



## WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AUSTRALIA

[Women's Environmental Leadership Australia \(WELA\)](#) is a community of connecting, training and funding generations of women and gender diverse changemakers so that together we transform Australia's response to our environmental and climate crises. WELA's vision is for a world transformed by women leading change.

### 2023 WELA GIVING CIRCLE GRANT ROUND - GRANTING GUIDELINES

WELA's Giving Circle are proud to launch their first grant round to support women and/or gender diverse people leading environment and climate action with a total funding pool of \$20,000.

Grant applications should be between \$5,000 to \$10,000 over 12 months. If your project requires a higher level of funding, please get in touch with WELA directly before submitting your application.

#### **Eligibility Criteria:**

Funding is available to applicants who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- An Australian registered charity with the [ACNC](#) (DGR status not required) OR Incorporated organisation with an [ABN](#); and
- A small to medium sized organisation with an annual income of less than \$3 million.
- Organisations and projects based in Australia.

Applications must be:

- Led by women and/or gender-diverse people; and
- Environment or climate action (advocacy, a campaign, and/or project to protect the environment and climate).

#### **What do we mean by women and gender-diverse led?**

- Your project or organisation will have women and/or gender-diverse people leading within these areas: your organisational structure, strategy development, storytelling, and organising.
- For example, WELA welcomes applications from projects that are led by women and gender-diverse people in their development and decision-making. This might look like women and gender-diverse people as CEOs, co-CEOs, and Campaign Managers, on their boards and at the centre of their strategy development and project implementation.

## What do we mean by environment and climate action?

- WELA is looking out for impactful, cutting edge and inspiring advocacy, campaigns and projects in the issue areas of environment and climate. In our initial round, this granting process will focus on project funding not unrestricted/core funding.
- We will support a full spectrum of change making tools for example (but not limited to) events, grassroots organising, creating networks, training and building skills, lobbying, media, and communication campaigns. Or surprise us with something we've never seen before!

## Funding considerations:

The following areas will be prioritised in WELA's funding considerations but they are not all required for your application:

1. **Women and Gender Diverse Leadership (this is required):** WELA's grants will build a new kind of leadership that is inclusive, collaborative, and relational. They will fund organisations and projects that have women and/or gender-diverse leadership within their organisations.
2. **Creating Impact (this is required):** WELA understands that there are many ways to create change that include differing theories of change, timeframes, and approaches. At the core, they want to collaborate with organisations and projects that create powerful outcomes, impactful movements, address systems change, and have a clear focus on environmental and climate outcomes.
3. **Centreing First Nations Wisdom:** WELA values and honours the leadership of First Nations women for country, community, and culture over millennia. They welcome applications from projects and organisations that centre First Nations knowledge systems, First Nations science, systems of governance for Caring for Country, and the experience of First Nations women in efforts to protect nature and secure our future.
4. **Supporting Diverse Voices:** WELA acknowledges the lack of intersectional and racial diversity in the mainstream environment and climate movement as a structural and systemic problem. Through their grants, they will aim to diversify the voices in our movements and put justice, equity, diversity, and inclusivity (JEDI) at the heart of WELA's strategy, storytelling, and solutions. WELA welcomes applications that include the voices of underrepresented communities.
5. **Creating Collaboration:** Collaboration is one of the foundations of feminist leadership. WELA will support projects and organisations that prioritise building relationships and networks that enable learning and knowledge sharing across generations, sectors, communities, and geographic constraints.

## Type of projects and activities we won't fund:

Funds cannot be used for:

- Retrospective activities.
- Non-charitable activities.
- Projects or activities that are politically partisan in nature.
- Commercial activities.
- On-ground environmental actions such as tree planting, or installation of solar on buildings.
- Electoral expenditure or the creation or communication of electoral matters (as defined in the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918), or to incur electoral or political expenditure or

communicate political or electoral matters under any similar applicable state or territory legislation.

- Green building projects including energy efficiency upgrades.
- Political campaigns that support specific parties or candidates.
- Straight research, unless it is in direct support of a developed plan for specific action to alleviate an environmental problem.
- Land acquisition.

### **Grant Application Shortlisting and Membership Vote:**

- A Shortlisting Committee made up of WELA Giving Circle members will evaluate all applications and generate a shortlist of grant applications.
- WELA's Giving Circle membership will have the opportunity to rank projects via a voting process in mid to late September.

### **Process and Key Dates:**

- Grant applications are open from 9am AEST on Thursday, 3 August 2023.
- Grant applications must be submitted by 12am AEST on Thursday, 31 August 2023.
- Shortlisting Committee to evaluate grant applications and Giving Circle members to vote in mid to late September 2023.
- Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in late September.
- Grants will be paid from October 2023 onwards.

### **Contact**

- For enquiries relating to the granting guidelines, please contact WELA at [info@wela.org.au](mailto:info@wela.org.au)
- For technical enquiries related to the grants portal, please contact ACF's Grants Team at [grants@communityfoundation.org.au](mailto:grants@communityfoundation.org.au), or call 03 9412 0412