

Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program

Round six guidelines

Targeted turtle rookery grants



Queensland
Government

Prepared by: Wildlife and Threatened Species Operations - Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

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Contents

About the program	1
About this funding round.....	1
Guiding principles – grant assessment criteria.....	1
What activities will be considered?	2
Application Eligibility	2
Project sponsor eligibility	3
Available Funding	3
Project timeframes	3
What will not be eligible?	3
Ineligible expenses	4
Application stages and assessment	5
Grant conditions.....	6
Required documents.....	6
Privacy statement	7
Application assessment.....	7
Application outcome	7
Announcement of successful applicants	8
How to apply?	8
Further information	8
Appendix 1 - Nest to Ocean Protection Program Marine Turtle Stock Summary and Key Actions	9

About the program

Queensland is home to some of the most important marine turtle nesting and feeding sites around the world. The threat of predation and its impact on nesting success is a key concern for the sustainability of Queensland's turtle populations.

The Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program (NTOTPP) is a joint Australian and Queensland Government initiative that provides funding for projects and activities that seek to improve the survivorship of marine turtle nests and hatchlings from terrestrial predators—particularly feral pigs, in coastal Queensland. Key marine turtle rookeries along the coast and on islands have been identified and prioritised for active nest protection and predator control efforts.

The objectives of the program are to:

- increase the nesting success of marine turtles to achieve a minimum survival rate for hatchlings to over 70%
- reduce feral predation impacts on marine turtle rookeries
- provide proactive nest protection and feral animal control actions at priority rookeries during nesting and hatchling seasons
- increase Traditional Owner and local community participation in turtle nest protection and predator control
- explore innovative ideas for feral pig and other predator controls
- ensure strategic investments and enduring legacy outcomes are derived from the investment.

The Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science (DES) is responsible for delivery of this program in collaboration with the Australian Government Department of the Agriculture, Water and the Environment, and other partner agencies.

About this funding round

Round six funding is available for projects to be undertaken at specific turtle rookeries on the east coast of Cape York, the Torres Strait and coastal catchments of the Great Barrier Reef. Coastal islands within these areas will also be considered eligible. Applications are invited for project proposals targeting high priority turtle rookeries (key marine turtle stocks for each species and management region are listed in Appendix 1). Use the table in Appendix 1 as a guide to ensure your proposal targets a high priority area and species of marine turtle.

Guiding principles—grant assessment criteria

Applications are invited for projects that meet the requirements for the target turtle rookery you are applying for. Applications will be assessed with the following guiding principles and should demonstrate how your project:

1. Aligns with national and state priorities in undertaking marine turtle conservation and feral animal control (refer to Appendix 1 for key stock, locations and recommended actions).
2. Address other key threats identified in Appendix 1 for marine turtles including:
 - Reduce the impacts from marine debris, adjacent to stock with threat rated as 'very high' or 'high.'
 - Minimise light pollution where it is identified as a key threat.
 - Removal of weeds and invasive species whose roots negatively impact the incubation success of eggs.
3. Optimises on-ground results in the short and long term.
4. Shows good governance arrangements and a strong project management.
5. Monitors and reports on results.
6. Builds collaborative partnerships.
7. Leaves an enduring legacy.

What activities will be considered?

Funding for this round will be directed by projects that maintain, adapt and strengthen existing direct management efforts at key nesting beaches and foraging grounds. It is important these projects implement management practices that promote successful hatching of at least 70% of clutches laid.

Project activities may include:

- Removal of weeds and invasive species whose roots negatively impact the incubation success of eggs.
- Management of shade on nesting beaches to counter the impacts of increasing sand temperatures negatively impacting hatchling sex ratio and hatching success of eggs.
- Increased dune vegetation and consideration of skylines behind nesting beaches to provide a dark horizon to minimise disruption to ocean finding behaviour of hatchlings and adult turtles.
- Restoration of sand dunes on nesting beaches where the natural process is no longer supporting the rebuilding of the sand dunes following storm erosion.
- Removal of beach washed debris that impedes successful nesting on the beaches, including excessive amounts of beach washed timber and “ghost” nets.

The NTOTPP will also continue to support the implementation of predator control options that use a combination of ground and aerial shooting and baiting, trapping, exclusion and the installation of nest protection devices to increase the survival rate of marine turtle nests and hatchlings.

All projects need to demonstrate they have the necessary approvals and permits in place to conduct the proposed activities.

All projects will need to incorporate a monitoring component to enable reporting on the effectiveness and outcomes of the program. Monitoring should be undertaken to report against the following items (where it is applicable to the actions being undertaken):

- Quantify the distribution and abundance of turtle nesting, by species, within the project area.
- Quantify subsequent losses of clutches by predator species.
- Report on marine turtle nesting success and survivorship of the hatchlings.
- Report the number of predator species removed as a result of the control program.
- Report on the area of marine debris ‘cleaned up’ or hectares of habitat enhanced or repaired.

Guidelines on the minimum data requirements for monitoring marine turtle nesting, hatchling success and nest predation are available on the [department’s website](#).

Guidelines that provide information for the management of artificial light for marine turtles are available on the [Australian Government website](#).

The applicant must demonstrate how the project will meet the requirements for the target rookery, be achievable within their stated time frame, show value-for-money and provide enduring legacy outcomes.

Application eligibility

The following are eligible to apply for a grant in their own right:

- properly established incorporated associations (incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*)
- Australian charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)
- not-for-profit organisations registered under the *Corporations Act 2001*
- Indigenous corporations incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cwlth)
- tertiary education institutions administered by the Commonwealth or State governments
- Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies.

Project sponsor eligibility

Ineligible applicants can apply for a grant through a project sponsor.

Project sponsors must be one of the following organisations:

- an organisation eligible to apply for funding in their own right
- schools (government and non-government schools)
- a local government authority
- Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies.

Project sponsors must take full responsibility for the legal and financial accountability of the project, including signing the grant deed and/or any declarations and are required to approve all project related reporting. They are required to provide evidence of insurance for the lifetime of the grant period.

A letter from the project sponsor signed by an accountable officer must be included with the application which specifies that the organisation is willing to be the sponsor for the duration of the project.

Project sponsors are not able to financially benefit from the grant funding, for example, by seeking project management fees.

Ineligible applicants

The following applicants are ineligible to apply for funding:

- individuals
- statutory bodies and authorities
- Australian government agencies
- state government agencies
- political parties or lobbyists
- schools (government and non-government schools) (other than as a sponsor).

Available funding

The total funding available in this round is \$600,000 (excluding GST). Applicants may seek funding for grants up to \$150,000 (excluding GST).

A successful organisation will not receive more than one grant per round of the program (other than as a sponsor).

Project timeframes

Projects must be completed by June 2021.

Ineligible projects

Funding will not be provided for everyday consumables, such as normal day-to-day expenses associated with the organisation, and costs not directly associated with implementation of predator control and enhancing marine turtle survival.

Ineligible items include:

- Projects undertaken outside of Queensland.
- The relocation of any animal.
- Captive breeding of a species.
- Devolved grant funding (requests for funding to be provided to an applicant organisation who will then disseminate this funding to other organisations or individuals to complete work).

- Wages or other remuneration for positions related to the normal ongoing operations of an organisation or individual's commercial operation. Only wages and labour expenses directly attributable to the discrete project with measurable outputs are eligible. Applications may seek funding for contractors with relevant expertise that are required to undertake the project.
- Payment of utility expenses e.g. telephone, electricity or gas accounts.
- Vehicle registration and insurance costs.
- Activities that cannot be completed by June 2021.
- Retrospective activities or activities initiated prior to the project's approval date.

Note that administrative costs are capped at 5% of the total budget.

Ineligible expenses

Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Contingencies
- Insurances (e.g. public liability, volunteer)
- Recurrent operational expenses (e.g. electricity, office rent/leases, rates, water rates, vehicle registration, office equipment hire and maintenance, equipment and motor vehicle repairs or maintenance)
- Administration costs which exceed 10% of original grant funding
- Entertainment, event or celebration expenses
- Alcohol
- Gifts/sponsorship/membership fees
- Purchase of uniforms
- Purchase of fuel cards
- Purchase of land or buildings
- Purchase of a motor vehicle or a boat
- Expenses relating to substitute teacher fees
- School-based curriculum materials.

Landholder permission

Relevant permissions must be obtained from Traditional Owners, and other landholders, prior to undertaking the project activities.

Private land

Organisations seeking to undertake a project on private or council land must obtain written approval to conduct the project from the relevant landholder prior to submitting their application.

Queensland national parks and State forests

Projects are able to be conducted on Queensland national parks and State forests. However, state government agencies are ineligible to apply in their own right or act as a sponsor.

Organisations seeking to undertake a project on a Queensland national park or State forest must obtain written approval to conduct the project from the relevant Principal Ranger (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service) prior to submitting their application. This letter must state the name of the park or State forest and list the specific activities involved in the project for which approval is granted.

Other State land

Organisations seeking to undertake a project on State land must obtain written approval to conduct the project from the relevant Queensland Government agency prior to submitting their application.

Application stages and assessment

Stages	Actions
Stage 1—Planning	<p>Read these guidelines in full, including the requirements outlined in the project parameters for each of the target turtle rookeries.</p> <p>Identify if your project and its activities are eligible for funding.</p>
Stage 2—Prepare your application	<p>If you have any questions or would like to discuss your project, please contact the Nest to Ocean Program Coordinator.</p> <p>Ensure all aspects of your application are eligible. Ineligible costs will not be funded.</p> <p>Provide as much detail on the budget as possible to demonstrate whether your project adequately demonstrates value for money.</p> <p>Provide sufficiently detailed milestones as these will be the basis of the milestones within the Grant Deed should your application be successful.</p> <p>Applications should also include a communications strategy that outlines how the applicant will report on outcomes to DES and if any public communication is anticipated.</p>
Stage 3—Submit your application	<p>Please email your completed application form to Wildlife and Threatened Species Unit turtles.partnerships@des.qld.gov.au</p>
Stage 4—Assessment and approval of applications	<p>All eligible applications will be assessed by an evaluation panel.</p> <p>Applications will be assessed against the guiding principles. A successful application must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be eligible and meet the objectives of the program • be competitive with other project proposals (delivering effective predator control actions at key turtle nesting sites) • represent value for money (requesting a realistic and reasonable funding amount, with low-risk high-value outcomes) • demonstrate how the project will contribute to the survival of marine turtles through predator control activities. <p>The evaluation panel will operate under a Conflict of Interest Agreement and the Queensland or Australian Government Public Service Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The DES delegate will exercise the respective financial delegation.</p>
Stage 5—Funding distribution	<p>Subject to the submission of all required documentation and execution of the Grant Deed, the first payments may not be available until February 2021.</p> <p>Funding will be paid in increments that align with project milestones, increments will be a percentage of the total project cost. A percentage will be provided up-front on signing of the agreement; the final payment will be a percentage paid on DES's – Threatened Species Operations acceptance of the final report.</p> <p>DES reserves the right to determine specific project payment structures on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Stage 6—Reporting, project completion and acquittal	<p>Successful recipients will be required to submit a regular progress report over the life of the project.</p> <p>Milestone reports will be required when a payment is due to demonstrate completion of the agreed milestones.</p> <p>A final report and all acquittal documentation will be required upon project completion. The acquittal documentation will be required to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a completed final project report including details of all project statistics and findings • print-quality colour photographs of control activities and monitoring (either in hard copy or digitally in JPEG format with a resolution of 300 dpi) • a detailed income and expenditure statement • an audited financial statement verifying project expenditure signed by a qualified auditor, a Certified Practising Accountant or a Chartered Accountant • unspent grant funds must be returned, where relevant.

	<p>The project must be completed within the term of the Grant Deed. Non-compliance with the agreed Grant Deed may result in suspension or termination of the grant and repayment of grant funds.</p> <p>This project report and acquittal documentation must be submitted within 30 calendar days after completion date of the project.</p> <p>Spot audits may be conducted on any grant recipient.</p>
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Grant conditions

1. Successful applicants must agree to enter into a Grant Deed with DES before any funds will be released.
2. State government entities will be required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding that mirrors standard terms and conditions in a Grant Deed.
3. The Grant Deed/MOU must be executed prior to the commencement of project activities.
4. Funds granted must be spent for the purposes stated in the application form and as per the Grant Deed/MOU, signed by the applicant and a departmental representative.
5. Any variations to the agreed project details should be applied for in writing to the department's Threatened Species Operations (TSO) business area. It is at the absolute discretion of the delegated officer to give the applicant a notice of approval. No variation is to be implemented without the applicant first receiving a notice of approval from DES.
6. The recipient must comply with the reporting requirements of the Grant Deed/MOU.
7. In the event of cancellation of a funded activity, DES-TSO must be notified in writing and all unspent funds returned to DES immediately.
8. The funded organisation will be provided with information detailing the financial and operational requirements of the grant.
9. The Grant Deed/MOU will be developed using information provided in the application form.
10. Applicants must be covered by public liability insurance of a minimum of \$20 million.
11. Acceptance of the grant payment indicates the recipient's acceptance of all funding terms and conditions in the guidelines and Grant Deed/MOU.
12. A successful organisation will not receive more than one grant per round.

Required documents

Evidence of the following may be required to be presented with your application be shortlisted or successful:

1. Landholder approvals (where relevant).
2. The latest signed, audited financial statement for the organisation. Organisations without an audited financial statement must provide a balance sheet, income and expenditure statement and the last two bank statements.
3. Certificate of Currency for public liability insurance coverage of at least \$20 million (in total and per event) that is current and remains current for the duration of the project.
4. Certificate of Currency for workplace health and safety insurance and evidence of adequate insurance coverage for workers and volunteers as required under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (where relevant).

5. A copy of the organisation's latest bank statement showing the BSB and account number. This is required to verify vendor account details for EFT payments.

Privacy statement

The Department of Environment and Science collects personal information submitted by an applicant for the Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program's Round Six Targeted Turtle Rookery Grants, to assess the application for funding, and prepare a grant deed should the application be successful.

All personal information provided in the application form, including all attachments, will be routinely provided to the following parties for assessing the application:

- other Queensland Government agencies
- external assessment panel members.

Where necessary, information contained in the application may also be provided to the Queensland Minister for Environment and Science and the ministerial staff for reporting purposes (except for that information which relates to the department's confidentiality obligations).

The department will seek consent for any uses or disclosures outside of these specific terms.

If the application is successful, the following information will be routinely published on the department's website:

- the organisation's name
- total amount of funding allocated
- project name, location and description.

The grant application and associated documentation is subject to the *Right to Information Act 2009*. If you wish to access your personal information that is in the control of the department, you may contact [Right to Information Services](#).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the privacy of your personal information, please email turtles.partnerships@des.qld.gov.au.

Application assessment

Applicants are required to submit the application and all supporting documentation in full by the submission deadline.

No extensions will be provided.

Applications will be assessed by an assessment panel consisting of Queensland Government employees and external representatives. The Panel will make funding recommendations to the Director-General, Department of Environment and Science, who is the decision maker for all funding recommendations.

Application outcome

All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their submission by mail. Details including the name of successful applicants, funding allocated, location of the project and a description of the project will be published on the department's website and may be announced through media, including social media.

Successful applicants will be contacted by the Grants Coordinator regarding funding arrangements, grant deeds and other documentation/approvals that may be required to be provided (refer to the 'Required documents' section).

All decisions are final. Applicants not granted funding can request feedback on their application by emailing turtles.partnerships@des.qld.gov.au

Announcement of successful applicants

The Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs will announce successful applicants.

- Following the announcement, successful applicants will be listed on the department's website.
- All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by mail.
- Any liaison with an assessment panel member by an applicant or another person about a specific application may result in immediate disqualification.
- Only one grant per applicant will be provided however, more than one application per organisation can be submitted.
- A sponsor may sponsor more than one project and may receive a grant in its own right.
- All projects must be completed within three years from the signing of the grant deed.

How to apply

Applications close **4pm Friday 26 February 2021**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Completed and signed applications (with any attachments) should be emailed to:
turtles.partnerships@des.qld.gov.au

Further information

For further information email **turtles.partnerships@des.qld.gov.au**

Appendix 1—Nest to Ocean Protection Program Marine Turtle Stock Summary and Key Actions

Species/stock description	Management priority	Nesting locations	Key actions applicable to NTOPP (including under an expanded scope)
loggerhead turtle south-west Pacific	High	<p>Major: Mainland coast Mon Repos to Wreck Rock. Tryon, Eskine islands</p> <p>Minor: Wreck, Heron, Lady Musgrave, and Northwest Islands, Swains Reef, New Caledonia, Sunshine coast.</p> <p>Index beaches monitored: Mon Repos (1969-), Wreck Rock (1978-), Capricorn Bunker Group (1977-).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the impacts of marine debris on turtle health by conducting beach clean ups and preventing the flow of litter into the ocean to minimise the risks of plastic ingestion and entanglement in discarded fishing gear adjacent to key nesting beaches and foraging grounds. • Predator control programs for feral foxes and feral pigs

Species/stock description	Management priority	Nesting locations	Key actions applicable to NTOPP (including under an expanded scope)
green turtle southern Great Barrier Reef	Low	<p>Major: Northwest, Wreck, Hoskyn, Tryon, Heron, Lady Musgrave, Masthead.</p> <p>Minor: Bushy Is., the Percy Islands, Bell Cay, Lady Elliott Is., Swains Reef, North Fraser Is., mainland coast from Bustard Head to Bundaberg. Fairfax, North Reef and Wilson Islands Erskin, Sunshine coast</p> <p>Index beaches monitored: Heron Island (1944-), Wreck Island (1977-), North West Island (1977-), Lady Musgrave (1972-)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removal of weeds and invasive species whose roots negatively impact the incubation success of eggs. ▪ Management of shade on nesting beaches to counter the impacts of increasing sand temperatures negatively impacting hatchling sex ratio and hatching success of eggs. ▪ Increased dune vegetation and consideration of skylines behind nesting beaches to provide a dark horizon to minimise disruption to ocean finding behaviour of hatchlings and adult turtles. ▪ Restoration of sand dunes on nesting beaches where the natural process are no longer supporting the rebuilding of the sand dunes following storm erosion. ▪ Removal of beach washed debris that impedes successful nesting on the beaches, including excessive amounts of beach washed timber and ghost nets.
green turtle northern Great Barrier Reef	High	<p>Major: Raine Island, Moulter Cay</p> <p>Minor: Murray Is., Bramble Cay, Sandbanks No. 7 and 8, Dauar Is., Milman Is., mainland coast from Cape Grenville to Torres Strait.</p> <p>Index beaches monitored: Raine Island (1974-), Moulter Cay, Bramble Is., Dauar Island (2006-)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource and support Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Groups to undertake effective, on-ground management actions to protect nesting habitat from predation (including from pigs, dogs and goannas on the mainland, and rats on Warul Kawa IPA) to ensure at least 70% of all clutches survive. ▪ Collaborate with Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Groups and NGOs to address the impacts of marine debris on turtle health by conducting beach clean ups and preventing the flow of litter into the ocean to minimise the risks of plastic ingestion and entanglement in discarded fishing gear adjacent to key nesting beaches and foraging grounds.

Species/stock description	Management priority	Nesting locations	Key actions applicable to NTOPP (including under an expanded scope)
flatback turtle eastern Queensland	Medium	<p>Major: Peak Island, Wild Duck Island, Avoid Island and Curtis Island.</p> <p>Minor: Woongarra Coast.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborate with NGOs (to address the impacts of marine debris on turtle health by conducting beach clean ups and preventing the flow of litter into the ocean to minimise the risks of plastic ingestion adjacent to key nesting beaches and foraging grounds. ▪ Beach protection plans (non-statutory) to manage high priority nest beaches – collaboration between regional NRM's and LGA's - address 4WD's, beach access, dune management etc.
flatback turtle Arafura Sea	High	<p>Major: Deliverance, Crab Islands.</p> <p>Minor: Wellesley, Flinders Beach, Jardine River to Edward River and in western Torres Strait.</p> <p>Index beaches monitored: Deliverance (1987), Crab (1991-) and Flinders beach (2000-2002)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource and support Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Groups to undertake effective, on-ground management actions to protect nesting habitat from predation (including from pigs, dogs and goannas on the mainland, and rats on Warul Kawa IPA) to ensure at least 70% of all clutches survive.
hawksbill turtle north Queensland	High	<p>Major: Long (Sassie), Hawkesbury, , Milman, Boydong, , Zuizin, Mimi, Bourke, Aukane, Layoak, Bet, Sassie and Dadalai Islands.</p> <p>Minor: Islands in Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait, and mainland coast of western Cape York Peninsula north of Cotterell River Mt Adolphus, Albany.</p> <p>Index beaches monitored: Milman Island (1991-2010).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborate with Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Groups and NGOs to address the impacts of marine debris on turtle health by conducting beach clean ups and preventing the flow of litter into the ocean to minimise the risks of entanglement in discarded fishing gear adjacent to key nesting beaches and foraging grounds. ▪ Resource and support Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Groups to undertake effective, on-ground management actions to protect nesting habitat from predation (including from pigs, dogs, goannas and rats) to ensure at least 70% of all clutches survive.

Species/stock description	Management priority	Nesting locations	Key actions applicable to NTOPP (including under an expanded scope)
leatherback turtle*	High	<p>Major: None known.</p> <p>Minor: None known.</p> <p>Historic: Wreck Rock, Moore Park, Mon Repos (Queensland) and Ballina (New South Wales).</p> <p>Index beaches monitored: Wreck Rock monitored since 1978.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborate with NGOs (e.g. Tangaroa Blue) to address the impacts of marine debris on turtle health by conducting beach clean ups and preventing the flow of litter into the ocean to minimise the risks of plastic ingestion adjacent to key nesting beaches and foraging grounds.

*As there has been no reporting nesting in Queensland since 1996, for the purpose of the Nest to Ocean program leatherback turtles in Queensland are considered as part of a single Australian stock that is possibly extinct for breeding in Queensland.