

NRM Connecting Communities Grants 2014–15

# GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS



**Natural Resources**  
SA Murray-Darling Basin



Government  
of South Australia

## What is the NRM Connecting Communities Grants program?

The NRM Connecting Communities Grants support organisations to work with local communities across the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin (SA MDB) to build community capacity for improved and sustainable natural resources management (NRM). The grants are supported by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRM) Board Levy and funding from the Australian Government.

## What is the scope of the program?

Projects should cover the range of priority NRM issues relevant to their local area (i.e. be integrated – not single-issue focused) and should seek to engage and support a broad cross-section of local groups and individuals including community groups, farmers, volunteers, industry groups, Aboriginal groups, schools and youth.

The SA MDB Regional NRM Plan guides natural resources management and investment across the region and projects should align with and contribute to the targets in the plan, in particular:

- Raising community awareness of NRM
- Increasing the NRM knowledge and skills of the community
- Increasing the contribution of and support for NRM volunteers
- Increasing the participation of Aboriginal people in NRM.

As a significant proportion of the program supported by the Australian Government, projects must also be consistent with the priorities associated with this funding. These relate to increasing community skills, knowledge, engagement and participation in NRM, with separate funding streams, and associated targets, focusing on Sustainable Environment and Sustainable Agriculture.

It is also important that projects support the delivery of regional NRM programs, which aim to manage natural resources at a landscape scale across the SA MDB. These program areas include Pest Plant and Animal Control, Land Management, Wetlands and Floodplains, Terrestrial Biodiversity, Sustainable Irrigation, Public Land Management, Aboriginal Partnerships, NRM Education, Volunteer Support and Climate Change Adaptation. More information on these program areas can be found on the Natural Resources SA MDB website <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/home> or by phoning (08) 8532 9100.

Examples of activities which may be funded under the program include:

- Employment of local NRM community engagement staff
- NRM workshops, training events and field days aimed at increasing community skills and knowledge
- Providing technical advice and support to landholders and community groups
- Volunteer recruitment, management and support
- Communications such as media releases, newsletters, displays, web pages, social media
- Assisting community groups and members to secure funding and other resources for NRM activities.

## Who can apply?

Incorporated not-for-profit organisations and local governments are eligible to apply. Applicants must be able to demonstrate good local knowledge of their project area and its community. Projects which provide a 'local face' and incorporate local community input into their development and management will be highly regarded.

Organisations applying for amounts of \$30,000 or greater are required to have public liability insurance of at least \$10,000,000.

Applicants are encouraged to explore innovative ways to share resources between areas and projects to maximise outcomes and minimise administration and other forms of duplication.

### Who cannot apply?

Individuals, profit-making organisations and State Government are not eligible to apply.

### What geographic area will projects cover?

Projects should engage the community within existing local community NRM areas (see map below) and may cover one or more of these areas. These are:

- Renmark to Border
- Berri Barmera
- Loxton to Bookpurnong
- Riverland West
- Mid Murray
- Lower Murray
- Eastern Hills and Murray Plains
- Murray Mallee
- Goolwa to Wellington
- Coorong (section within SA MDB)

Applications which target or include other areas within the SA Murray-Darling Basin may also be submitted.

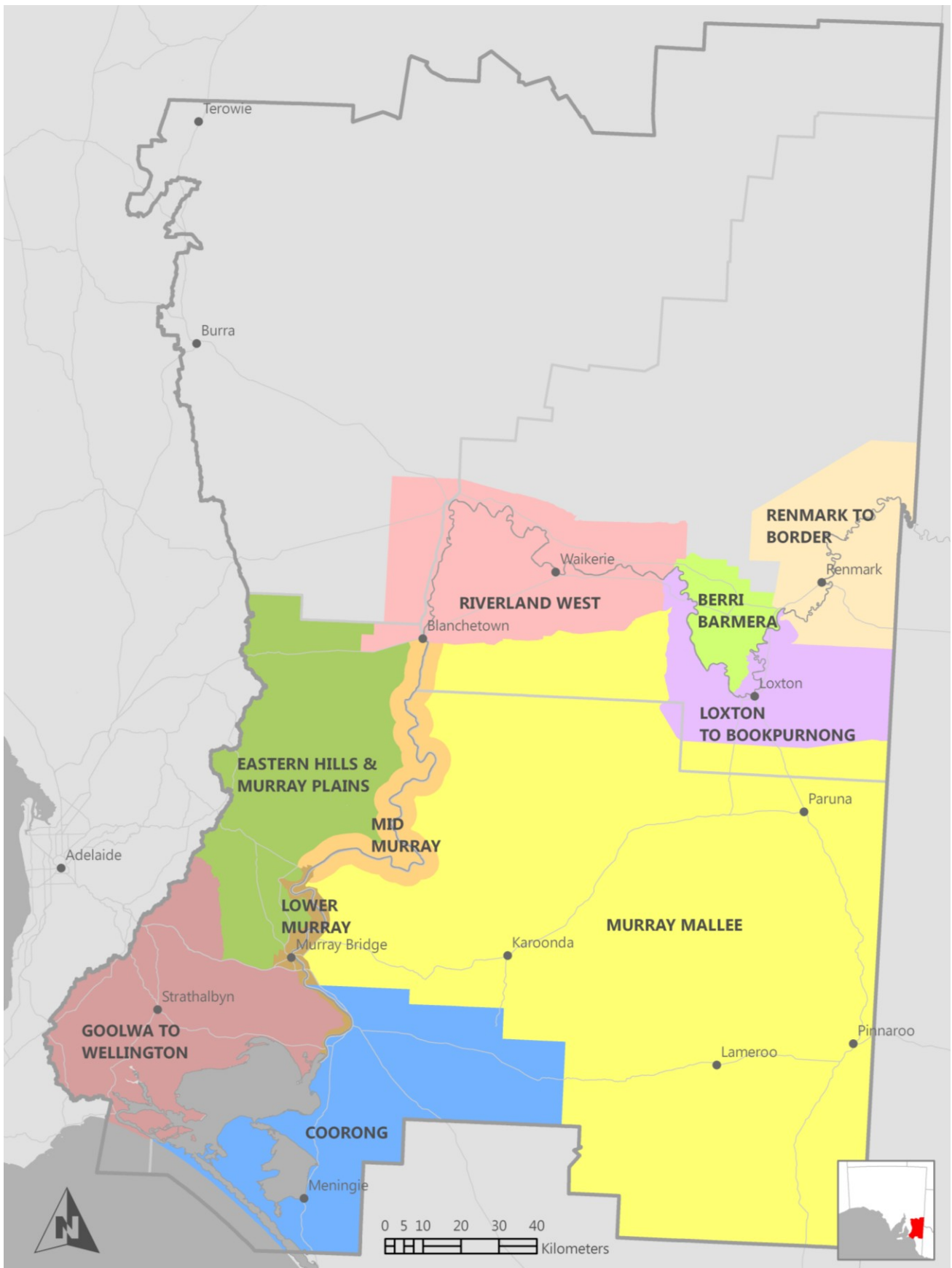


Figure 1 – The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin and existing community NRM areas.

## What is the project duration?

Projects may be between one and three years. Reduced funding levels can be applied for beyond the first year of multi-year projects (see below). Projects may be approved for a duration of less than that applied for.

## How much can be applied for?

There is no minimum or maximum amount of per project funding. When planning the size of the project and the proposed budget, applicants should keep in mind that the total funding available across the region is approximately \$1,000,000.

Budgets for multi-year projects must reduce to 80% of the first-year total in year two, and 60% of the first-year total in year three. This reduction partly reflects decreased Australian Government funding over this time and also avoids the program being fully allocated in the first year.

Applicants must identify any other financial contributions being made to the project.

## How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be initially assessed by a range of senior Natural Resources SA MDB staff. The final assessment will be made by the SA MDB NRM Board's Grant Assessment and Review Panel.

## When are applications due and how should they be lodged?

Applications are due by close of business on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2014.

Applications (including the separate A3 program logic diagram document) should be lodged as **both** an **MS Word** document emailed to [kathryn.hill2@sa.gov.au](mailto:kathryn.hill2@sa.gov.au) **and** as a signed hard copy posted to:

Kathryn Hill  
SA MDB NRM Board  
PO Box 1374  
BERRI SA 5343

## Need assistance or more information?

For assistance or more information please contact Jem Tesoriero, NRM Communities Team Leader, on (08) 8532 9100.