



2023 WIRES National Grants Program – Guidelines & Eligibility Criteria

WIRES mission is to actively rehabilitate and preserve Australian wildlife and inspire others to do the same.

The primary objectives of any approved projects should be to improve outcomes for native wildlife and their habitats.

Introduction

WIRES is Australia's largest wildlife rescue organisation. WIRES has been rescuing and caring for sick, injured and orphaned native animals for over 35 years, and our mission is to actively rehabilitate and preserve Australian wildlife and inspire others to do the same. WIRES operates a dedicated Wildlife Rescue Office assisting wildlife and the community across Australia 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, providing rescue advice and assistance for over 130,000 animals annually, as well as providing full-time mobile Wildlife Emergency Responders operating across Greater Sydney, South-East Queensland and Tasmania.

WIRES has committed to a 5-million-dollar National Grant Program to be rolled out over five years. The WIRES National Grants Program has been designed to support best practice rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife, an increase in emergency preparedness in the sector, along with native species recovery projects to improve long-term outcomes in Australia.

The challenges currently faced by our wildlife and the wild places they call home are immense. At WIRES, we believe that collaboration is the key to delivering tangible project outcomes to effectively tackle these challenges. Projects that utilise the expertise of and share knowledge between wildlife rehabilitators, researchers, conservation professionals, citizen scientists and community groups will lead to the best outcomes for our precious native species.

Collectively, we can deliver the best long-term outcomes nationally for all native species.

Grant Program Overview

Have you got a project that will improve outcomes for native wildlife and their habitats?

The WIRES National Grants Program (WIRES NGP) has been developed to provide ongoing support for wildlife, and their habitats, across Australia. WIRES focus is on proposals that have tangible, positive and ideally long-term outcomes for wildlife. Funding granted through this program is one-off and is for projects of between 6-12 months duration.

This is a competitive grants program. Demand is likely to outweigh available funds, and therefore eligible applications will be evaluated by an assessment panel. This assessment will be based on funding priorities, demonstrated need and the funds available.

Project outcomes should also support the objectives of the WIRES National Grants Program including:

- Building capacity and capability for the Australian wildlife rescue and rehabilitation sector
- Improving emergency preparedness and response capabilities to assist wildlife
- Preserving species and their habitat through projects leading to long term positive outcomes for native wildlife
- Raising community awareness and inspiring broader community involvement in supporting Australian wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and preservation



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This may be achieved through:

- Strategic on-ground activities
- Citizen science projects
- Community engagement and capacity building
- Education initiatives
- Technological innovation

Impact of COVID-19

When preparing your application, you need to take into consideration the time frames and any constraints that may impact the delivery and participation of your activities resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Projects need to be designed to ensure participants' safety and health and this needs to be consistently monitored and adjusted, as required, to remain in keeping with current health and government advice and restrictions.

Priority will be given to projects and applicants that:

- have not previously been funded by WIRES
- deliver a co-contribution (cash and/or in-kind)
- meet multiple program objectives
- involve partnerships and knowledge sharing
- facilitate collaboration with traditional owners and indigenous organisations
- increase awareness of the need/solution in the community

Joint applications and community partnerships are strongly encouraged. Consideration will be given to ensure geographic equity nationally.

Funding Available

A total funding pool of up to \$1,000,000 is available across four tiers or categories.

Eligible applicants are invited to submit proposals for:

Tier 1: Individually Licensed Wildlife Rescuers and Carers (maximum \$2,000)

Tier 2: Licensed Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Organisations (maximum \$8,000)

Tier 3: Environmental NGOs and Community Groups (maximum \$20,000)

Tier 4: Consortia/Multi-partner Collaborations (maximum \$50,000)



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Key Dates

Item	Date
Applications open	14 th July 2023
Online webinar #1	12.30pm AEST 18 th July 2023
Online webinar #2	7.30pm AEST 26 th July 2023
Applications close	18 th August 2023 (<i>by 5pm AEST</i>)
Successful applicants notified	November 2023
Grant announcements and unsuccessful applicants notified	December 2023
Reports due – Final for 6mth, Progress for 12mth projects	May 2024
Final Report due and project completed – 12mth projects	November 2024

Eligibility

General Eligibility

Applicant must:

- be a legal entity, able to enter into a legally binding agreement
- must comply with all relevant laws and regulations in undertaking the project
- have the knowledge and experience required to deliver the project and been operating in this capacity for a minimum of two years.
- be the organisation or individual completing the project
- be located in and conduct activities within Australia
- not have overdue progress or acquittal reports for previously funded grants
- have a demonstrated history of professional, proactive, and positive collaboration with other organisations and individuals, including WIRES
- submit the correct application form accurately and on time
- have the appropriate type and level of insurance for the activities that are the subject of this proposal
- have an Australian bank account
- not have a current active grant with WIRES

Project must:

- address one or more of WIRES National Grants Program priority objectives
- identify a current need or issue and propose/provide a solution
- result in demonstratable tangible outcomes for wildlife and/or their habitats



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- begin after the grant funding commencement date and not require retrospective, recurrent or ongoing funding
- meet eligibility criteria for the appropriate funding tier
- be realistic in terms of deliverables, timeframe, and budget
- represent value for money compared with other proposals

WIRES does not provide funding for:

- ongoing operational expenses, including salaries
- re-granting to other organisations or individuals
- activities that duplicate existing services or programs available to the sector
- activities that harm or kill animals, or that WIRES deem have the potential for significant risk to animal health and welfare (including feral animal control).
- profit making activities
- self-promotion activities, including advertising (unless it is directly related to funded project)
- catering
- fuel vouchers
- activities that repeat previously funded projects

Eligibility Tiers 1 & 2

Tier 1 – Individually Licensed Wildlife Rescuers and Carers

Funds of up to a maximum of \$2,000 are available for licensed wildlife carers for projects that can be achieved within six (6) months. Funds are also available to registered vets or vet nurses applying for vaccination costs only.

Tier 2 – Licensed Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Organisations

Funds of up to a maximum of \$8,000 are available for licensed wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organisations for projects that can be achieved within six (6) months. Funds are also available to licensed vet clinics actively assisting with wildlife rescue, care and treatment.

Who is Eligible?

Individually licensed wildlife rescuers and carers and licensed wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organisations. You must have held an appropriate permit per the state you operate in for a minimum of two (2) years:

NSW- NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) individual licence or membership to a licensed group (excluding WIRES members, as they are being supported through other funding programs)

VIC- Wildlife Shelter or Foster carer authorisation through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) or Rescuer with Wildlife VIC



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SA- One of the following Department for Environment and Water (DEW) permits; Wildlife carer, Rescuer, establish a Wildlife rehabilitation facility, keep recused animals unfit for release

TAS- Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit registered with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

WA- Fauna Possessing (Other Purposes) Licence registered with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

QLD- Individual permit through the Department of Environment and Science (DES) or membership with DES licensed or endorsed group

ACT- Member of ACT Wildlife

NT- Permit to keep protected wildlife from Parks and Wildlife Commission or a member of a group with a permit

Groups do not need to have charity status to be eligible.

The applicant must:

- meet licensing requirements as outlined above for each state and provide a copy of their rehabilitation licence or vet licence
- have been actively rescuing and caring for wildlife for a minimum of 2 years and be able to provide evidence
- demonstrate that the proposed project will deliver significant long-term benefits for native wildlife
- if an individual, provide a copy of their driver's licence or other authorised form of ID (e.g. passport)
- if an organisation, provide their ABN and, if applicable, their ACNC incorporation number
- provide a reference (must not be the applicant or a member of the applicant's immediate family)
- provide appropriate quotes for all budget lines of their proposal
- if applying for updates to, or repairs/replacement of enclosures/facilities, provide photos of existing set up. The applicant assumes full responsibility for ensuring these meet the expected requirements under the relevant state codes of practice for the species in question.

What is Eligible?

Projects and items supported by the WIRES National Grants Program in Tiers 1 & 2 include:

- Rescue and care equipment – e.g. rescue carriers, transportable pens
- Authorised training courses to increase emergency preparedness – e.g. first aid
- Water tanks, hoses, and similar items to increase emergency preparedness
- PPE for rescue and emergency response - helmets, boots, gloves, and clothing
- Emergency equipment for rescuers & carers – Medical supplies, first aid kits, torches, radios



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- Medical supplies for affected animals in care
- Urgent repairs/upgrades to existing enclosures/facilities

What is not Eligible?

Grant funding cannot be used for the following:

- Purchase of capital assets including property and vehicles.
- Works covered by insurance or other sources of funding including other grants
- Completed works
- Political lobbying and advocacy
- Legal expenses, rates, and taxes
- Ongoing operational expenses, including salaries
- Compensation to wildlife rehabilitators for their own labour
- Perishable items including food –the WIRES website provides details for other support programs including the Woolworths and WIRES Food for Wildlife Program (<https://www.wires.org.au/support/food-program/rescue-food>)
- Activities required or funded under other arrangements, unless previous agreement has been sought
- Roadside fencing
- Firearms and other weapons (including dart guns, ammunition and training associated with firearms use)
- Any form of advertising that is not strictly related to project promotion (ie. general organisation advertising)
- Prescription medications



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Eligibility Tiers 3 & 4

The funds in these tiers include special allocations, awarded to honour three WIRES legends.

The Mikla Lewis OAM Habitat Restoration & Enhancement Grant

When Mikla Lewis OAM founded WIRES back in 1986, little did she envisage that 35 years later the organisation would have expanded from a single branch in Sydney to 28 branches and more than 3500 volunteers. She decided to form WIRES, with the help of a small group of people from various environmental organisations, following a report of an injured ibis in Sydney's Hyde Park when none of the existing animal welfare bodies had either the jurisdiction or the resources to implement a rescue. Mikla's foresight and knowledge led to the rescue and rehabilitation of thousands of native animals. To this day, she continues to be a dedicated WIRES volunteer. This grant will be awarded to a project, or projects, that involve habitat restoration, renovation or enhancement.

The Pat Connors Avian Grant

Pat Connors was a long-term member of WIRES. He developed WIRES first rescue and rehabilitation database and call recording system pro-bono and supported it for well over a decade. Pat's contribution enabled WIRES to provide rescue advice and assistance for more than 1.5 million animals since its creation. Pat sadly passed away in December 2020 and the grant is to honour Pat's outstanding contribution and his passion for birds. This grant may be awarded to one large avian project or a series of smaller avian projects.

The Helen George OAM Mammal Grant

From the moment WIRES was founded, Helen George's expertise in wildlife rescue & care was invaluable. Helen's involvement with WIRES as a carer, trainer, and mentor lasted more than 30 years, until her passing in 2017. When WIRES received its very first call for a wombat in distress, it was Helen's advice that was sought. Over the years, Helen developed and delivered mammal training courses and trained hundreds of volunteers. This grant is a tribute to the invaluable support and expertise Helen provided to WIRES and is a nod to her particular love of wombats, macropods and bats.

Tier 3 – Environmental NGOs and Community Groups

Funds of up to a maximum of \$20,000 are available for projects that can be achieved within twelve (12) months.

Tier 4 – Consortia/Multi-partner Collaborations

Funds of up to a maximum of \$50,000 are available for collaborative multi-partner projects that can be achieved within twelve (12) months. One organisation must nominate as the Lead Organisation. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into the grant agreement with WIRES. The application should identify all other members of the proposed group and include a letter of support from each of the project partners.



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Who is Eligible?

The applicant must:

- have been actively engaged with wildlife or their habitats for a minimum of 2 years
- be registered as an Australian organisation with a current ABN and operate in Australia
- provide their ABN, and, if applicable, their ACNC incorporation number. In the case of consortia, the Lead Organisation must provide their ABN.
- provide letters of support from partners including the roles/responsibilities the project partner will undertake, and the resources it will contribute (if any)
- provide evidence of any required consents where the proposed project site/s are not owned or managed by the applicant. Written consent is required from the property owner and/or property manager that allows for the implementation of the proposed project on each project site.
- demonstrate organisational capacity for delivering proposed project
- demonstrate that the proposed project will deliver significant long-term benefits for native wildlife

What is Eligible?

Projects and items supported by the WIRES National Grants Program must have tangible outcomes and could include:

- those that expand rescue and rehabilitation capacity at a significant scale
- habitat restoration and/or enhancement incl. provision of supplementary shelter, nest boxes and artificial hollows
- bush regeneration/revegetation using native plant species that are known to be indigenous to the site and represent the type of vegetation community existing on the site
- control of invasive weed species through physical, chemical, or biological treatments (physical treatments may include cultural burning practices.)
- those that improve emergency preparedness, risk mitigation and emergency response from a wildlife rescue perspective
- group training that leads to tangible outcomes in line with WIRES NGP objectives
- community education and/or engagement campaigns
- flora and fauna surveys, habitat mapping, data recording, spatial mapping and modelling but only where these form part of a project that includes tangible positive outcomes for wildlife

We may also approve other activities. If you have a proposed activity that is not listed above, you must be able to demonstrate the need for the activity and the expected tangible outcome relating to wildlife and/or habitat.

If your project is a research project, please see our Research Grants Program opening for the next round in early 2024.



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What is not Eligible?

Grant funding cannot be used for the following:

- Purchase of capital assets including property and vehicles
- Works covered by insurance or other sources of funding including other grants
- Completed works
- The covering of retrospective costs
- Political lobbying and advocacy
- Legal expenses, rates, and taxes
- Ongoing operational expenses, including salaries
- Compensation to volunteers for their own labour
- Activities required or funded under other arrangements, unless previous agreement has been sought
- Firearms and other weapons (including dart guns, ammunition and training associated with firearms use)
- Roadside fencing
- Administration costs greater than 10% of the overall budget.
- Any form of advertising that is not strictly related to project promotion (ie. general organisation advertising)

Please note: Travel and contractor costs will be considered in the context of overall value for money for the proposal

Grant Conditions

Successful applicants must:

- read and sign the WIRES Grant Agreement
- provide bank details to enable prompt grant payment
- produce a project risk assessment, including COVID-19 protocols in keeping with current government advice
- provide evidence of appropriate and current insurance
- provide evidence of current rescue & rehabilitation licence held by state (if applicable)
- provide quotes for any requested equipment/enclosures
- provide photos of current set-up/facilities, if required
- spend the grant funds within the agreed time period
- complete and submit reports as required
- account for grant funds by providing copies of invoices and receipts with your final reports
- agree to ad hoc project audits



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How to Apply

Applications for the 2023 WIRES National Grants Program open from 9am Friday 14 July 2023 AEST and close 5pm, Friday 18 August 2023 AEST (Application Period). To apply for a WIRES Grant, applicants must meet the eligibility criteria and accurately complete the application form for the appropriate funding tier and submit on time.

Please note that due to limited funding and a competitive assessment process, not every application that meets the eligibility criteria may receive a WIRES Grant.

Application Process

- Click on this link to access the WIRES Grant Portal <https://wires.grantplatform.com/>
- Create account and log in. Please note that you will need to tick “Yes” to receiving notifications if you wish to be sent confirmation of application submission.
- Read information on the home page
- Click on “Start application”
- Select your State/Territory
- Select “WIRES National Grants Program 2023” and then the appropriate tier.
- If you wish to leave a partially completed application, make sure you press ‘Save + close’ and log out.
- You can log back in and continue to edit your application form until you are ready to submit.
- To submit your application, select the ‘Submit application’ button. Note, no changes can be made once this is selected.
- You will receive a confirmation email when your application has been successfully received. If you do not receive an email, please ensure you check your junk mail.

Application support

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend an online information session. These will provide essential information for developing and writing your application and give you the opportunity to ask questions.

WIRES National Grants Program webinars will be held:

- Daytime session: Tuesday 18th July at 12.30pm AEST
- Evening session: Wednesday 26th July at 7.30pm AEST

Please take the time to ensure you only submit an application if you meet all the conditions listed.

It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the email address provided on the application is checked regularly. For questions about the application process email: grants@wires.org.au.



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Assessment

All applications will be assessed by the Technical Review Panel under the following criteria:

- Consistency with WIRES priority objectives
- Tangible improvements in outcomes for native wildlife and their habitats
- Need of the proposal, relative to other proposals
- Project quality and achievability
- Project sustainability beyond the current funding opportunity
- Degree of collaboration
- Geographic diversity
- Value for money
- Applicant experience, expertise and professionalism
- Compliance with previous funding opportunities
- Ability to raise awareness of the identified issue and its solution(s)

Following assessment, WIRES will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

If you are unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome with us. WIRES may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.

Grant Agreement and Payment

WIRES requires successful applicants to complete and return a grant agreement, along with bank account details, evidence of relevant insurances and a project risk assessment, including COVID-19 protocols. We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. Execute means both the applicant and WIRES have signed the agreement. WIRES is not responsible for any expenditure you incur until a grant agreement is executed.

A payment schedule will be defined for each project. Funding for projects may be released in a staged process, with an initial payment paid at the commencement of the project and final payments processed upon receipt of progress reports.

WIRES NGP funding is exclusive of GST.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. WIRES recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office. We do not provide advice on tax.



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Project Monitoring

Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your organisation or your ability to complete your project as agreed.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement you must contact us immediately.

Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement.

We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed project milestones
- project expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds. You must retain receipts and invoices for the duration of the project.

The amount of detail you are asked to provide in your reports will be relative to the project size, complexity, and grant amount.

We will monitor the progress of your project by assessing reports you submit and may conduct project audits to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information, or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

You must discuss any project or milestone reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

Project Variation Requests

We recognise that unexpected events may affect project progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement.

If you want to propose changes to your project, including the agreed budget, you must request a variation BEFORE the project end date.



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Funding Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about a project funded under the WIRES National Grants Program, including in a brochure or publication, websites, promotional and advertising materials, displays and signage, public announcements and activities relating to the project funded under the program, you must acknowledge the grant by using the following:

*This project received grant funding from WIRES through their annual National Grants Program.
For more information go to wires.org.au/NGP*

Logo Use

Any and all promotional materials, print media, digital media (websites, blogs, social media etc.) used in promotion of the grant should also include the WIRES National Grants Program logo. The logo's colour, shape, form, font or design must not be modified in any way. All instances & usage of the logo should be forwarded for approval prior to publication to marketing@wires.org.au with the subject heading "WNGP Logo Approval". WIRES will endeavour to reply & grant approval or feedback within 48 hours upon receipt. Please factor this process in any application or usage of the logo.

The logo must not be used to give the impression WIRES has published a product or endorsed another organisation without prior approval or consultation.

For any media requests or enquiries, please contact the WIRES Media Team at media@wires.org.au.

Social Media

Tagging WIRES on social media, where character limits allow, will help us cross-promote projects and share your stories with our wider community.

Please use the following handles and hashtags:

ACCOUNTS

Instagram: @wireswildliferescue

Facebook: @WIRES.wildlife.rescue

LinkedIn: @wireswildliferescue

Twitter: @WIRESWildlife

OFFICIAL HASHTAGS:

#WIRESNGP

#WIRESWildlifeRescue



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Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply if I have received a WIRES grant in the past?

Yes, however priority will be given to those applicants who have not received a WIRES grant in the past two years. Applicants with outstanding acquittals from previous grants are ineligible for further funding until all reporting requirements are met.

Can I apply if I am currently receiving funding from WIRES?

Organisations or individuals with active WIRES grants are ineligible for further funding, until the current grant is acquitted.

Can we submit more than one application?

Yes, more than one application from one organisation can be accepted but please keep in mind that funding available for projects per organisation is limited.

Can I submit my application after the closing date?

No, late applications will not be considered for funding unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances.

How do I apply for a grant?

See above section “How to Apply for a Grant”.

Can I send a hard copy or email application?

No, all applications must be submitted through the WIRES Grant Portal.

How will I know if my application has been received by WIRES?

If you ticked “Yes” to receiving notifications about your application, you will receive an automatically generated email when you submit your application successfully.

Please note, an issue with your email firewall might block the confirmation email. Please ensure you check your spam / junk mail folder. If you are still unsure whether your application has been submitted successfully, contact WIRES Programs Team.

When will I be notified if my application is successful?

Successful applicants will be notified in November 2023. WIRES may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.

Please ensure that the email address provided on the application is checked regularly.



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Who decides which projects get funding?

WIRES is committed to ensuring that the assessment process is fair and transparent. The process is as follows:

1. WIRES will conduct an eligibility check. Applications that are incomplete or ineligible will not progress.
2. Applications that are complete and eligible will be collated according to funding tiers.
3. These collated applications will be assessed by the Technical Review Panel.
4. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing.

How will my submission be assessed?

Your application will be assessed against the WIRES Assessment Criteria and against other proposals in the same funding tier. Applications with the highest scores and that meet our funding priorities will be successful.

If my application is successful, when will I receive my grant distribution?

Once we receive the signed grant agreement, required documentation and bank account details, WIRES will pay the agreed amount into the nominated account and notify you of this in writing.

How do I report on my grant?

WIRES will notify you when it is time to complete your progress or final report. Reporting is undertaken through the WIRES Grant Portal.

What do I do if my project is not completed before the final report is due?

We understand that occasionally there are delays to your project. Please contact the WIRES Programs team at the earliest possible time to discuss any project or reporting delays.

If you still have questions or require any further information after reading our FAQs, you can email grants@wires.org.au

WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST WITH YOUR APPLICATION & THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME