

## Purpose

These Guidelines are designed to assist applicants to plan and prepare an application for sponsorship from the Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

## Context

The EPA's vision is for a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; and its purpose is to protect and enhance the quality of the Tasmanian environment balancing economic and social values, and the needs of future generations. The EPA's activities focus on the assessment and regulation of large industrial developments, and the monitoring, analysis and reporting of environmental performance.

The EPA consists of a Board and Director, who have independent statutory powers under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA). The Authority is an integral part of the State's Resource Management and Planning System and is supported by staff of EPA Tasmania, a Division of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

A priority for the EPA is to develop and implement communication and engagement strategies through sponsorship to support key priorities for environmental management, to promote the goals of the EPA and to meet the community's expectations.

## Funding

The EPA Board has the discretion to provide funding for sponsorship from the Tasmanian Environment Protection Fund (EPF), which is established under section 97 of EMPCA. The EPF includes money raised from financial assurances, environmental prosecutions and bequests. These funds are variable in any given year, and may be used for purposes including dealing with an environmental emergency, for education and training programs, for research, or for programs relating to the protection, restoration or enhancement of the environment. The EPA Board delegates fund administration and management of the Sponsorship Program to EPA Tasmania. The EPA website is used to report on the outcomes of sponsorship initiatives and to promote the EPA's sponsorship activities, including the guidelines and process for applying for sponsorship.

## Guiding Principles

The guiding principles and funding criteria for sponsorship funding by the EPA, which must be addressed in a sponsorship application to the Board are:

1. Aligns with S 97 of EMPCA and EPA priorities set out in the EPA Strategic Plan, but does not replace core government services
2. Effective in achieving the goals of protecting, restoring or enhancing the environment, or educating/training others to do so
3. Offers value for money, including a consideration of contribution in cash or in-kind to the project by other parties
4. Is able to be well managed in an organisational sense and financially accounted for
5. Provides due recognition for the EPA (eg logo usage on printed materials and/or websites, verbal and visual acknowledgement at events, opportunity to attend event functions/presentations).

## Focus areas for funding

The EPA has identified priority areas for support through sponsorship funding. The following areas of focus along with key objectives will be considered in assessing sponsorship proposals. It is not expected that a proposal must meet all of these focus areas.

## 1. Community Awareness and Education

- Enhancing community understanding of environmental issues and management, and encourage individual efforts to protect the environment.
- Providing information and opportunity for stakeholders to participate in environmental issues.

## 2. Capacity Building

- Increasing the effectiveness of individuals and organisations to deliver programs and services that protect, restore or enhance the environment or reduce pollution through:
  - Education and training to increase knowledge and technical skills
  - Sharing and disseminating data and information

## 3. Environmental Education

- Supporting, encouraging, recognising and promoting environmental initiatives within the education sector.
- Encouraging the education sector to be aware of, and participate in, environmental activities.

## 4. Local Government

- Encouraging Local Government to conduct, promote and/or reward environmental projects.

## 5. Industry

- Encouraging or rewarding environmental best practice and/or stewardship in industry. This can apply to businesses regulated by the EPA, if they go 'over and above' regulatory requirements.

## Applicant eligibility

### Who is eligible to apply?

Individuals, Local Government, environmental organisations, educational institutions and/or private businesses are eligible to apply for sponsorship. The Board will consider an application from a not-for-profit organisation that:

- has a constitution and is incorporated
- is based in Tasmania or is proposing to undertake a project in Tasmania
- has the protection and enhancement of the environment as an objective
- can demonstrate a substantial degree of community support and representativeness.

Unincorporated not-for-profit organisations may also apply for sponsorship by entering into a partnership or sponsoring arrangement with an incorporated organisation. The sponsoring organisation receives the sponsorship and is responsible for providing a report after the project is completed.

### Who is NOT eligible to apply?

The Board will NOT provide funding:

- to a Commonwealth or State Government agency or a Commonwealth or State Government Business Enterprise or to a local council to fund its core responsibilities
- to a political party
- for major capital works, equipment or improvements
- for ongoing administrative or operational costs unrelated to the sponsorship
- for exactly duplicating a project that is already being delivered in the community (however, modelling a successful program to be implemented in another region/area is acceptable)
- for the development of strategies or guidelines
- for incentive payments to staff or volunteers

- retrospectively or to cover deficient funding, or
- in the form of a loan, or to pay off debt.

## Priority Funding

Satisfying the funding criteria does not mean that funding for a project will automatically be approved. The Board may receive more applications than it can fund in a given period. Priority will be given to projects that the Board considers meet the funding criteria to the highest degree. The Board may also take into account whether sponsorship for any similar proposals or sectors have been granted in the recent past.

## Applications

All applications will be accepted for assessment and can be sent to:

**Environment Protection Authority Board**  
**GPO Box 1550, Hobart TAS 7001**