

NPWS Friends of Parks and Nature 2026 Remote Travel Fuel Subsidy Grant Guidelines

Key Points

- **Funding is available to support groups for trips to remote parks to undertake DEW approved activities for a distance over 300km.**
- **Funding is to support NPWS managed groups undertaking approved activities on DEW land and operating under the DEW Volunteer Safety Procedure.**

1. Introduction

The *Friends of Parks and Nature Fuel Subsidy Grant Program* was established to support the essential work of volunteer groups across South Australia's national parks and is now in its third year.

For travel over 300 km in private vehicles, the *Friends of Parks and Nature – Fuel Subsidy Grant Program* offers grant funding of up to \$2,000 per group. A total of up to \$30,000 in funding will be available in 2026 for Department for Environment and Water (DEW) endorsed trips. Eligible groups may apply for one grant from this round.

The grants have been designed to support travel to and from remote parks and DEW encourages transport practices, such as carpooling, to reduce environmental impact.

This grant round will be administered via the Smarty Grants platform. Applicants will need to register as users if this is their first time using Smarty Grants and DEW staff are available to assist where help is required.

2. Grant Program Parameters

What will be funded?

Volunteer groups will be provided a fuel subsidy for the use of private vehicles for approved activities. **Approved activities** are those that are endorsed by the DEW Volunteer Safety Procedure (VSP) and included in the group's approved annual program.

This subsidy is for **on park** volunteer activities (including travel to/from) according to the following guidelines:

- the total return-trip distance to attend the activity must exceed 300 km. For South Australian volunteers, the distance travelled will be calculated from their usual residential address to the activity site using the shortest practicable route. For interstate volunteers, the calculation will commence from the Adelaide GPO to the activity site. The fuel subsidy will only be applied to the kilometres travelled beyond the initial 300 km threshold;
- a subsidy rate of 35c per km is applicable, with maximum caps of \$300 per vehicle to apply.
- groups can apply for a total of up to \$2000 in fuel subsidies from this grant round.
- where the total of all applications received in this grant round exceeds \$30,000, individual grant amounts may be reduced to ensure a broader distribution of funds among the most applicant groups.

What will not be funded?

- trips where the total distance travelled to attend the activity is less than 300 km;
- trips where the activity is not endorsed by the DEW Volunteer Safety Procedure (VSP), nor included in the group's annual program.
- trips where the activity is taking place on private land or any land other than that owned by DEW/NPWS.

Grant Assessment

Grant applications will be checked for eligibility and assessed competitively against other applications, and funding decisions will be made by DEW. Funding amounts depend on the number of applications received, and there is no guarantee that requested amounts will be awarded. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email of the outcome.

3. Eligibility

To be considered for funding, groups;

- must be undertaking approved activities under the DEW Volunteer Safety Procedure (VSP).
- must be a current financial member of Friends of Parks & Nature Inc.
- must be incorporated, or otherwise sponsored by an incorporated organisation such as local government, a Landscape Board, a Local Action Planning group, Friends of Parks and Nature Inc., etc. This sponsor relationship must be supported in writing and a signed letter attached to the application.
- must not have any outstanding grant acquittals unless prior approval has been obtained.

4. How to Apply

Applications must be lodged electronically on the [DEW SmartyGrants](#) website **before the grant round closes at 2pm on 10 April 2026**. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

New applicants will need to create an account via the [DEW SmartyGrants](#) online portal in order to lodge their application and this can be done ahead of time. Accuracy is important and the information contained in your application forms the basis for the grant agreement document, should your grant be successful.

Please contact the DEW Grants Officer at Susan.Taite@sa.gov.au if you require assistance to complete the application form, especially where technology, literacy, disability or English as a second language may be barriers to lodgement.

Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation via email from Smarty Grants that your application has been received.

5. Notifications of the outcome

An email will be sent to the address provided in the application to advise you of the outcome. This process is expected to take at least one month.

6. Grant agreements and payments

Successful groups ('grantees') will enter into a Grant Agreement with DEW which outlines the conditions of the funding. Agreements will be sent by the DEW Grants Officer via the electronic signature software application 'Please Sign' for quick and secure execution.

Grant Payments

Incorporated Groups: Once the grant agreement has been signed by both parties and returned to DEW, groups will be asked to issue DEW with a tax invoice to trigger the payment process. Grantees will need to be registered as vendors on the government's accounts payable system **prior to** a tax invoice being lodged.

Unincorporated Groups: Groups requiring sponsorship from FOPN Inc. must send in a request via DEWVolunteers.sa.gov.au and a sponsorship letter will then be issued by the Board Secretary. Groups may also be sponsored by another incorporated organisation. Please note that in these cases the Sponsoring body will issue the tax invoice to DEW.

Please contact us via DEWVolunteers@sa.gov.au if you have questions or require assistance with the payment process.

All grantees are required to provide either an Australian Business Number or a completed Australian Tax Office 'Statement by Supplier' form.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding your grant please contact the Volunteer Programs and Community Partnerships Grants Officer on 0439 870 378 or email Susan.Taite@sa.gov.au.