



# MEDIA RELEASE

**The Hon Peter Garrett MP**

*Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts*

PG /156

17 October 2008

## **GRANTS OPEN FOR VOLUNTARY ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS**

Environment Minister, Peter Garrett, today called for applications for 2008-09 grants under the strengthened Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) program.

“Volunteer organisations make an important contribution to the protection and conservation of Australia’s environment and historic heritage,” Mr Garrett said. “This program provides assistance for their day to day running.

“Unlike the previous Government, which restricted these grants to groups working directly on projects on the ground, I believe that non-government organisations have a crucial role to play as advocates for our environment and heritage.

“We have revised the program guidelines to recognise this contribution to policy development, and their provision of valuable information.

“These organisations help involve all Australians in caring for and conserving our natural and historic heritage.”

Mr Garrett said not-for-profit organisations had:

- provided valuable input to public debate and policy development on environmental and historic heritage matters;
- rehabilitated natural assets of local, national and international significance;
- restored and conserved invaluable heritage places and artefacts; and
- been the vehicle through which environmental and heritage skills are learnt and refined.

Mr Garrett said the multi-year grants allowed for forward planning by organisations and cut the administrative costs of reapplying each year.

Grants cover day to day running costs such as office rental, utilities, office supplies, staff and volunteer training and are open to national, state/territory, regional and local organisations geared towards:

- The protection and/or enhancement of the natural environment; or
- The protection and /or conservation of Australia’s historic heritage

Applications are available from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts at [www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/gveho](http://www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/gveho) email [gveho@environment.gov.au](mailto:gveho@environment.gov.au) or call 02 6274 2422