

# The devolved grant model: achieving lasting conservation outcomes across Tasmania.

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Landcare Tasmania is an experienced facilitator of community-driven, on-ground restoration and protective activities contributing to essential biodiversity-based outcomes. This paper provides details of the grant process that ensured the successful delivery of funding support for landholders managing high conservation areas across Tasmania.

In 2012, Landcare Tasmania secured funding from the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund to roll out a state-wide, devolved grant program partnering with the State Governments Private Land Conservation Program. The three and a half year project allowed for a more long-term and large-scale strategic approach than most other grant programs. Outcomes from 89 sites included the long-term management of weeds across 4,100 hectares, protecting 1,700 hectares of high conservation vegetation and the active restoration and regeneration of 340 hectares adjoining high conservation areas.

A staged activity approval process for individual projects enabled conservation planning and delivery to include both primary and seasonal follow-up weed control, best practice protection measures and planned restoration activities. Assisted application development and ongoing extension support maximised land manager participation and ownership.

The devolved grant structure adopted and refined by Landcare Tasmania resulted in the cost effective delivery of enduring landscape-scale conservation management actions. Using a staged approach, the process was open to innovation, adaptability and complementary methods, limiting risk and maintaining rigour and technical integrity. This framework used a proven, strategic and regional approach that achieved measurable improvements to biodiversity values.

The paper highlights five key aspects of the devolved grant model: project development; application process; assessment criteria; project tracking; and extension support. The paper discusses how these have contributed to more effective targeting, monitoring, and evaluation of funding activities.