gain a further understanding that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture is a living culture.	Building biodiversity, engagement with community, Partners with local groups/people to achieve its goals. - volunteer involvement. Great project - however no details re \$2,500 for artist.	3.8
15	Kissing Point Football Club: Restore the eroded slope at Auluba oval	\$2,856.00	\$2,994.00	Auluba oval is a much-loved community asset, with a walking trail taking in a beautiful section of bushland. Between the trail and the oval, a 13 x 6m area is badly in need of restoration. The soil is compacted, there are no plants, and top soil is eroding. Restoring this area would address the erosion issue and help foster community pride.	Grant application and quote don't match. Worthwhile project to engage with sporting club members - Increase community action that benefits the natural environment.	3.6
16	Wahroonga Public School P&C Assoc Inc : Restoring Classroom in the bush	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Project aims to restore the outdoor classroom - a unique outdoor learning resource that will support hands-on student learning about the environment, surrounding Blue Gum High Forest and Sydney - Turpentine Ironbark Forest and local wildlife.	A reasonable, practical application - addresses community involvement. Project aims meets objectives a & b. Quote is not itemised and seems high. Some proposed methods e.g. importing soil may not be appropriate.	3.6
17	Roseville College : Reconciliation garden	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	Repurposing an unused courtyard in the school as a native garden.	Great project for the senior school students to manage. Project aims meet objectives a and b and seems feasible.	3.4
18	Mashmans Quarry Bushcare group : Bush regeneration and conservation	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	Bush regeneration on the Horace Street side of site. Flora fauna study for the burn areas. Interpretative sign that : educates community on conservation BGHF, recruits Bushcare volunteers, includes historical information about the Mashman Brothers.	Project aims meet objectives a & c No quotes - feasibility uncertain. Proposal to have contractors maintain previously worked areas to allow vols to undertake further primary may not be appropriate. Any on-ground works would need to be in accordance with a new SMP.	2.6
19	Coppins Bushcare : Sydney Turpentine and Ironbark Forest signage	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	Fauna and Flora Study to establish a baseline for monitoring purposes. install an interpretative sign to educate the public about Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, value and rarity of the site and motivate the community to support conservation of the site.	Not enough supporting documents, unclear how a fauna and flora report will assist monitoring or how this will translate to a measurable benefit. The SMP should incorporate monitoring suitable for project. No quotes for sign.	2.2
20	Masada College : Native Stingless Beehive for Primary school playground	\$710.00	\$0.00	An active hive is already present at the school at Early Learning Centre, located at the far northern end of the campus adjacent to daycare centre. grant application for another hive in the Primary school playground for student education and for increasing biodiversity at that end of the campus. Hive plus security stand and tray of native plants.	Benefit native flora and bees and children's understanding of the natural environment. Measurable benefit to the Ku-ring-gai environment Cameron's motivation and enthusiasm, provides the opportunity for the students to develop a love for the environment.	2
21	Vernon St Bush regeneration	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	Regenerate the bush, reduce erosion to creek beds and reduce stormwater pollution in the Council bushland at the end of the cul-de-sac. The combination of these two projects offers a complete renewal of the local area.	Proposed methods and timeline are inappropriate, bushcare group is not established. Council bushcare program can assist with recruitment, site management planning, and materials.	2

Round 25 Environmental Levy Grants 2023 - 24

No	Applicant and Project name	Amount applied for	Amount agreed inc GST	Brief description	Summary of Comments	*Avg score out of 5
22	Pymble Public School : Bee Hives	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	Educate the school children on the importance of preserving our native bees. Hive plus security stand.	Native bee hives don't need fencing. As hive is going to be located in front garden of school, suggest a hive with security stand which is lockable.	1.6
23	Turpentine of St Ives Project	\$350.00	\$0.00	Study turpentine of the St Ives area. Map both major chunks of turpentine vegetation - remnant forest - and minor turpentine tree occurrences - single trees.	Unclear how the project would deliver a measurable benefit. Council already has all areas of STIF and most Turpentine mapped via our PCT and Greenweb mapping systems.	1.6
	TOTAL	\$89,252.00	\$63,767.00	\$50,000 Conservation + \$13,661.60 from Net Zero		

*Average score used rather than total as panelist did not score grant where there was a conflict of interest

The project must deliver one of the following:

- Increase community understanding of the value of the natural environment and local issues and impacts.
- Increase community action that benefits the natural environment.
- Improve the condition of bushland or the conservation of native flora and fauna.

Applicants will also need to demonstrate how their project:

- Provides a measurable benefit to the Ku-ring-gai environment or community.
- Partners with local groups/people to achieve its goals.
- Can effectively meet its objectives.

Score of 1 to 5:

5 = Excellent The assessment criteria are met to a very high standard and claims are fully substantiated. Relevant and concrete evidence or examples are provided.

4 = Good The assessment criteria are met to a high standard. Claims are well-substantiated.

3 = Acceptable The assessment criteria are met to a consistent and acceptable standard with no major shortcomings. Claims are adequately substantiated.

2 = Weak The assessment criteria are not fully met. Some claims are unsubstantiated and some strategies appear inadequate.

1 = Not Satisfactory The assessment criteria are inadequately addressed. Most claims are unsubstantiated and a number of strategies appear unworkable.