

'Tree Banking' Application Form – Free Trees for Rate Payers Program



Council's *Free Trees for Rate Payer Program*, forms part of Council's Environment Strategy (Environmental Education Program). The program helps Council achieve - 'Natural ecosystems are conserved and enhanced, and our built environment embraces biodiversity, sustainability and heritage'. The program focuses on enhancement of biodiversity by encouraging planting of native plants and education.

'Tree Banking' is a sub-program designed to allow small community/sporting groups or educational organisations to collect voluntarily donated un-needed allocations from ratepayers, for planting in their group's outdoor setting.

1. **Groups** including educational group/schools, sporting groups, hall associations or community collectives wishing to bank donated trees, must apply to Council via completion of this form.
Please check suitability and compare with Council's *Community Environment Grants Program* for large projects that require more than just plants.
2. **Submit completed form** - via council@gympie.qld.gov.au or via Council's program suppliers (Gympie and District Landcare Group or Cooloola City Farm Nursery).
3. **Council** will assess the application and inform the group and the supplier in writing (allow <1 month).
4. **Rate Payers** can voluntarily donate their free tree allocation (2 plants per rate period) to an approved group.

'Tree Banking' criteria –

- Applicants must be a demonstrated/registered Gympie based community group/sporting club, educational organisation or community collective wishing to plant a number of native trees on land owned by Council (or other, at the discretion of Council).
- Applicants must provide an approved **Landowner Consent Form** for Council owned/managed land. This is available from Property@gympie.qld.gov.au. If on State or other lands (i.e. Schools or childcare centres), a letter of support from the School/landowner is required to accompany this application. Applicants must clearly state where the plants will be planted (Council park/reserve or other land).
- Rate payers donating their free tree allocation, forfeit their allocation to their property for that given rate period.
- A maximum of 200 native tube stock plants are available for each organisation, within any 'rate round' (6mnths).
- A maximum of 2 'rate rounds' (consecutive or not) per group and site, may be approved by Council, in total.
- It is the responsibility of the approved group to ascertain and keep track of the end of the rate period and organize collection of their banked trees from the supplier at the completion of the round.
- Only native plants eligible under the Free Trees Program and available at the supplier nursery will be provided at the time of collection. The supplier can assist the group to select the most appropriate plants for their project.
- The supplier will keep records of the number of banked trees (the cost of these will be invoiced to Council). There is NO GUARENTEE of any trees being donated, as donation is voluntary.
 - If at the end of the rate period no trees have been donated, the group can apply to extend the registration for another rate period.

*All applicants are encouraged to consider applying for **Council's 'Environmental Micro Grants'** for immediate projects or those likely to be up to the value of \$1,500.

NB – Please ensure you have a *Landholder Consent Form* to accompany this application if your group wishes to plant on Council Land (unless considered maintenance of pre-existing gardens or bushland).

'Tree Banking' Application Form – Free Trees for Rate Payers Program



Applicant Details

Organisation/Group Name: _____

Group Representative/Contact person: _____

Group Postal Address: _____

Contact Person phone number: _____

Group Contact Person Email address: _____

Project Details

Project Name - _____

Address of planting site (And *Lot Plan* if known) - _____

Site Name/Planting area - _____

- Site Type -
- ☐ Council Land Managed/Leased by Group (also supply *Landholder Consent Form*)
 - ☐ Council Park or Sporting field (also supply *Landholder Consent Form*)
 - ☐ Council managed/owned reserve/Land (also supply *Landholder Consent Form*)
 - ☐ Education Department or Organisation owned/managed land
(approval/agreement for planting **must be provided/attached**).
 - ☐ Other _____ (provide agreement)

Application Rate Period: Year _____ ☐ February ☐ August

Site Mud Map - below (or attached), including proposed location of planting

If site is on Council land, Council will assess the application based on current land use and plans. If further details are required we will get in touch.

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Gympie Regional Council collects personal information where it is directly related to a function or activity of Council and where the collection of such information may be reasonably considered as necessary for that purpose. It will only use personal information for that purpose, and will not disclose it, except as permitted under the Information Privacy Act 2009.

'Tree Banking' Application Form – Free Trees for Rate Payers Program



What is the purpose/goal of planting the trees at this site?

Environmental & Social benefits of the project (1 or more):

- ☐ Native garden/scenic amenity ☐ Environmental education activity ☐ Food/habitat for native fauna
☐ Shade for children/public ☐ Biodiversity Enhancement ☐ Other (provide details)

Who and how will the trees be maintained until they are self-sufficient/mature?

I, _____ (Applicant), understand that I must promote the banking of trees and am responsible for collecting the trees at the end of the relevant rate period and must plant and care for the trees till maturity, as per the above project description.

Applicant Signature - _____ **Date** - _____

Council use only.

☐ Not approved. Reason _____

☐ Approved (fitting with 'Plants for play spaces' objectives)

Tree Banking Approval number:

Rate Period: Year _____ ☐ February ☐ August

☐ Approval 1 of 2 ☐ Approval 2 of 2

☐ Applicant Contacted for further information
