

MEDIA RELEASE



The Hon **David Hawker** MP
Federal Member for Wannon



29 September 2009

SMALL GRANTS TO SUPPORT LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND MANAGEMENT WORK

Federal Member for Wannon David Hawker is urging Western Victorian environment, land and community groups to apply for grants of between \$5,000 and \$20,000 to support smaller, local projects run by groups such as Landcare and Coastcare, as well as Indigenous groups.

Mr Hawker said the Community Action Grants are designed to support some groups which have not yet received funding through Labor's Caring for Our Country program, which significantly reduced funding for environmental projects in Western Victoria.

"Projects under this program could include tree planting, revegetation, dune rehabilitation, field days and natural resource management," he said.

Mr Hawker said eligible community groups may include:

- Community groups involved in coastal rehabilitation, restoration and conservation
- Groups of farmers or land managers working on sustainable farming or improving natural resource management
- Indigenous partnerships involved in protecting or improving the environment
- Community groups involved in biodiversity, environmental protection or managing natural resources

"These grants will go some way towards recognising the work of local volunteers and community groups who have had the rug pulled out from under them in recent Rudd Government budgets," Mr Hawker said.

"The success of Landcare over past decades has shown that significant environmental improvements, on a regional or national scale, begin with the essential work of local groups.

"In Western Victoria we depend on the work of local groups to improve farm productivity, remove weeds and carry out revegetation. Local community groups like Landcare have significantly contributed to biodiversity, natural icons, coastal environments, aquatic habitats and sustainable farm practices," he said.

Applications close on Thursday 22 October 2009.

A sample application and guidelines for the Community Action Grants can be found at www.nrm.gov.au/funding/cag.html.

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