



natural resource
management program



wheatbelt
natural resource
management

2022/23 Restore-Recovering Wheatbelt Landscapes after Fire

Guidelines

Do you live an area impacted by the February 2022 bushfires?

Do you have fire affected remnant vegetation patches which you would you like to protect from grazing animals?

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

Applications Close 5pm, Friday 17th February, 2023

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 12M hectares.

Background:

Bushfires in early 2022 have wrought extensive damage across 60,000 HA 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 have always been leaders in sustainable land management and in their commitment to conserving our natural environment. Some of these



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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.

Where support comes from:

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).

How the Support will be Delivered

There will be two funding rounds.

Round 1 (this round) is exclusively for fencing to protect recovering remnant vegetation from grazing by livestock. Up to \$180,000 available across the fire zones.

Round 2 (mid 2023) can be used for fencing and/or revegetation. Up to \$100,000 available for across the fire zones, dependent upon remains from Round 1.

In Round 2 there will also be the opportunity to apply for other project support activities such as:

- technical support for conservation planning and implementation of on ground services,
- weed control,
- feral animal control,
- habitat restoration for threatened species eg (nest boxes, cage traps).

Round 2 will open in mid-2023.



Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible you must:

1. Be 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. Be prepared to provide in-kind support that matches the total funding amount for fencing.
3. Be prepared to exclude livestock from the remnant until the fencing is complete (and for 10 years after project completion)
4. Be prepared to be photographed and participate in project promotion via mediums such as newsletters, demonstration sites, media articles, case studies and social media.
5. The project needs to fall 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;

Eligible Expenditure

- The grants will be provided up to a value of \$15,000 per property over Rounds 1 & 2.
- Round one can only provide funding for fencing remnant vegetation to exclude livestock. Projects must demonstrate a high conservation benefit for their particular Wheatbelt ecosystems. Activities must be aimed at protection of native species and ***not be for the sole purpose of protecting livestock.***
- Project activities must be completed by 1 July 2025
- You must ensure that your activity has all necessary approvals, licences, permits, consents, etc. and that your activity complies with all relevant legislation (State Government, Local Government etc).

What assistance is available?

Activities that are eligible for funding in round one include:

| |
|--|
| Fencing Remnant Vegetation |
| Funding provided for fencing materials up to \$4,000 per kilometre |



| |
|--|
| All material must be new |
| The final fence location and specification will be approved after discussion with Wheatbelt NRM |
| The fence must be stock proof and maintained as such for a minimum of 10 years. See Appendix 1 for the standard of fencing required. |
| Funding may also be available for fencing of vulnerable populations of threatened flora |

What will not be funded in Round 1?

| |
|--|
| External Contractors |
| Weed/feral animal control |
| Revegetation |
| Machinery and equipment hire costs |
| Infrastructure (other than fencing) |
| Drainage activities |
| River crossings |
| Water points, windmills, reticulation etc. |
| On-ground works unrelated to the bushland |
| Ammunition |
| Maintenance |

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.

Budget

A budget table is included to help us assess your funding requested. These are some estimates to use in the costing of your budget.

| Item | Dry hire (no operator)/hour | Wet hire (with an operator)/hour |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Labour | | \$48 |
| Up to 50 tonne excavator | \$180 + GST | \$270 + GST |
| 14ft Grader | \$118 + GST | \$178 + GST |
| 4 x 4 Tractor (420hp+) | \$192 + GST | \$210 + GST |
| Ute | \$28 plus \$0.39 per km | |
| Fencing contractor | | \$120 |

<https://www.volunteeringwa.org.au/resources/volunteer-benefits-calculator>

<https://blog.iseekplant.com.au/machine-hire-rates>

<https://handyrentals.com.au/>

What is 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.

What do we mean by a co-benefit?

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

The Benefits of Participation in the Project.

- Replacement of strategical fencing in bushfire affected region
- Improved habitat for flora and fauna
- Opportunity to revegetate fire destroyed areas
- Replacement of ground cover assisting in mitigation of soil erosion
- Protection of remnant vegetation from livestock
- Re-establishment of shelter belts

What's required of Farmers

The following minimum activities would be required

- Completion of an Expression of Interest form
- Signing of the project agreement
- Participate in promotional activities would include approving media stories and case studies, allowing you and your property to be photographed
- Site preparation(Round 1 & 2), fencing (Round 1 & 2) and planting (Round 2)

What criteria will be used to assess your Application?

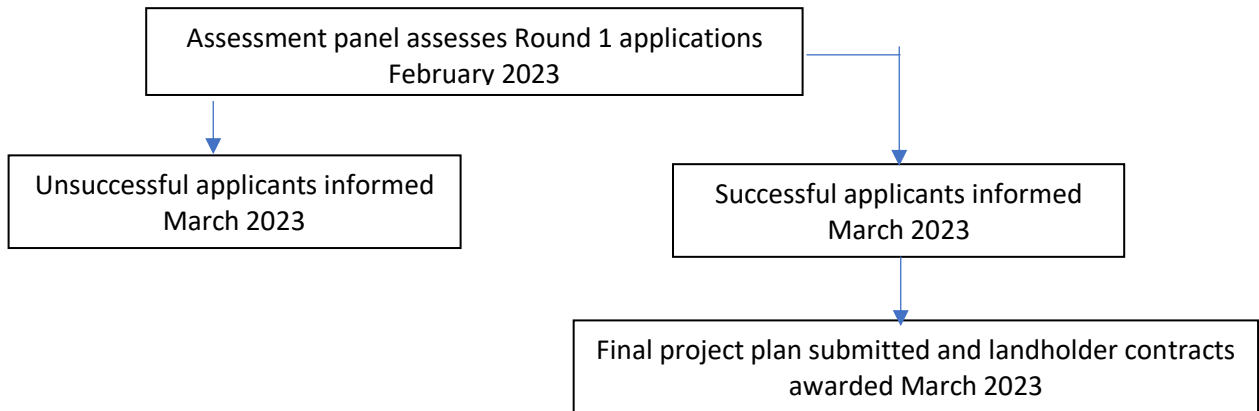
Your Application will be reviewed by a panel with a representative from each of the partner organisations Wheatbelt NRM, CFG and Facey Group.

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 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.

Assessment process

Once your Application is received by Wheatbelt NRM:



Lodging an Application

Applications submitted to Wheatbelt NRM will by 5pm, Friday 17th February 2023.

Send applications to: Jacquie Lucas—Project Delivery Officer

| Post | Email / Fax | Hand Delivery |
|---|--|---|
| Wheatbelt NRM Inc. PO Box 311 Northam WA 6401 | jlucas@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 Jacquie Lucas, Project Delivery Officer, 9670 3118

jlucas@wheatbeltnrm.org.au

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

Facey Group: Claudia Hadlow, Fire Management & Recovery Coordinator, 0429 612 447,

nrm@faceygroup.org.au



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.