



**Gladstone Area
Water Board**

MEDIA RELEASE

Micro grants kickstart grass roots environmental initiatives

Round two of Gladstone Area Water Board's 2019 Environmental Micro Grants Program will close on 30 September.

Launched in February this year, the program aims to provide funding for environmentally focused projects, programs and activities within the Gladstone community.

GAWB Chief Executive Officer, Darren Barlow, said the purpose of the program was to support grass roots initiatives that promote community awareness and understanding of environmental issues.

"We would love to receive applications that support environmental education and encourage community participation in environmental activities," Mr Barlow said.

"We believe community engagement and education is key to conserving and protecting our natural environment. Programs that develop knowledge, skills, and an ongoing community commitment to environmental conversation and sustainability are well suited to this Micro Grants program."

The Kookaburra Creek Kindergarten's "Environmental Exploration Garden" is just one local initiative that has already benefited from a GAWB environmental micro grant.

Management Committee President Rebekah Thornber said the funding would be used to install a native garden that helps children develop their understanding of the natural environment.

"We're creating an outdoor learning space which will develop and nurture the children's understanding of the importance of environmentally responsible practices through play and guided teaching experiences. We want to create that awareness and encourage making environmentally conscious decisions from a young age," Ms Thornber said.

Ms Thornber encouraged other local community groups, schools or clubs to apply.

"This is a great opportunity for smaller community organisations to kick start their own environmental project and turn an idea into a reality."

"We would also like to thank GAWB for their support and look forward to working with them as our project progresses. They're commitment to environmental education and engagement in the Gladstone community is fantastic."

As a micro grant, funding for each application is capped at \$1,500. Round two applications will close on 30 September. More details and application forms are available at www.gawb.qld.gov.au

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