



LOVE WATER GRANTS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1 Background

For over 30 years, Hunter Water has supported the community with water conservation, sustainability and education initiatives that enhance liveability and innovation in our region.

The Love Water Grants are one-off financial contributions up to the value of \$10,000 to help organisations deliver water education or conservation projects.

The purpose of these Grants is to promote water conservation through education, efficiency improvements and awareness in the Lower Hunter. The Love Water Grants aim to:

- Boost community groups and organisations to identify and solve water conservation issues through practical solutions and projects
- Inspire local schools, groups and other organisations to undertake activities that have a positive impact to the community, with environmental and social benefits

Applications are open annually from 14 February until 14 March.

2 Application process

2.1 Applying for a Love Water Grant

Before applying for a Love Water Grant, please read this Guidelines document to understand the criteria and eligibility. Your application must comply with the items outlined within the Guidelines.

Applications must be submitted online using the Love Water Grants application form at hunterwater.com.au/grants. Any scanned documents provided must be legible and clear.

You must complete and submit your application before the closing date to be considered for a Grant. No applications will be considered after the application period has closed.

All applicants will be contacted by email after the assessment period with the outcome of their application.

2.2 Key dates

The below dates are indicative only and subject to change.

Date	Details
14 February	Applications open (9am)
14 March	Applications close (5pm)
March-April	Assessment period
May	All applicants are notified of their application outcome
June	All documents received from successful applicants Invoices paid by Hunter Water by 30 June

3 Assessment criteria

Hunter Water will consider the following in assessing applications:

Criteria	Weight	Details
Project theme	20%	How the project aligns with one or more of the key focus areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water conservation• Water literacy• Wastewater topics• Sustainability
Strategic and values alignment	20%	How the project and group align with Hunter Water's corporate strategy and values, including wellbeing, trust, leading, learning and inclusion
Education and engagement	20%	How the project engages and educates on water topics to people directly involved and the wider community
Community/customer impact	20%	How the project will create a positive impact to the community, with consideration for environmental and social benefits
Partnership opportunities	10%	How the project creates opportunities to acknowledge the partnership with Hunter Water or involve Hunter Water staff
Project plan	10%	How the application outlines a plan for how the project will take place, including key activities, timeline, budget breakdown and evaluation measures

3.1.1 Related links

- [Our Corporate Strategy – Miromaliko Baato](#)
- [Our vision and values](#)

4 Eligibility

4.1 Who can apply

The Love Water Grants program is open for the following groups that operate within Hunter Water's area of operations (LGAs of Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Dungog):

- Community groups
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Incorporated groups
- Education institutions
- Local government agencies
- Sporting and social groups

Applicants must have a registered ABN and relevant public liability insurance.

Applicants must have relevant public liability insurance and attach a Certificate of Currency to their application.

Applicants from the Dungog LGA will be assessed and awarded in partnership with Dungog Shire Council.

4.2 Who cannot apply

Applications will not be considered for:

- Projects or groups that are geographically outside Hunter Water's area of operations
- Organisations that demonstrate political, religious or socially divisive objectives
- Individuals or individual sportspeople
- Projects that include, or encourage, unlawful activities
- Projects that do not align with Hunter Water's policies, including anti-discrimination and environmental policies
- Projects that do not have a demonstrated management or accountability framework
- Companies or organisations which are in legal conflict with Hunter Water
- Projects that may impose or imply conditions that would limit Hunter Water's ability to carry out its services and operations fully and impartially

Hunter Water will not consider any application that may harm its reputation within the community or adversely impact its financial, legal, or operating position in any way. In addition, parties ineligible to make a Grant application include:

- Employees and contracted staff of Hunter Water
- Suppliers of Hunter Water
- Political organisations.
- Individual members of the Customer and Community Advisory Group, or members of Hunter Water's Board of Directors

5 Information for successful applicants

Successful applicants will be contacted after the assessment period with the outcome of their application. They will be required to complete and return the following documents within two weeks of being notified of their application's outcome:

- Grant agreement
- New supplier form
- Certificate of Currency (insurance)
- Proof of banking details

They must also provide an invoice for the awarded Grant amount, which will be paid by Hunter Water by 30 June of the current financial year of the Grants program.

Grants are structured financial awards for specific projects or initiatives that align with assessment criteria. All Grants are provided for the one-off amount specified in the Grant agreement.

All projects must be completed within 12 months of receiving the Grant funds. Upon completion of the project, the successful applicant must provide a report to Hunter Water with the project's outcomes.

Any items where a reference is made to Hunter Water's support, or where Hunter Water's logo appears, such as print or digital media, signage or other, must be approved by Hunter Water's Communications and Engagement team prior to distribution.

Content collected by Hunter Water, such as reports, interviews, photos and videos, may be used for internal and external promotional purposes.

6 Privacy

Hunter Water will manage your personal information in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

NSW annual reporting legislation requires Hunter Water to report on all funds granted to community organisations, including information such as the recipient organisation's name and the grant amount.

For more information about how Hunter Water manages your privacy, visit hunterwater.com.au/privacy