



## Funding Stormwater Feasibility Study Grant Guidelines

<b>Why Australia should adopt new funding models for stormwater:</b>	25 August 2022
<b>Date feasibility study grant guidelines released:</b>	01 September 2022
<b>Expressions of Interest Opening date:</b>	5 September 2022
<b>Closing date and time:</b>	6:00 pm AEDT on 28 February 2023
<b>Feasibility study webinar:</b>	2.30pm AEDT on 2 February 2023
<b>Grant Opening Date:</b>	6 March 2023
<b>Q &amp; A's close:</b>	5.00pm AEST on 18 April 2023
<b>Closing date and time:</b>	5:00 pm AEST on 21 April 2023
<b>Application assessment process:</b>	24 April – 5 May 2023
<b>Announcement of one successful applicant:</b>	19 May 2023
<b>Completion of Grant:</b>	31 December 2023
<b>Enquiries:</b>	Phone: +61 458 889 927 Email: <a href="mailto:info@stormwatershepherds.org.au">info@stormwatershepherds.org.au</a> Questions close 5:00 pm AEST on 18 April 2023



## 1 Funding Stormwater Feasibility Study Grant Process

**The Stormwater Funding Feasibility Study provides one Council or one Council Riverkeeper Alliance the means to review international funding models to achieve managing stormwater correctly in their LGA/LGAs.**

### 1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for Funding Stormwater Feasibility Study Grant and its application process. Please read the guidelines before commencing your application.

The Guidelines contain:

- the rationale of the grant study
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant submissions are assessed
- how applicants are notified
- the grant process for the one applicant
- responsibilities relating to the opening and reporting



## Timeline





## 2 About the Grant Study

### 2.1 Stormwater Funding Feasibility Study

Open to metropolitan Councils and Council River Alliances from Melbourne, South East Queensland and Sydney.

**Stormwater managed correctly decreases water quantity, increases water quality, allows for retrofitting, backlog and new infrastructure, provides economic gains, improves social living and prepares for the future.**

Securing finance to maintain grey and green stormwater devices is a dilemma for most councils. Maintenance costs for green infrastructure are high and, left unmanaged, incur higher costs to repair, not to mention the environmental damage and loss of ROI. Councils across Australia are currently looking at alternative funding models to cover increasing maintenance, backlog and infrastructure costs.

The Stormwater Shepherds Funding Stormwater Feasibility Study Grant provides the means to assess the best funding model to manage stormwater correctly in your LGA/LGAs.

You may apply as a single council or through a Council River Alliance or both.

[Click here](#) for more information about Stormwater Shepherds and how extensive infrastructure can minimise riverine and urban flooding, and the effects on aquatic organisms and humans from untreated stormwater.

### 2.2 Stormwater

Stormwater managed correctly helps mitigate flooding, manages stormwater quality, reduces the heat island effect, harvests rainwater for reuse, improves biodiversity, mental health and social living, and provides economic gain. Whereas untreated stormwater is a health hazard to aquatic food chains, the local environment and humans, increases riverine and urban flooding and attracts unnecessary lawsuits.

Stormwater is the primary conveyor and polluter of an LGA's waterways. Many people don't realise that the pollution in our seas starts a long way from the beach; it starts up in the urban catchment, often hundreds of kilometres from the ocean. Plastic and gross pollution causes catastrophic damage to a waterway's biota, with bioaccumulation effects on humans.



The United Nations cites an increase in lawsuits against governments and private companies under **Fundamental human rights** for clean water and safe food. Climate science is jumping on board to support these lawsuits to help save the planet.

***Correctly treated stormwater will provide clean water and safe aquatic food***

To better support stormwater across local government areas, the effects of untreated stormwater on aquatic life and humans firstly need to be understood.

- gross plastic pollutants – leaching toxic chemicals such as endocrine-disrupting chemicals and greenhouse gas emissions, **methane and ethylene**
- microplastics – leach bioaccumulative, generational and forever chemicals. Also. their capacity to clog in aquatic organisms' gut, causing starvation and death
- road runoff from car emissions, tyre rubber, paint, bitumen and rubber granules or crumb from artificial grass, playing fields and children's playgrounds are toxic

***The time has come to fund stormwater correctly.***

The **objectives** of the study are to:

- Determine what are the stormwater issues in your LGA/LGAs
- How you will fix the stormwater issues
- Who will fix the issues
- How much it will cost to fix the issues
- Identify the best funding model to support managing stormwater correctly

The **outcomes** of the study are:

- A sustainable, fair, safe and accountable funding model to manage stormwater correctly by mitigating flooding, conveying clean water to riparian and ocean environments and cooling cities.
- Extensive job creation in maintenance and a new stormwater dept
- Community awareness campaigns on the effects of untreated stormwater and the role the home owners and business/industry plays

## 3 Eligibility Criteria

You must fill out an Expression of Interest by 5.00pm AEDT and 6.00pm AEST 28 February 2023. Note: this is a five-minute process.

### 3.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

The study is open to Councils and Council River Alliances from Sth-east QLD, Melbourne and Sydney.



### **3.2 Council River Alliances**

Applications from Council River Alliances are welcome. You must nominate a lead applicant who is solely responsible for grant deliverables.

### **3.3 Feasibility study webinar**

Applicants must attend a pre-application webinar that explains the grant process, why we need correct stormwater management and examples of new funding models from Germany, USA and Canada.

### **3.4 Publicly announcing the grant success**

The successful applicant must acknowledge the study grant in Council's or Council River Alliances newsletter and social media.

Your application will not be assessed if you do not meet the eligibility criteria

## **4 What the Grant Provides**

Stormwater Shepherds is providing the total grant amount of **\$50,000** (GST exclusive) to cover expertise from the USA who will deliver objective templates and lead the study group. Stormwater Shepherds will pay invoices directly to the lead. Grant monies may pay for water modelling.

Cash contributions and or third-party contributions are welcome to expand the feasibility study to the next stage of setting a new stormwater funding model. Please include any cash contributions in Criteria 4.

### **4.1 Funding will not cover**

- remuneration to community study group members
- salary for employees that are conducting the grant activities
- travel that is related to carrying out grant activities
- in-house administration such as reporting, mapping, work plans

## **5 Grant Acquittal**

You must complete your feasibility study and submit findings by 5:00 pm AEST 21 April 2023.

## **6 Sample Assessment Criteria**

Please answer the following assessment criteria in the application form when applications open on 6 March 2023.

Each Criteria has a **Text Limit** of up to **1,000 words**.



**Criterion 1: Discuss stormwater issues identified in your LGA / LGAs such as: 20%**

- Increased water quantity from riverine and urban
- Reduced water quality from polluted stormwater
- Reduced water quality relating to Australian guidelines for water quality monitoring and reporting when assessing your LGA waterways
- Inability or reduced ability to maintain stormwater assets
- Inability or reduced ability to install WSUDS

**Criteria 2. How are you managing and measuring the stormwater issues identified in the previous question? For example - 25%**

- What types of WSUD and stormwater infrastructure have you installed or would like to install? Note: This is an overview of your stormwater assets; we do not require an audited list of assets.
- Are funding issues hampering your capital works, backlog and maintenance program?
- Are you relying on state or federal government funding for new stormwater infrastructure or maintenance? Do you receive funding for litter clean-ups?
- Do you have a community stormwater education programme?

**Criteria 3. What is your Council's understanding of the need to maintain stormwater assets in your LGA? For example - 20%**

- How often does your Council or Councils maintain your stormwater assets? Who maintains them? Is it internal or contracted?
- Do your LGA/LGAs have vegetative assets, and if so, are they maintained?
- Do landowners maintain their stormwater assets, or has your council taken over the maintenance? How do you monitor this?
- Are you inspecting new developments to ensure installed infrastructure is correct and connected?

**Criteria 4. Would your Council consider adopting a user-pays funding model from the information provided? For example - 15%**

- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses you envisage a stormwater user-pays funding model will provide for your LGA/LGAs
- Is your Council or Council River Alliance able to contribute in-house data collection and water modelling?
- Is your Council or Council River Alliance able to contribute funds or funds from a third party to expand the Feasibility Study to include setting up a stormwater funding model? Or is this possible in the near future?

**Criteria 5.** Submit a video or case study [for up to 2 mins video/or 2 pages + images] on a stormwater issue in your LGA /LGAs and how you are dealing with or would like to deal



with the issue. The use of a mobile phone video is acceptable.

**20%**

## 7. How do you Apply?

Please read these guidelines and provide an expression of interest before applying. There may be changes to the guidelines, and we will notify you of any changes. To apply for the Funding Stormwater Feasibility Study Grant, you must:

- submit an expression of interest to **info@stormwatershepherds.org.au** by 5.00 pm (17:00) AEDT and 6.00pm (18:00) AEST on 28 February 2023.  
<https://www.stormwatershepherds.org.au/stormwater-feasibility-eoi/>
- attend a webinar at 2.30pm AEDT and 3.30pm AEST on 2 February 2023 explaining the grant process and stormwater funding models (an invitation will be sent to you with a link)
- ensure you meet all eligibility criteria
- complete the application form and address the assessment criteria
- attach supporting documentation
- email your application to **info@stormwatershepherds.org.au** by 5.00 pm (17:00) AEST on 21 April 2023.

Please note that you cannot alter your application after the closing date and time.

You will receive an email notification acknowledging the receipt of your application.

### 6.1 Council River Alliances applications

Council River Alliances are welcome to apply and, if successful, enter into a grant agreement with Stormwater Shepherds.

### 6.2 Do you have any questions during the application process?

Contact us with any questions at **info@stormwatershepherds.org.au** or call us on **+61 458 889 927**

We will respond within 72 hours to emailed questions. Questions and Answers will be posted on faq's here - <https://www.stormwatershepherds.org.au/stormwater-feasibility-study/#faq>

Question and Answers will close at 5.00pm AEST on 25 October 2022.

## 7 Grant Selection & Eligibility

### 7.1 Grant application assessment

All applications will be assessed for eligibility and compliance, and if eligible, we will evaluate your assessment criteria.



Successful applications will be evaluated on the way they meet key assessment criteria, including-

- Response to adopting a new stormwater funding model
- How the application demonstrates your LGA/LGAs stormwater management

## **7.2 Who will assess submissions?**

A review panel made up of four judges will assess your application against the eligibility criteria and your Council's, Council River Alliances capacity to perform the study. A lead panellist will oversee the assessment process. Only eligible submissions will progress to the assessment stage.

The review panel may include a mix of employees from the stormwater industry, experts from within the sector and scientists specialising in stormwater/oceans.

**Judges may ask for extra information or clarification to help them in their final recommendations.**

## **8 Announcement of Submission Outcomes**

We will notify you by email on the outcome of your submission by 19 May 2023.

### **8.1 Feedback on your submission**

We will provide feedback on each grant submission and assist in your stormwater management if possible.

## **9 The Successful Grant Submission**

### **9.1 Grant agreement**

If you are successful, you will be offered a legally binding grant agreement with Stormwater Shepherds.

After acceptance of the grant, we will execute a grant agreement. The agreement will be binding when it is executed. We will send a notification with a copy of the executed agreement.

Once we have sent the agreement, you will have ten business days to sign and return the agreement.

The grant agreement will be fully executed when both parties have signed the document. During this time, Stormwater Shepherds will work with you to finalise the details. If either party fails to sign the agreement within ten days, the offer may lapse, and the next highest-scored application will become the grant recipient.



We may extend the grant study period under certain circumstances, considering requests to change the grant agreement.

The general terms and conditions of the grant agreement cannot be changed.

## 10 Announcement of the successful applicant

If successful, we will announce your submission on Stormwater Shepherds and Stormwater Australia's websites and affiliated organisations. We will also seek a media announcement.

## 11 Monitoring Grant Activity

### 11.1 Why update us?

Any events or issues that may impact or affect your grant activities or limit your ability to conduct the feasibility study should be discussed and updates provided to Stormwater Shepherds.

Please advise us of any replacements to your nominated applicant contact details.

### 11.2 Reporting

We ask that you submit an initial report outlining study representatives and an activity work plan that includes a timeline.

#### **Monthly progress reports**

We will require a one-page update on the study groups' progress and include any wins or delays that may inhibit the completion date.

#### **Final report**

Evidence of how and what objectives and outcomes were achieved from the study. Stormwater Shepherds will provide a final report template. The final report needs to be acquitted by the due date.

### 11.3 Variations of the grant agreement

We acknowledge that some events are unexpected and may impact your study progress. On these occasions, you may request changes to the grant agreement by contacting Stormwater Shepherds.

We will consider your request based on the grant agreement and the potential effects on achieving key objectives and outcomes.

### 11.4 Study Evaluation

Throughout the grant study, we will evaluate key objectives and outcomes. We may also ask for more information to help define whether the study has helped you achieve the desired outcomes.



We may continue to contact you post the study completion for up to one year and request extra information to assist other councils wishing to adopt a funding model. We may also offer assistance to further the adoption of a new funding model.

### **11.5 Acknowledgement**

We would appreciate you acknowledging your submission success publicly by using the following wording:

'This Funding Stormwater Feasibility Study Grant was made available by Stormwater Shepherds'

The successful applicant must acknowledge the study grant in Council's newsletter and social media.

## **12 Conflicts of Interest and Privacy**

### **12.1 Conflicts of interest**

Conflicts of interest may affect the grant opening. There may be a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest, if a Council or Council River Alliance member of the study group has:

- an existing relationship (professional, commercial or personal) with any parties that may influence the application selection process – including government and consultants.
- relationship or interest in external organisations that may intervene or inhibit the applicants from their proposed grant activities, independently
- relationship or interest in other parties that may receive personal gain or financial gratitude from the grant applicant.

### **12.2 Privacy**

Your personal information is treated according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and [Australian Privacy Principles](#). We will let you know:

- the type of personal information we collect
- the reason we collect your personal information
- who receives your personal information

We will disclose your personal information only for the purpose it was collected unless we approach you for an exemption.

Stormwater Shepherds may use and provide generic information from submissions to better the stormwater industry under this grant. This includes disclosing generic grant information on the Stormwater Shepherds website and providing grant data to federal and state governments and other affiliated organisations. At no time, unless previously agreed, will applicants be named in the information from submissions.



## 13 Glossary

Term	Definition
assessment criteria	specified principles and standards that are used to assess applications. -value of proposals that rank applicants for competitive grant openings.
Australian lead	expertise from Australia in funding stormwater models.
commencement date	the start date for the study grant activity.
completion date	the end date for the study grant to be completed.
council river alliances	a consortium of councils collaborating with local waterways.
criteria	required eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
eligibility criteria	the mandatory criteria that must be met for grant qualification.
grant activities	projects, tasks and services that the grantee performs as part of the grant obligations.
grant agreement	the details, guidelines and operating terms and conditions of a grant – as agreed by participating parties.
grant opening	refers to the specific study grant round from Stormwater Shepherds.
grantee	one successful council/riverkeeper or river initiative group.
international expertise	Expertise from USA in funding stormwater models
lead panellist	the person who determines and agrees on the successful grant applicant
review panel	provides advice and recommendations to the lead panellist to help assess and determine successful applicants.
selection criteria	the criteria on which applications will be assessed – encompassing both eligibility and assessment criteria.
selection process	the method used to select one successful grant applicant, which involves the assessment of selection and assessment criteria.