

Koala plates grants program

Discussion paper



Overview

The state government recognises the important work undertaken by the wildlife rescue and rehabilitation sector. As part of its commitment to support the sector, ‘Koala State’ number plates launched in 2023, with \$50 from each plate sale going towards a fund for the sector.

The Department for Environment and Water (the department) has been tasked with managing the fund. The department, through the Fauna Permits Unit, regulates the wildlife rescue and rehabilitation sector by issuing and managing permits in line with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

The department intends to establish a grants program so that funds can be distributed to permitted carers and/or organisations.

Purpose

This consultation aims to understand how the sector would like to utilise the money raised, including how the proposed grants program should be structured and its scope. Feedback will assist the department to finalise the program and identify relevant application criteria and funding priorities.

Background

Since launch in July 2023, Koala Plate sales have generated more than \$70,000 to distribute through the grants program. The plates are still available for purchase, though sales have slowed since launch. Ongoing plate sales rates are unknown.

The following graph represents sales since launch.

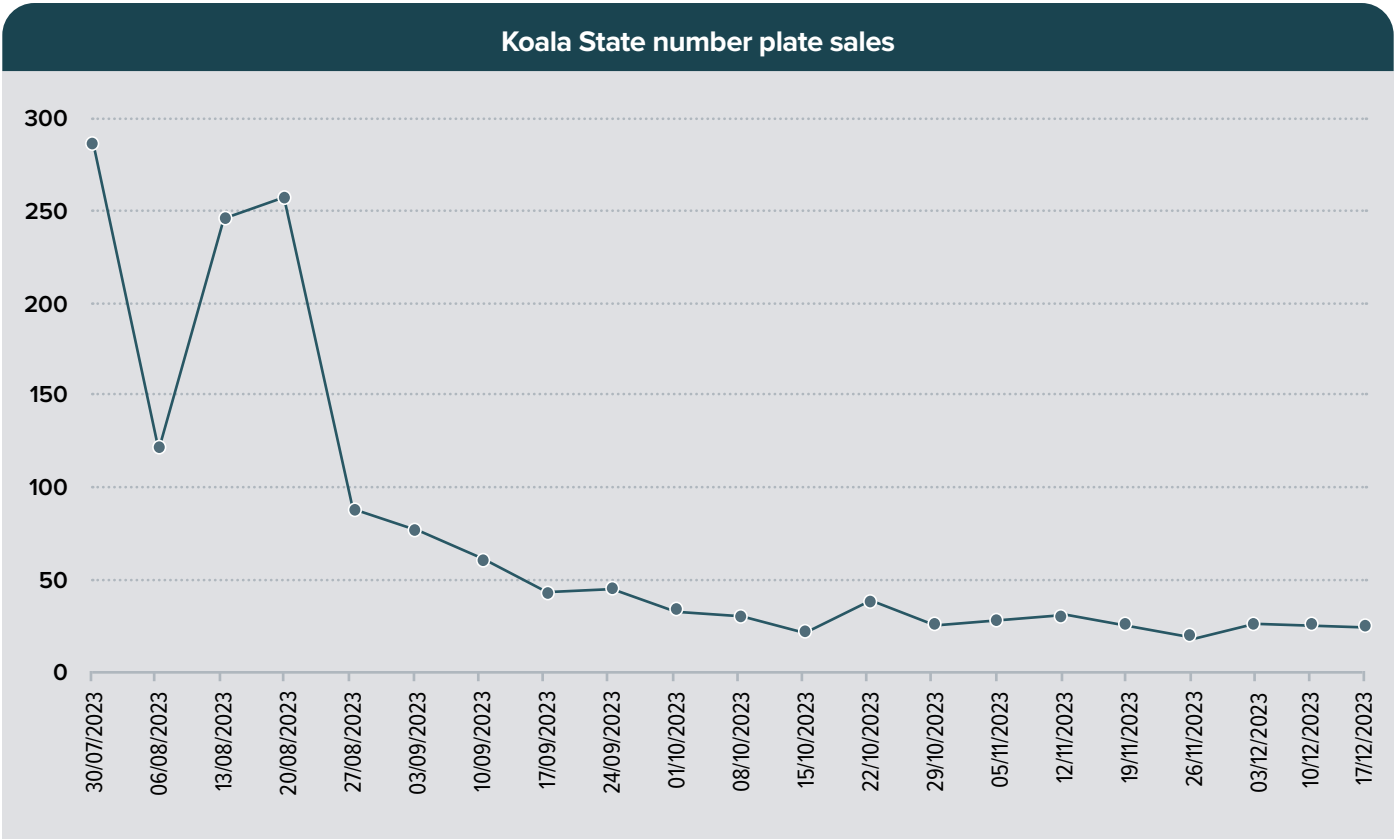


Figure 1 - Koala State number plate sales per week, as of 17 December 2023

Objectives

The proposed objectives of the grants program is to:

1

Support the wildlife rescue and rehabilitation sector by increasing their ability to respond to and care for sick, injured or orphaned wildlife by providing funding for items which directly assist the provision of these services.

2

Improve animal welfare outcomes for sick, injured or orphaned wildlife.



Discussion – the ‘Koala Plates’ grants program

Potential models for grants program

The department has identified some suggested grants program models, including the key considerations each model might deliver.

We have also included a table comparing wildlife rehabilitator grants offered in other Australian jurisdictions (Appendix A).

① A large strategic project (up to \$30,000)

- + potential for large-scale and significant improvement
- only one organisation can access funding

OR

② Medium grants (up to \$5,000)

- + more people can access funding
- + reasonable size \$
- limited number of grants available (5 or more depending on \$)

OR

③ Small grants (up to \$2,000)

- + many more carers / organisations can be supported
- possibility funding may be too small to make significant difference

Potential priorities

In addition to understanding the sector's preferred grant model, feedback is welcomed on the types of items/activities that should be priorities to fund, and additionally, what should be excluded from funding.

The below table broadly summarises some of the activities/items funded, and excluded, from grant programs offered in other Australian jurisdictions. This is intended to provide you with an idea of what could be included. A more detailed comparison, including key eligibility criteria, can be found in Appendix A.

Types of items/activities	VIC	QLD	WA
Infrastructure and equipment such as enclosures, incubators, shelters and portable cages	✓	✓	✓
Relevant training such as first aid and wildlife rehabilitation courses	✓	✓	—
Conference attendance	✓	✗	—
Consumable items such as veterinary and hospital supplies, carer vaccinations, food and first aid kits	✓	✓	—
Free or low-cost veterinary services, including companion animal desexing, for those who are economically or otherwise disadvantaged	—	—	✓
Generators	✗	✗	—
Purchase of land	✗	✗	—
Computers, laptops, tablets, phones	✗	✗	—
Firearms, captive bolt and darting training	✗	✗	—
Snake handling training and courses	✗	✗	—
Utility costs including rates, electricity, water, gas and sewerage bills	✗	✗	✗
Salaries	—	—	✗
Research	—	—	✗
Promotional materials	✗	✗	—



Have your say

Your input is important, so please have your say:



Complete the online survey
via the YourSAy webpage:
[https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/
koala-plates-grants](https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/koala-plates-grants)





What happens next?

Following consultation, the department will review all the feedback provided.

The department will then develop a grants program and application process based on the feedback provided, with an aim to launch the first round to eligible applicants by mid-2024.



Appendix A: Interstate comparison

Considerations			
State	Size of grant	Objectives of grant	Eligibility (who can apply)
VIC Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants	Maximum of \$3,000 per eligible applicant (the amount of funding granted may be less than requested depending on the purpose for which it is to be used, the amount sought, the total number of applications received and how well the application meets the assessment criteria).	Help wildlife rehabilitators to: • improve the standard of wildlife care they provide • improve their facilities to treat, house and rehabilitate wildlife for release • increase their knowledge/skills in the care of wildlife.	To be eligible, individuals must: • be a wildlife shelter operator or foster carer authorised under s.28A of the <i>Wildlife Act 1975</i> (Wildlife Act) • have submitted all completion reports for previous funding from the grants program • have the consent of the property owner if you are not the owner.

Considerations		
State	What will be funded?	What won't be funded?
VIC Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants	General infrastructure and equipment • Enclosures • Incubators • Shelters • Fencing and fencing items for enclosure • Pumping of water to pens • Nesting boxes • Portable cages/pet packs • Heat boxes • Binoculars/monoculars (up to \$300) • Urine refractometer • Rescue equipment • GPS (up to \$300) • ICU's for furred animals • Personal protective equipment • Enclosure furniture (such as UV lights for reptiles) • Personal first aid kits • Crop needles for feeding • Water tanks or hoses Training courses and educational materials • First aid training • Reference manuals • Workshops, conference registrations, webinars • Books • TAFE courses (must relate to wildlife rehabilitation) Consumable items (max limit of \$1,500 per applicant) • Veterinary fees and supplies • Fuel • Milk formula • Appropriate medications for animal first aid and/or prescribed by a veterinarian • Vaccination or booster costs for lyssavirus • Food including fresh, dried, frozen or formula • Cleaning products • Medical supplies including gauze, cotton, tips, thermometers and nursing pads • Tip fees	General Infrastructure and equipment • Generators • Purchase of land • Computers, laptops, tablets, mobile phone, smartphones • Trees for rehabilitation • Dishwashers, mulchers, freezers • Vehicle mounted spotlights (handheld spotlights are acceptable) • Trailers • Equipment for the rehabilitation of unfurred animals, including ICU's • Voroscope • Firearms, captive bolt, or any darting equipment • Gun safes, ammunition and related equipment • Promotional materials including magnets, business, cards, flyers • Promotional items, reflective stickers • Radio telemetry • Chainsaws including pole chainsaws • Firearms and darting licence • Donation boxes • Infrared and motion sensing surveillance cameras • Any vehicle servicing, maintenance or registration • Vehicle purchase • Shipping containers • Electric fencing unit • Synthetic grass • Landscaping (plants) Training courses • Firearms, captive bolt and darting training • Flights and accommodation to attend training • Snake handling training • Arboriculture courses (such as tree climbing) Consumable items • Vouchers for consumable items • Insurance • Lethobarb for euthanasia • Credit to vets • IV drips • Prescribed medications • Utility costs including rates, electricity, water, gas and sewerage bills • Scheduled chemical capture drugs listed in Schedule 4 and 8 in the <i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006</i>

Considerations			
State	Size of grant	Objectives of grant	Eligibility (who can apply)
QLD Wildlife Carers Assistance Grants	• \$2,000 to individual wildlife carers • \$5,000 to wildlife care organisations	Increase the ability of existing QLD wildlife carers and care groups in the rescue and rehabilitation services they provide to sick or injured wildlife by providing funding for items which directly assist the provision of these services.	Individuals and organisations who: • have held a current QLD permit as a wildlife rehabilitator or wildlife care group for at least 12 months. The permit must be in the name of the individual or organisation applying for the grant • are undertaking rehabilitation activities from their registered location • have no convictions under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> or the <i>Animal Care and Protections Act 2001</i> during the past 10 years • have not had any authority cancelled or accumulated 10 or more demerit points during the past 3 years • have submitted annual returns and maintained a register for all protected animals rescued or cared for in accordance with the requirements of their rehabilitation permits • have consent from the relevant property owner to undertake wildlife care activities • be covered by at least the following insurance: • public liability insurance of a minimum \$5 million • workers and volunteers under the <i>Queensland Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i> (as required)

Considerations		
State	What will be funded?	What won't be funded?
QLD Wildlife Carers Assistance Grants	- Competency based training delivered by a registered training organisation, specifically: - First aid training - Wildlife rehabilitation courses. - Care equipment - Building animal enclosures - Aviaries - Portable cages - Shelters - Nest boxes - Incubators - Heat boxes - Cages and cage modifications - Hospital and feeding consumables (dripper bottles, medical/vet supplies, blankets etc.) - Food preparation and storage equipment - Food (including formula) for rescued animals - General infrastructure and equipment such as: - ladders - handheld spotlights - Personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, eye/face protection, hi-vis vests, sunscreen, protective clothing, hygiene/wash-down etc.) - First aid kits - Vaccinations for carers - Fuel for travelling to and from rescue sites	- Conference attendance (including registration fees and travel and accommodation costs) - Travel and accommodation expenses related to attending training courses - Snake handling training - Holding or attending a workshop (including attendance fees, travel and accommodation) - Generators - Firearm, captive bolt and darting training and licences - The purchase of firearms, captive bolt or any darting equipment and any related ammunition, gun safes etc - Trailers – all types - The purchase of land - Dishwashers, mulchers, freezers - Chainsaws, including pole chainsaws - The purchase of any type of vehicle including car, motorbike, 4WD or ATV - Vehicle mounted spotlights - Vehicle registrations, repairs or servicing - Infrared and motion sensing surveillance cameras - Computers, laptops, tablets, phones or smartphones - Voroscopes - Promotional materials - Utility costs including rates, electricity, water, gas and sewerage bills - Insurance (all types) - Licence/permit fees - Veterinary fees - Lethabarb for euthanasia - Trees for rehabilitation - Bulk orders for any eligible expense item in excess of the medium-term needs of the group - Items not directly related to care and rehabilitation of sick or injured wildlife

Considerations			
State	Size of grant	Objectives of grant	Eligibility (who can apply)
WA Animal Welfare Grants Program	Grants of up to \$50,000 (applicants are encouraged to apply for grants of greater than \$2,000)	The objectives of the grant program are to: • promote responsible ownership of companion animals • improve the health and welfare of companion animals in WA • promote the reuniting of companion animals with owners; fostering and rehoming • improve the efficiency and effectiveness of arrangements for foster caring and community foster care networks • provide reduced/no cost animal health and veterinary services to community groups • promote wildlife welfare through improved arrangements for the rehabilitation of displaced and injured animals.	To be eligible to apply for funding applicants must: • be the party responsible for carrying out the activity/project with the legal right to carry out and control the activity/project • have an Australian Business Number (ABN) • have an account with an authorised deposit-taking Australian financial institution • deliver the services in Western Australia; and • be one of the following types of entity: • a company incorporated in Australia • an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust • an incorporated association • a partnership • an individual • a joint (consortia) application with a lead organisation • a charity or not-for-profit organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission • a publicly funded research organisation • a Western Australian local government body • an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the <i>Corporations (Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006</i>. The application needs to demonstrate that the entity will not make a profit or financial gain from the grant funds. Demonstration of not-for-profit character can include governing documents, association legal structure, evidence from an accountant, or execution of a statutory declaration. Applicants will not be eligible for funding if they are a Commonwealth, state, territory agency or body (including government business enterprises).

Considerations		
State	What will be funded?	What won't be funded?
WA Animal Welfare Grants Program	• Free or low-cost veterinary services, including companion animal desexing, for Western Australians who are economically or otherwise disadvantaged • Services, systems, infrastructure or equipment that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of animal rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of companion animals in Western Australia • Services, systems, infrastructure or equipment that improve the rehabilitation of displaced and injured wildlife in Western Australia	• Ongoing salaries • Legal fees • Cash prizes or commercial gifts • Ongoing or routine maintenance • Recurrent operating costs (such as utility bills and lease or rental fees) • Individual business training • Lobbying activities • Costs of consultants to prepare the grant application • Research

Considerations			
State	Size of grant	Objectives of grant	Eligibility (who can apply)
NT Animal Welfare Grant	Not-for-profit organisations that work in animal welfare can apply for a grant of up to \$50,000	The program provides for projects that: • improve animal wellbeing • raise community awareness of animal welfare responsibilities • help promote and improve animal management practice, particularly in remote communities.	You can apply for a grant if your organisation: • is legally registered and operates in the NT • is a registered not-for-profit incorporated body, co-operative or association • meets the Animal Welfare Fund definition of an animal welfare organisation Who can't apply? • individuals, private groups and NT government agencies including government schools, local government councils or unincorporated bodies unless they have partnered with a not-for-profit organisation
NSW	Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants available through the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Council, the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife and WIRES.		
TAS	Wildlife Care Grants available through Wildcare Tasmania and WIRES		

Considerations		
State	What will be funded?	What won't be funded?
NT Animal Welfare Grant	Not specified	Not specified
NSW	Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants available through the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Council, the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife and WIRES.	
TAS	Wildlife Care Grants available through Wildcare Tasmania and WIRES	



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