



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Environment**

# The Green Army Programme

**Information Sessions 2015**



# The Green Army

- The Green Army is an environmental programme for young Australians aged 17–24 years interested in protecting their local environment.
- Young people can participate in projects that generate real and lasting benefits for the environment, as well as gain skills, training and experience to improve their future career prospects.



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## Applicant / Project Sponsor

- Develops and submits an Application for one or more Green Army Projects



## Department of the Environment

- Assesses and coordinates moderation of Applications and makes recommendations to the Minister for the Environment
- Provides Service Providers with a list of approved Projects



## Minister for the Environment

- Makes the final decision on approval of Applications
- Notifies successful applicants



## Service Providers

- Liaises with successful applicants to develop a Project Agreement setting out Project details, terms and conditions
- Coordinates a Green Army Team to deliver the agreed Project
- Provides agreed Project Specific Materials



## Project Sponsor

- Enters into a Project Agreement with a Service Provider setting out details, terms and conditions
- Supports delivery of the Project including by providing a safe work environment and necessary project costs
- Completes an end of Project survey with details on satisfaction of Service Provider and environmental outcomes



## Green Army Team

- Team Supervisor: Manages Participants in the field including work, health and safety, reports on Green Army Project progress and Participants
- Participants: Enter an agreement with the Service Provider, carry out agreed project activities and undertake training
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# Service Providers

- The Australian Government has engaged five Service Providers to deliver the programme:
    - Conservation Volunteers Australia
    - Manpower Services together with Landcare Australia Limited
    - Job Futures Limited
    - Workskil Australia Incorporated, and
    - Campbell Page Limited together with Skillset Limited
  - Service Providers recruit participants, manage work health and safety, provide training, pay allowances and oversee project management.
  - Service Providers also provide project specific materials such as seedlings, chemicals, fencing materials and equipment as agreed by the Department when considering project applications.
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# Participants

- The Green Army is open to Australian citizens and permanent residents aged between 17-24 years. Participants can be school leavers, gap year students, job seekers.
  - Participants gain hands-on, practical skills, training and experience in environmental and conservation fields.
    - training includes First Aid and Work Health and Safety training, as well as support to obtain Certificate I or II qualifications or a nationally endorsed skills set.
  - Participants receive an allowance during their placement in the Green Army, which ranges from \$10.14 to \$16.45 per hour.
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# Safety for participants

- The safety of participants is of paramount importance to the Australian Government.
  - While working on Green Army projects, all participants have relevant protections under existing state and territory legislation and any applicable Commonwealth laws.
  - The Australian Government has also procured personal accident, public and products liability insurance on behalf of all participants.
  - Participants are provided with appropriate clothing and safety gear during their time on the project including boots, trousers, hat, gloves, shirts and where necessary wet weather gear and jumpers or jackets for cold climates.
  - All Participants are protected from discrimination by Australian anti-discrimination laws
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# Project Sponsors

- Projects are guided by local community needs.
  - Community organisations, environment groups, Indigenous groups and local councils across Australia can host a Green Army project.
  - Projects can take place across urban, regional and remote Australia on public land, Indigenous-held lands, or private land where there is a clear community and environmental and/or national or Indigenous heritage benefit.
  - Project Sponsors receive a team of up to nine participants and a team supervisor for 20-26 weeks to carry out activities.
  - The Green Army is not a grants programme. Cash funding is not provided to Project Sponsors.
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# Project Sponsors

- The Green Army Programme covers costs associated with the team, such as participant allowances; supervisor wages; safety clothing; participant training; local transport costs; insurances; and basic equipment such as hand tools.
  - Within each project's budget, an average of \$10,000 is available for project specific materials, such as seedlings, herbicide, mulch, matting and tree guards, in addition to the basic materials required to deliver a project.
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# Projects

- Projects may involve activities such as:
    - propagating and planting native seedlings
    - weed control
    - revegetation and regeneration of local parks
    - habitat protection and restoration
    - improving water quality by cleaning up waterways
    - re-vegetation of sand dunes and mangroves
    - creek bank regeneration
    - foreshore and beach restoration
    - constructing boardwalks and walking tracks to protect local wildlife; and
    - cultural heritage restoration.
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# Projects

Projects must have a clear environment, conservation, or national or Indigenous heritage focus and contribute to Australia's national and international environmental priorities and obligations.

## **International obligations**

- Australia's relevant international obligations relate to:
    - United National Framework Convention on Climate Change
    - Convention on Biological Diversity
    - Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat
    - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; and
    - Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
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# Projects

## National priorities

- Alternatively, projects must be directed towards protecting and conserving **Matters of National Environmental Significance** under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act).
  - These projects may include protecting and conserving threatened species, World Heritage Areas, Ramsar wetlands, and national heritage.
  - *Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030* is the overarching policy and guiding framework for national biodiversity conservation in Australia.
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# What makes a good project?

- Project should:
    - have a clear environment, conservation, or national or Indigenous heritage focus that contributes to a relevant national priority or international obligation
    - have a clear public benefit and the support of the local community
    - offer participants a valuable, varied and practical experience
    - have clearly defined and feasible activities that represent value for money and can be delivered by Green Army teams
    - comprehensively and appropriately address risk, and
    - consider the work health and safety of all involved in the project.
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# Round 3

- Round 3 is now open
- All supporting information including:
  - Project guidelines
  - application form
  - frequently asked questions, and
  - fact sheets

is available on our website at:

[www.environment.gov.au/green-army](http://www.environment.gov.au/green-army)

- Applications close 17 March 2015 at 2pm (AEDT)
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# Round 2 and 3 differences

- Maximum of 20 projects per applicant (10 per application form).
  - Greater flexibility to arrange projects within the 1 June 2015 to 30 June 2017 timeframe.
  - Multi-staged projects do not require an overarching theme – each project must still align with an investment priority.
  - More emphasis on Selection Criterion 1 – environment and/or heritage outcomes.
  - Applicants with a project in a remote area may seek to include a residential component.
  - Eligible project specific materials have been updated to include waste disposal, and food in remote residential projects.
  - A full list of the changes will be available on our website:  
[www.environment.gov.au/green-army](http://www.environment.gov.au/green-army)
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# Round 3 priorities

- **Great Barrier Reef**

Teams could be deployed to help restore estuarine areas, address erosion of sediment into waterways, revegetate and rehabilitate coastal areas, assist with weed control and restoration of riparian areas and collect marine debris.

- **Indigenous and remote areas**

Activities could include implementing traditional ecological knowledge and/or protecting and managing cultural sites, land management practices on Indigenous managed lands, preserving Indigenous heritage values, weeding, revegetation, fencing, gully remediation, cleaning up waterways, or monitoring Indigenous and non Indigenous lands.

- **Threatened species**

Activities could include revegetation, weeding, debris removal, public access management or surveying to help protect our native threatened species.

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# 20 Million Trees Programme

- Objectives:
    - Establish 20 million trees by 2020
    - Environmental conservation
    - Community engagement
    - Carbon reduction
  - Programme elements
    - Service Provider/s: tenders currently being assessed
    - Grants: Round One projects currently being contracted
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# 20 Million Trees Programme

## Grant Round Two

- Applications expected to open mid 2015
  - Similar design to Round One
    - Activities may include planting, weeding, plant propagation, site prep and maintenance
  - Funding amount and length of projects yet to be decided
  - Engaging Green Army teams to help deliver on-ground works
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# Question and answer session



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