

ACUTE HEALTH RISK

Grant Guidelines

INTRODUCTION

The Lead Mitigation Acute Health Risk Grant Program is funded by the NSW Government and administered through Lake Macquarie City Council. It aims to provide assistance for landowners or tenants of residential properties in the Lead Abatement Strategy (LAS) area who have been adversely impacted by lead contamination from the former Pasmenco Cockle Creek Smelter (Figure 1) by:

- supporting the community to identify and understand their contaminated risk
- supporting the community to appropriately remediate contaminated land

This guideline outlines the distribution of the Acute Health Risk Grant funds. Grants are available to fund activities that reduce and/or manage legacy lead contamination and reduce the immediate health risk at residential properties. Grants are assessed on a case by case basis and are open year round until 30 June 2026.

Applications are prioritised according to the associated level of health, environmental or financial risk, and are subject to funding being available.

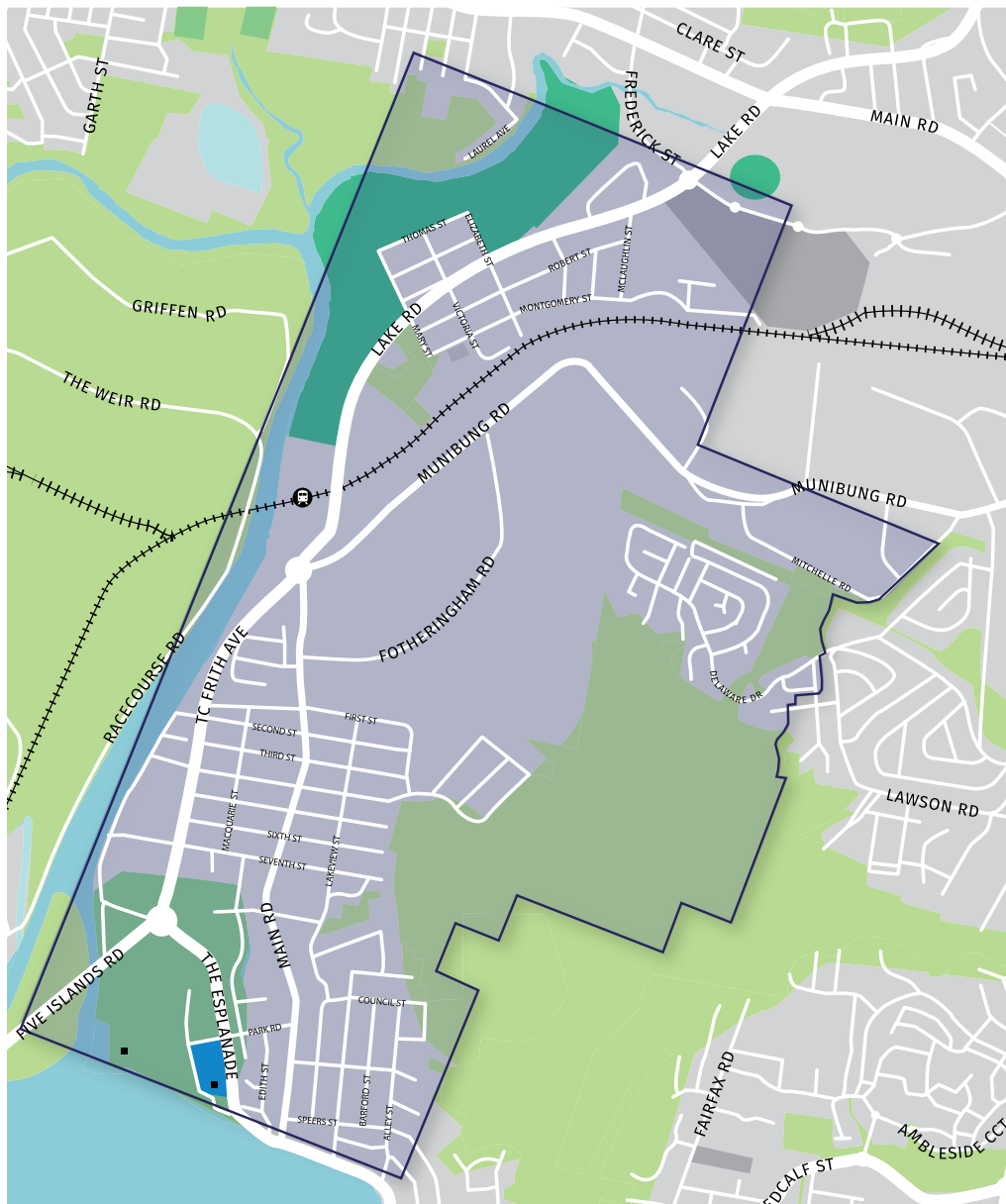



Figure 1: Lead Abatement Strategy (LAS) area highlighted by 

WHAT IS AN ACUTE HEALTH RISK?

An acute health risk is identified when an applicant satisfies the health risk criteria including:

- A resident of a property where the lead in soil concentration is more than 300ppm and
 - A person who resides at the property and has confirmed blood lead levels of >5mg/dl, and/or
 - Children (0-5 years of age) who reside at the property who display pica (compulsive eating of non-foodstuff material) certified by a General Practitioner (Doctors Certificate is suitable evidence).

Where an acute health risk is identified, applicants may also be eligible for:

- Assistance with temporary housing or relocation costs while a property undergoes remediation.
- Assistance with costs for remediation of land.

How do I find out more?

Contact Council's Sustainability Engagement Officer (Land Contamination) for further information and discuss your eligibility.

TIMING

Funding is available for this program year-round and will operate until 30 June 2026. Funding for grants will expire in June 2026.

ELIGIBILITY

The Lead Mitigation Acute Health Risk Grants are only available to residential land owners or tenants who live within the Lead Abatement Strategy (LAS) area. This includes suburbs of Boolaroo, Argenton and parts of Speers Point, Macquarie Hills and Edgeworth.

Depending on the contamination status of your property, you may also be eligible for financial assistance through the dedicated Lead Mitigation grant program. You can find the contamination status of your property on Council's website [Property Enquiry: Lake Macquarie City Council](#), or by contacting Council's Sustainability Engagement Officer (Land Contamination). Please see [Lead Mitigation Grants](#) for further information.

Households that applied for Lead Mitigation Grants in previous funding rounds may be eligible for funding under these guidelines, please see section 'exclusions and ineligibility' or contact Council's Sustainability Engagement Officer (Land Contamination) for further information.



GRANT ACTIVITIES

Table 1 outlines the grant funding that is available for residents of the Lead Abatement Strategy (LAS) area where ¹ An acute health risk is deemed to exist when certain health risk criteria are met.

Table 1: Funding available for Acute Health Risk

Grant category	Grant activity	Funding available for each activity
Acute health risk ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary housing or relocation cost 	<p>Relocation and return costs will be provided where the applicant is seeking temporary accommodation within a distance of 100km and plans to return to the property after remediation, up to a limit of \$5,000 per application.</p> <p>A proportion of 50% of the rent or a maximum of \$500 per week will be provided for temporary housing for a period of up to twelve weeks.</p> <p>Up to \$6,000 in total will be provided for temporary housing. Remediation of land contaminated by lead where an acute health risk is identified.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remediation of land - Grant funds may subsidise costs for remediating land when completed according to a Remedial Action Plan 	<p>Up to a limit of \$40,000 per application</p>

Am I eligible?

Please contact Council's Sustainability Engagement Officer (Land Contamination) if you wish to discuss or clarify your eligibility for the residential Lead Mitigation Grants program.



EXCLUSIONS AND INELIGIBILITY

The Acute Health Risk Residential Grants are only available to landowners and tenants of residential properties in the Lead Abatement Strategy (LAS).

Under this grant program funding will not be provided for

- projects that include modifications to land where written approval from the property owner and relevant development approvals have not been provided; or
- businesses, schools and government departments.

Table 2 outlines the grant activities available through the Acute Health Risk Residential Grants. Sufficient evidence must be produced to receive grant funds, including written evidence from your General Practitioner that satisfies the health risk criteria such as a Doctors Certificate.

If you have any questions or would like to clarify if an activity is not included in the list below please contact Council's Sustainability Engagement Officer (Contaminated Land) on 02 4921 0333 or leadgrants@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.

Table 2: What is included/excluded under each activity

Grant Activity	Included	Not included
Acute health risk Temporary Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relocation and return costs will be provided where the applicant is seeking temporary accommodation within a distance of 100km and plans to return to the property after remediation, up to a limit of \$5,000 per application.• A proportion of 50% of the rent or a maximum of \$500 per week will be provided for temporary housing for a period of up to twelve weeks.• Up to \$6,000 in total will be provided for temporary housing. Remediation of land contaminated by lead where an acute health risk is identified.	Assistance to locate temporary accommodation. Mortgage or rent payments for property where remediation activities are taking place.

HOW CAN I CLAIM FUNDING?

Residential land owners and tenants who reside in the LAS are welcome to claim for Acute Health Risk Residential Grant funding at any time until June 2026. This grant can only be disbursed once per property.

GRANTS MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Applications

Application for Acute Health Risk Residential grants are completed online and submitted via Smarty Grants. Application forms are available online at Lead Mitigation Grants - Lake Macquarie City Council. If required Council's Sustainability Engagement Officer (Land Contamination) can assist with the application process.

Assessment

All Acute Health Risk Residential grant applications are assessed in confidence by the Lead Grants Panel. Identification data such as applicants name and property address are removed from all applications prior to being submitted to the Panel. The Lead Grants Panel is responsible for implementing Lake Macquarie City Council's Lead Mitigation Grants Program. Membership of the Panel includes two Council staff members, one NSW EPA representative and at least one community representative. The Lead Grants Panel meet within 10 business days after an application is submitted to review and assess the application.

Notification Process

Council aims to notify applicants of the outcome of their grant application within 11 business days of the application being submitted.

Payment arrangements

Grants are paid to applicants by Council once evidence of a grant activity has been received and approved by Council's Sustainability Engagement Officer (Land Contamination). Applicants are required to complete a New Creditor Request form prior to funding being deposited in the applicants preferred bank account. Please note, no cash payments will be made.

Disputes

Any disputes can be lodged directly Council's Sustainability Engagement Officer (Land Contamination) by contacting either on 02 4921 0333 or leadgrants@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Council encourages you to speak to the Sustainability Engagement Officer (Land Contamination) at any point during the application process for assistance or support.

Further information can be found at

Website: [Lead Mitigation Grants](#)

Email: leadgrants@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.

Phone: Call 4921 0333

Drop in sessions: Council will hold grant briefing sessions through the term of the program. Session dates and times will be published on our website at Lead Mitigation Grants

REVIEW

These Guidelines will be reviewed at least once each year by the Panel, and may be amended by resolution of the Panel or Council Portfolio Committee.

