

Five Million Trees for Greater Sydney (5MT) Grant

Frequently Asked Questions 2018-19

November 2018

General Information

Q. What is the purpose of the 5MT Grant?

The 5MT Grant is structured to support all Councils in Greater Sydney to plant trees and increase tree canopy cover in their communities. Planting more trees will create a healthier, more liveable and greener Greater Sydney. The 5MT Grant will also support Councils with funding to care and manage trees through their establishment period.

Eligible Projects

Q. What projects are eligible for funding under the 5MT Grant?

- Street tree planting
- Tree planting projects in new and existing open space areas that include but are not limited to:
 - corridors
 - parks
 - plazas
 - community tree planting programs
 - carparks.

Infrastructure to support tree planting such as the following may also be considered as part of the grants:

- tree pits
- soil/mulch
- structural soil cells or similar
- root barriers
- irrigation
- drainage
- tree guards
- root ball support
- tree grates, vertical guards and other protective measures.

Q. Can applications be made for projects to fund operations costs (i.e. staffing positions, consultants, advertising)?

No. All funding received must be related to the direct cost of the project. Administration costs for projects must be covered by the applicant.

Q. Can projects be funded retrospectively?

No. Successful applicants may only commence construction of a project once funding approval has been confirmed.

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Eligible Applicants

Q. Who can apply for 5MT Grants Funding?

The 5MT Grants is open to all 33 Greater Sydney Councils only. Eligible councils are:

Bayside Council, Blacktown City Council, Blue Mountains City Council, Burwood Council, Camden Council, Campbelltown City Council, City of Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown Council, Cumberland Council, Fairfield City Council, Georges River Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Hills Shire Council, The Hornsby Shire Council, The Council of the Municipality of Hunters Hill, Inner West Council, Ku-ring-gai Council, Lane Cove Municipal Council, Liverpool City Council, Mosman Municipal Council, North Sydney Council, Northern Beaches Council, City of Parramatta Council, Penrith City Council, Randwick City Council, City of Ryde Council, Strathfield Municipal Council, Sutherland Shire Council, City of Sydney, Waverley Shire Council, City of Willoughby, Wollondilly Shire Council, Woollahra Municipal Council.

You are ineligible to apply if you are:

- A Council outside of Greater Sydney
- Individuals, groups of individuals and unincorporated organisations
- Incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- For profit, commercial organisations
- Organisations limited by shares
- Government departments and agencies
- Educational institutions including Schools and their P&Cs, Universities, TAFE, Colleges and Child-care Centres

Applying

Q. Where can applicants find the grant guideline?

A copy of the 5MT grant guideline can be found at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/openspace

Q. How does an organisation lodge an application?

Applications, including supporting documentation, should be submitted via the application portal at <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/openspace>

Applications must be received by 3pm 21 December 2018.

Any application that is late, incomplete or ineligible will not be considered.

Q. Can applicants submit applications for more than one project?

Yes. Applicants may submit more than one application.

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Q. Can the budget be amended during the application process?

No. Budgets relating to the project cannot be amended during the application process.

Q. Will assistance be available to support the preparation of the application?

The Office of Open Space and Parklands may provide advice to applicants on the interpretation of the grant guideline. For inquiries or more information contact Linda Smith, Office of Open Space and Parklands on 02 8275 1084 or email 5milliontrees@planning.nsw.gov.au

Q. What criteria apply to the assessment of the applications?

Applications that are eligible and comply with the application requirements will be assessed against the program's objectives, project types and four assessment criteria (merit, engagement, viability, and budget).

Funding

Q. What is the program funding for 2018/19?

In 2018-19 \$6 million in funding has been allocated for the 5MT grants program. This funding will be available to all 33 Councils in Greater Sydney only via a competitive grant process where Councils will be required to match the funding granted on a dollar for dollar basis.

Q. Will all applications receive funding?

No. The application process is competitive. It is anticipated there will be multiple applications competing for the funding available.

Successful applications will be those that best meet the objectives of the program, the assessment criteria and can demonstrate the applicant has the capacity to deliver the project from inception through the end of the establishment period.

Q. If our Council has already received other government funding or co-contributions from external organisations for the project, does this mean the Council cannot apply?

Projects that have received other Government funding or co-contributions from external organisations are eligible for funding. Applicants must list in their application if the project has received other sources of funding and the amount received.

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Timing

Q. When are the applications due?

Applications must be received by 3pm 21 December 2018.

Q. How long do applicants have to start and complete a project?

Project start date must be within eight months after the round opens and projects must be completed within 18 months from signing of the funding agreement.

Acknowledgements

Q. How do successful applicants acknowledge the funding when projects are underway?

It is a condition of grant funding that the Minister for Planning, NSW Government and the Office of Open Space and Parklands be:

- invited to attend any formal launch event (including commencement and completion ceremonies)
- advised four weeks prior to any formal event
- acknowledged of their contribution on all communications and media for the project.

Reporting

Q. Do successful applicants need to report on the delivery of their projects?

All successful applicants will receive detailed information about requirements to report on the implementation and success of their project.

For more information

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