



Information for Landholders

Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways Program

For over 25 years, Melbourne Water has supported our customers and the community to help improve the health of our waterways

Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways builds on our proud partnership history through a strong focus on innovation, healthy environments, liveability and collaboration across all areas of water management.

What can I apply for under Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways?

We are looking for projects that provide value to Melbourne Water, our customers, partners and community by aligning with at least one of our four themes. Please see the table on page 3, for an indicative list of the types of activities you could apply for. We always encourage you to discuss your project idea with us. We also welcome your new ideas.

How much will Melbourne Water fund?

We will contribute to the cost of a broad range of activities designed to improve waterway health and water quality, including labour and materials.

For fencing, the further you set back your fence from the riverbank, the greater the proportion of the fence costs we can contribute to. The minimum average setback we will fund is 10 metres.

The table below outlines our contributions for fencing.

Fence distance (from top of riverbank)	Our contribution	Rural Fence	Electric Fence
10 metres	50%	\$6 a metre	\$5 a metre
15 metres	65%	\$7.80 a metre	\$6.50 a metre
20 metres (or greater)	80%	\$9.60 a metre	\$8 a metre



Did you know?

If you own rural land or land that fronts onto a river or creek, you may be eligible for funding for a range of activities through Melbourne Water's Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways Program?

What are the benefits of applying for an incentive?

The benefits of applying for a Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways incentive include:

- increased productivity for the property owner and improved waterway health for the broader community
- improved management of water sensitive areas such as waterways, drains, dams, wetlands, gullies, seeps, soaks springs and low-lying and seasonally wet areas
- improved access, security and quality of water
- improved soil health
- reduced input costs through retention of nutrients and soil on-farm
- support in achieving your goals for improving management practices
- contributing to the requirements for environmental assurance accreditation
- reduced expenditure by introducing best management practices
- site assessment – one of our professional site assessors will provide expert advice tailored to your property
- improved aesthetic of the property and the opportunity to see positive change in the environment, for example, reduced weed cover and return of birds



Theme

Explanation of Theme

Examples of Activities



Connected Habitat and Catchments

Works that focus on protecting waterways and biodiversity and are aligned with Melbourne Water's Strategies

Could include a range of rural property improvements, stormwater or waterway maintenance and improvement projects that protect biodiversity, habitats and waterway banks and/or improve runoff quality.

- farm layout and track design and construction
- water use efficiency
- effluent management
- grazing management
- feed-pad construction
- regenerative agricultural practices
- stormwater design and construction, treatment and/or harvesting
- weed control
- revegetation
- fencing
- pest management
- dam decommissioning
- surface water drainage
- training or capacity building



Integrated Water Management (IWM) Enablers

Initiatives ranging in scale from precinct to regional that facilitate multi-partner IWM, influence industry and address existing barriers to implementation

Could include projects that lead to healthier waterways and downstream benefits for landowners, improve water efficiency, reduce environmental impacts, improve farm management and productivity and/or minimise drought and flood impacts.

- liveability projects e.g.
 - bird hides
 - canoe launch
 - art installation/mural
 - habitat creation



Liveable Cities

Local projects that support at least one of the following: healthy waterways, green open spaces and resilient urban landscapes, and deliver community and environmental benefits

Could include projects that contribute to healthy waterways for resilient urban landscapes and deliver community environmental benefits. You may also like to consider projects that improve the local amenity.

- liveability projects e.g.
 - bird hides
 - canoe launch
 - art installation/mural
 - habitat creation



Science, Innovation and Technology

Research and technology that can support best practice management and improve how MW and our partners work together

Could include regenerative agriculture practices that increase biodiversity, enrich soils, improve watersheds and enhance ecosystems and waterways. Also includes projects demonstrating innovative techniques.

- innovative pasture management techniques
- innovative irrigation techniques leading to water efficiencies
- stormwater design and construction, treatment and/or harvesting
- weed control
- revegetation
- fencing
- pest management
- water use efficiency
- training or capacity building

Please visit the [Resource Hub](https://melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding/LCLW-program/resource-hub) at melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding/LCLW-program/resource-hub to read about our past project examples.

Who can apply?

Your project or proposal must be located within Melbourne Water's operating area.
You can apply for a combination of activities on the one application form.

We also give preference to projects:

- that are costed fairly based on the activities involved, can be achieved and represent value for money
- that have frontages greater than 50 metres along rivers and creeks in the Melbourne Water area of operations (on the one property or a group of properties)
- that have frontages with links to areas of high value vegetation or other waterway improvement work
- that have stream frontage land in urban areas if neighbours are joining together to protect their local creek
- where landholders have shown a commitment to protecting water sensitive areas on their properties through best management practices such as stock exclusion, revegetation and nutrient management plans
- where landholders have demonstrated property management planning principles. This may include planning and management for the whole farm, or more specifically:
 - native vegetation
 - pasture and soil health
 - nutrients
 - farm tracks
 - irrigation scheduling
 - off-stream stock water supply
 - surface water/drainage management.
- that are within the rural land priority areas shown on the map below. If you would like to search and locate your property, you can use our interactive map at healthywaterways.com.au/map?toggle=RLM-PRI

For more information on eligibility, please read the [Program guidelines](#) at melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding/LCLW-program/program-guidelines.

How do I apply?

Check that your project aligns with one of the Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways Themes. We strongly recommend that you also review the [application checklist](#) and before applying, contact Melbourne Water to discuss your property and project ideas to ensure you may be eligible to apply.

When you are ready to apply, visit melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding, or speak to your Melbourne Water contact person.

We will contact eligible applicants to arrange a site assessment to further develop the project with you. Once we have approved a project, we will ask you to enter into an agreement with Melbourne Water that details the works, funding and timelines. We will complete an onsite audit at the end of the project.

Questions and support

If you have any questions about the Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways Program or your need help with your application, please call us on 131 722 or email incentives@melbournewater.com.au

