WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY
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04 December 2023

The 2024 Cumberland Plain Research Grant – Round 2

Western Sydney University is excited to announce that applications are now open for the *2024 Cumberland Plain Research Grant*, supported by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

Please read the details of the proposal requirements and related information below before completing the application.

Applications must be submitted using the template provided by 5pm AEDT Monday, 4 March 2024 to Vera Brinkel (V.Brinkel@westernsydney.edu.au). Decisions will be made, and successful applicants notified in writing in May 2024.

Proposal requirements

We invite applications for funding proposals from applicants to undertake research in support of the [Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan Research Program.](#)

Applicants should be able to demonstrate their ability to undertake high-quality research. Applications should include investigators from universities or other research agencies.

Only one proposal per lead investigator will be considered.

Your proposal must address at least one of the four research themes:

- Theme 1: Supporting Aboriginal connections
- Theme 2: Engaging with peoples and cultures
- Theme 3: Conserving threatened species and ecosystems
- Theme 4: Restoring and reconstructing ecosystems

Your proposal can include funds to be used for salaries, travel, field work, lab work, consumables, equipment, or any other resources to support your research. Funding cannot be used for conferences.

The funding scheme will be administered by the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment (HIE) at Western Sydney University. The submitted proposals will be assessed by the selection committee based on the pre-defined selection criteria as outlined below. This will include a peer review process supporting the final funding decision made by a committee with representatives from Western Sydney University and NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

We value diversity in all aspects and welcome applications from individuals from different groups, career stages, and diverse backgrounds. We especially encourage Aboriginal peoples to apply.

Budget

We have $75,000 available for the *2024 Cumberland Plain Research Grant*. We can offer grants up to $15,000 each.

Funds will be provided in full at the commencement of the project. The successful applicant will need to complete a funding agreement and issue an invoice with an ABN, address, contact and banking details (as required). Once all relevant documents have been received the funds will be dispensed. Following budget allocation variation to items equal to >30% of the budget require approval.

Application process

Applications open	4 December 2023
Applications close	4 March 2024 (5pm AEDT)
Eligibility review	11 March 2024
Selection Committee review	Late March
Grants announced	Mid-April 2024
Contracting and funding	May 2024

Reporting Requirements

1. Provide a mid-project update confirming progress and flagging issues, along with a brief (200 word) summary and images to promote activities by 30 November 2024.
2. Prepare a final project report written as a short article highlighting the work conducted and outputs achieved by 31 May 2025.
3. Present project findings in a seminar to the Cumberland Plain Research Group by 31 May 2025.
4. Prepare a financial statement outlining the expenditure including proof of spending by 31 May 2025.
5. Acknowledge the support received in any publications, media, or other work arising wholly or partially from the research supported by this funding.

Selection Criteria for Proposals

Criteria necessary to secure funding

- Project will be completed within 12 months from the date of commencement
- Less than AU$15,000 requested
- If applying as individual, you must have an ABN and provide us with a tax invoice for payment
- Demonstrate your capacity to deliver research. This may be in partnership with a university or research agency
- A 2-page CV for each investigator.

Major assessment criteria

- General proposal merit
- Aligns with at least one of the CPCP Research Strategy key themes
- Addresses multiple knowledge gaps listed in the CPCP Research Strategy
- Clearly defined and feasible objective(s)
- Appropriate and efficient use of the budget.

Desirable attributes

- Involves partnerships with multiple organisations
- Leverages in-kind funding and resources
- Involves participants with diverse backgrounds.

The committee will review and assess project proposals and consider whether they:

- Cost-effectively deliver high-quality research
- Address knowledge gaps in multiple research themes and contribute to Stage 1 objectives
- Support effective delivery of CPCP commitments
- Have multiple partners and foster meaningful collaboration
- Are Aboriginal-led or co-led and/or engage and inform local Aboriginal stakeholders
- Leverage additional co-funding, such as grants and partnerships
- Effectively manage risks.