



natural resource
management program



wheatbelt
natural resource
management

Round 3 Restore-Recovering Wheatbelt Landscapes after Fire Guidelines

Was your property affected by the February 2022 bushfires?

Have you got areas of bush struggling to recover?

These guidelines will enable you to apply for support to protect your bushland.

Applications Close 5pm, 30th April 2024

About Wheatbelt NRM

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Inc. is an independent community-based organisation involved with natural resource management in the Avon River Basin. The organisation operates from its Northam office and exists as the second largest of the seven NRM regional organisations with responsibility for 12 million hectares.

Background:

Bushfires in early 2022 have wrought extensive damage across 60,000ha of the Wheatbelt.

One of the greatest natural resource impacts has been the loss of many years of conservation and sustainable agriculture activities undertaken by landholders in the region.

The impacted communities are leaders in sustainable land management and in their commitment to conserving our natural environment. Some of these landholders have lost 20 years and more worth of revegetation, both biodiverse and perennial shrubs as well as the damage to remnant vegetation.

This project will support farmers who demonstrate a commitment to landscape restoration to restore the amenity and ecological function of their properties by restoring remnant vegetation.

What Support is Available and How it will be Allocated

These grants are funded by the Western Australian Government's State NRM Community Stewardship Program, with support from Wheatbelt NRM (WNRM), Corrigin Farm Improvement Group (CFIG), and the Facey Group (Facey).

In **Round 1** the program focused on first line defence, refencing recovering bushland to protect regrowth from grazing animals.

Round 2 focussed on bushlands too badly fire damaged to regenerate to their pre-fire state without active management.

Round 3 has been initiated to expand on areas of damaged vegetation already contracted for infill planting. A major change in this round, is that those that have already received maximum funding in Round 1 or Round 2 can also apply for more funding in Round 3. However, funding will be prioritised for new projects.

\$121,005 is available to revegetate burnt out remnant vegetation and/or to infill plant to restore biodiversity into badly degraded bushland. Landholders may apply for up to a maximum of \$15,000.

*Please note that landholders who received funding in Round 1 and Round 2 are welcome to apply for more funding in Round 3.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this funding your property must be located within the areas affected by the Corrigin (including the areas of Bruce Rock/Quairading shires) and Narrogin East (including areas of Wickepin/Cuballing shires) bushfires.

Additionally you must be:

1. A legal entity, such as a land manager/owner
If you are not the owner/lessee of the land, or there are any third-party encumbrances on your land, you will need to get written permission from the owner/lessee for your activity. This letter should be attached to your application.
2. Able to complete the on-ground works by 30 June 2025.
3. Prepared to provide in-kind support (eg. ground preparation and planting) that matches the total funding amount.
4. Prepared to protect seedlings from feral animals.
5. Prepared to exclude livestock from the project area during establishment and for 10 years following project completion.
6. Willing to be photographed and participate in project promotion via mediums such as newsletters, media articles, case studies and social media if requested.

Eligible Expenditure

Up to \$15,000 of funding support per property can be used to:

- Purchase seedlings to replace lost biodiverse remnant vegetation.
- Purchase seedlings to Infill plant damaged remnant vegetation where biodiversity values have been lost.
- Protect recovering remnants from grazing through fencing.
- Protect recovering remnants through integrated feral animal management.
- Augment habitat through the erection of nest boxes to support the return of native species.

Support will be available for the purchase of materials only, with land managers supplying labour and equipment as an in-kind contribution along with maintenance of the investment.

Biodiverse remnant vegetation plantings

Funding is available supply of seedlings for biodiverse plantings (see Appendix 3).

The objective is to replicate as closely as possible the bushland native to the area identified for planting and to provide habitat for native flora and fauna.

Species will be ordered in consultation with Wheatbelt NRM and your relevant Grower Group according to suitability to the area you wish to plant and nursery availability.

Integrated Feral Animal Management

Integrated feral animal management is crucial for the health and safety for recovering remnant vegetation and native flora and fauna populations.

For this reason, every remnant planting project applied for must include provision for a \$1000 integrated feral animal management package.

Each package includes:

- 10 rabbit bait stations (value \$430),
- Baiting permit – the applicant must complete accreditation for this online and then apply for a permit at <https://regtraining.dpir.wa.gov.au/externaluser/login/index.php> . Wheatbelt NRM will cover the cost of applying (value \$83.50),
- Funds for the purchase of 1080 rabbit and fox baits (value \$486.50); and
- An information pack detailing baiting best practice.

Fencing

You may choose to revegetate a previously fenced area or install new fencing around your planting area.

Fencing of remnant vegetation and new plantings is essential for successful establishment of infill plantings.

Funding is available for fencing materials at \$4,000 per kilometre. New fencing materials must be used.

Final fencing location and specifications will be approved after discussion with Wheatbelt NRM and the Grower Group partners. For recommended fencing standards see Appendix 1.

Habitat Augmentation

Nest boxes for a range of birds and tree dwelling mammals are also eligible for funding under **Round 3**. Landholders may purchase pre-made nest boxes from the list supplied in Appendix 2 of these guidelines or you may apply for funding to purchase construction materials to build your own.

If you wish to build your own please contact Aimee Ray aray@wheatbeltnrm.org.au or 9670 3139 to access DIY design plans and obtain material cost estimates.

Ineligible Expenditure - What will not be Funded

Funds from this program cannot be used to fund:

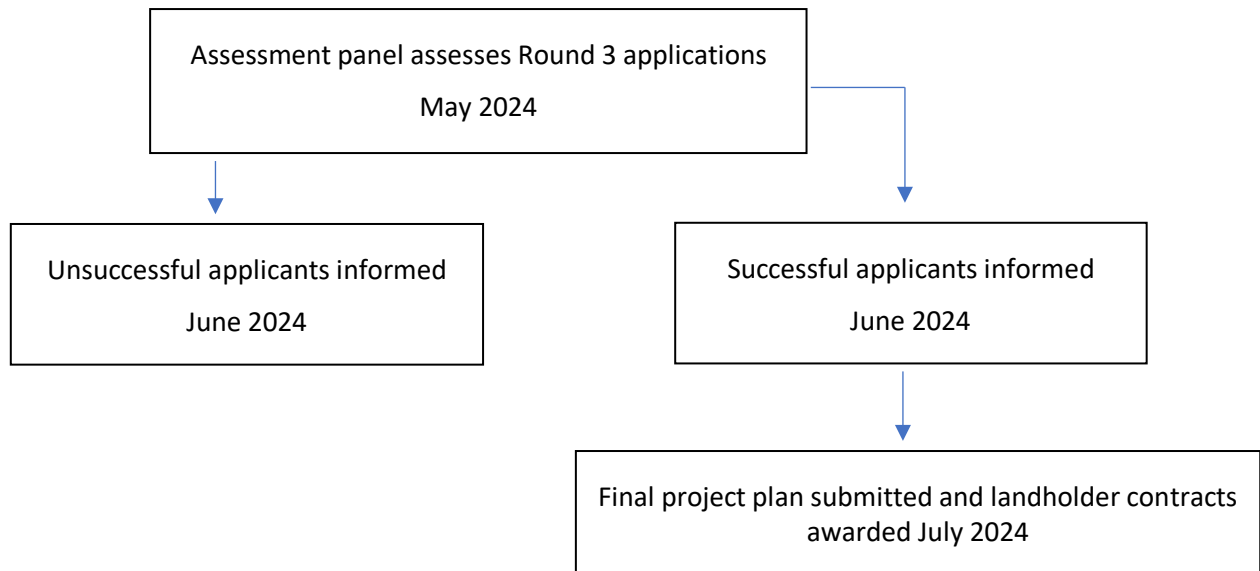
- Retrospective costs—ie actions prior to the awarding of contract.
- External Contractors.
- Machinery and equipment hire costs.
- Infrastructure (other than fencing and nest boxes).
- Drainage activities.
- River crossings.
- Water points, windmills, reticulation etc.
- On-ground works unrelated to the bushland.
- Ammunition.
- Maintenance.



Photo by Claudia Hadlow

Assessment Process

Once your Application is received by Wheatbelt NRM:



How your Application will be Assessed

Your application will be reviewed by a panel with a representative from each of the partner organisations Wheatbelt NRM, CFG and Facey Group.

Assessment will be against the following criteria;

1. Environmental value of the remnant to be protected, this includes habitat for threatened flora and fauna species and connectivity of remnants throughout the landscape. Wheatbelt NRM will use spatial dataset analysis in addition to the information supplied by the applicant to inform this selection criteria.
2. Co-benefits (see Appendix 3) delivered by the project. Wheatbelt NRM will use spatial dataset analysis in addition to the information supplied by the applicant to inform this selection criteria.
3. Value for money.
4. Landholder commitment to natural resource management.
5. Landholder capacity to undertake the work.

Lodging an Application

Applications submitted to Wheatbelt NRM will be by 5pm, Monday 30th April 2024.

Send applications to: Aimee Ray — Project Delivery Officer

Post	Email / Fax	Hand Delivery
Wheatbelt NRM Inc. PO Box 311 Northam WA 6401	aray@wheatbeltnrm.org.au Fax: 9670 3140	Wheatbelt NRM 269 Fitzgerald Street Northam

Successful applicants will be invited to enter into an agreement for on-ground management activities and associated support.

All members of the Assessment Panel will be required to declare any conflicts of interest relating to each application prior to undertaking the assessment.

Further Information

If you have any questions regarding the application, please contact:

Wheatbelt NRM Aimee Ray, Project Delivery Officer, 9670 3139
aray@wheatbeltnrm.org.au

CFIG: Cindy Stevens, NRM Officer, 0427 001 765, nrmo@cfgi.org.au

Facey Group: Claire Willcocks, Agricultural Research & Extension Coordinator, 0410 861 022,
agrec2@faceygroup.org.au



Photo by Claudia Hadlow

Appendix One:

FENCING STANDARD

The purpose of fencing funded in this agreement is for the purpose of excluding stock from remnant vegetation and revegetation areas. Fencing type and design will vary between type and breed of animal so the landholder is expected to have knowledge of what works for their stock.

Generally ringlock fencing using new materials with a minimum standard of 7/90/60 ring lock mesh or 60/70/30 ringlock mesh with one plain wire on top and galvanised steel posts every 4m.

A preference is given to products made in Australia as they are designed for Australian conditions.

Fencing standards required to ensure adequate protection of a revegetation site (where stock grazing is an identified current or future threat). Standards for sheep fencing are outlined below. DPIRD can help determine the most appropriate fencing options for a particular site.

Sheep

- Standard 6/70/30 or 7/90/30 ring-lock and plain wire or a five strand plain wire with at least three electrified strands, ensuring that the bottom wire is earthed or seven strand plain wire. Note: Barbed wire is not acceptable for the top wire because of its adverse impact on native fauna.
- Posts: 1.8m galvanised or zinc/aluminium posts with 4m spacing.
- Strainers: 2.1m or 2.4m, with a diameter of at least 12.7cm, galvanised, zinc/aluminium or other material that will last a minimum of 25 years.
- Stays: 3m galvanised, zinc/aluminium or other material that will last a minimum of 25 years.

Note that fences may include gates for management access where required.

Alternative fencing designs may be required to exclude particular types of stock from the remnant.

Appendix Two:

NEST BOXES AVAILABLE

Target Animals	Cost of Nest Box
Black cockatoos, ducks, owls	\$300 plus delivery
Ducks, owls, possums	\$180 plus delivery
Pardalotes, geckos	\$95 plus delivery
Medium parrots, possums, microbats	\$150 plus delivery
Small parrots, phascogale, mardoo, microbats	\$120 plus delivery
Possums, microbats, phascogale, mardoo	\$150 plus delivery
Phascogale, mardoo, pygmy possum	\$120 plus delivery
Microbats, geckos, insects and spiders	\$95 plus delivery



Photo by Claudia Hadlow



Appendix Three:

DEFINITIONS

Biodiverse Revegetation

Biodiverse revegetation is a mixed planting, using local species made up of upper, middle and lower storey plants.

On application, mapping of previous vegetation types will be used to make an assessment of the original vegetation type, and a list of endemic species will be selected for your property using the following criteria:

- suitable for maximising biodiversity
- taking into account soil types and conditions
- nursery availability



Figure 1 Biodiverse revegetation covers all levels of the woodland.

Co-Benefits

Co-benefits are beneficial outcomes additional to increasing biodiversity of the region.

They include, but are not limited to:

- Improving livestock health through providing shelter
- Salinity mitigation
- Wind and/or water erosion mitigation
- Increasing farm biodiversity
- Creating buffer zones around natural capital such as remnant vegetation and/or waterways
- Creating wildlife corridors
- Soil health and protection