



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

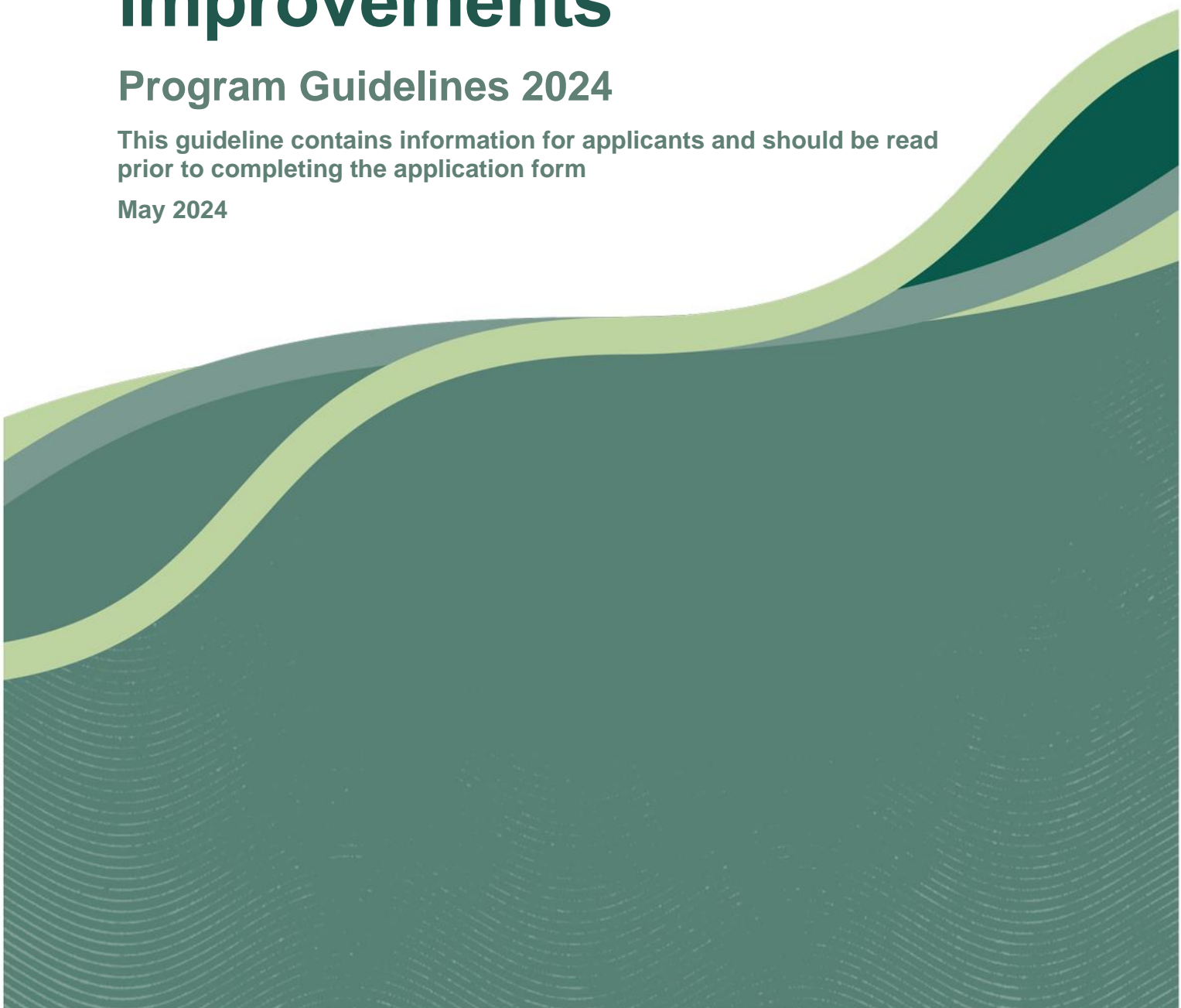
Protect  
Grow  
Innovate

# Gnangara Horticulture Water Use Efficiency Grants Program: Irrigation & soil improvements

## Program Guidelines 2024

This guideline contains information for applicants and should be read prior to completing the application form

May 2024



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# Gnangara Horticulture Water Use Efficiency Grants Program

## Key features of the Program:

Growers may apply for a grant to install technology or infrastructure to improve water systems and increase water use efficiency on their property. The program will support water-saving initiatives such as:

- Improvements to the design of existing water systems
- Implementing soil and crop sensor technology
- Installing protected cropping facilities such as glass houses or shade houses
- Soil amendments such as suitable quality clay or clay combined with compost to increase soil moisture holding capacity and soil biology.

Eligible growers may apply for up to a maximum of \$100,000 in total for water use efficiency infrastructure and soil amelioration projects (\$100,000 grant limit per applicant).

Vouchers of up to \$5,000 are available to assist eligible growers to obtain expert advice to develop a plan to implement water use efficiency measures on their property. The plan produced can be used to support an application for a grant (as described above).

Approximately \$1,190,000 is available under the program.

The Program application window will close at midnight on 30 June 2025 or earlier if funding is fully committed.

## Should you read on?

To help decide whether you are eligible to apply under this Program, you should be able to answer yes to these questions:

- I am a commercial primary producer with a water licence or a right to take and use water for an established horticulture business in one of the following groundwater subareas of the Gnangara groundwater allocation plan area in Western Australia – Carabooda, Neerabup, Nowergup, Bandy Spring, Carramar, Cockman Bluff, East Swan, Lake Mungala, Neaves, North Swan, Pinjar, Radar, Reserve, South Swan, Swan Valley, Wanneroo Wellfield, Yanchep (see attached map for eligible areas).
- My business is conducted on land identified as an eligible area in the attached map and my licensed groundwater use is subject to a 10 per cent reduction from 2028 under actions detailed in the *2022 Gnangara groundwater allocation plan*.

## To receive a rebate under this Program you must:

- demonstrate that you meet the eligibility criteria (detailed on page 5)
- apply online, ensuring all required supporting information and documents are uploaded and are legible.

## Enquiries

All enquiries about the Gngangara Horticulture Water Use Efficiency Grants Program may be made by:

**Email:** [gngangaragrants@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:gngangaragrants@dpird.wa.gov.au)

**Phone:** 0476 379 628

**Web address:** [www.agric.wa.gov.au/horticulture-water-use-efficiency-grants](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/horticulture-water-use-efficiency-grants)

## Submit an application

To submit an application for a Grant of up to \$100,000 to implement water use efficiency infrastructure or soil amelioration activities go to:

<https://dpird.smartygrants.com.au/WUEgrants>

To submit an application for a Voucher of up to \$5,000 to obtain expert advice on water use efficiency go to: <https://dpird.smartygrants.com.au/WUEvoucher>

## Program Overview

The purpose of the Gngangara Horticulture Water Use Efficiency Grants Program (the Program) is to assist primary producers with commercial horticulture businesses in the Gngangara groundwater allocation plan area to implement water use efficiency measures in their businesses.

The Western Australian Government has made funds available through the Program to support horticultural groundwater users that are subject to the 10 per cent reduction to abstraction from 2028 under the *2022 Gngangara groundwater allocation plan*.

The activity categories funded under the Program are:

	Grants to implement water use efficiency infrastructure	Grants to implement soil amelioration activities	Voucher program to obtain expert advice on water use efficiency
	Up to \$100,000 per applicant*	Up to \$100,000 per applicant*	Up to \$5000 per applicant
	*Grower co-contribution requirements apply (see Appendix 2). Strictly one application per business entity. Applicants may apply for grants against both activity categories (infrastructure and soil amelioration), but the maximum total grant amount cannot exceed \$100,000.		No grower contribution required
<b>Funding pool</b>	<b>\$1,190,000</b>		

The Program will close at midnight on 30 June 2025 or earlier if funding is fully committed. Applications will be assessed in the order they are submitted.

Businesses may submit a single application and may receive up to \$100,000 in total (excluding GST). An eligible business must be a commercial primary production business, be registered for GST and have a current Australian Business Number (ABN).

Previous applications submitted and assessed under the Backing North Wanneroo and Gnangara horticulture water use efficiency programs will be reviewed against the updated Program guidelines and applicants will be contacted to confirm any adjustments to their assessment.

## Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible to apply, you will need to demonstrate that:

- you own, share-farm or lease a property that you use for commercial horticulture production (lessee of property must provide landlord consent in writing)
- your commercial horticultural property is located in the eligible groundwater subareas (see map in Appendix 1), and is subject to the 10 per cent reduction to groundwater abstraction from 2028 under the *2022 Gnangara groundwater allocation plan*
- you conduct the majority of your primary production business in Western Australia
- you operate as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company
- you hold a current Australian Business Number (ABN) and are registered for GST.
- your business is a commercial primary production business (as defined by the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*).

## What qualifies for funding

### Grants to implement water use efficiency infrastructure

Any of the following listed activities may be funded:

- Modifications to irrigation systems that increase the distribution uniformity
- Changing from sprinkler to drip irrigation
- Soil moisture monitoring equipment and annual data hosting fees
- Covered cropping options such as greenhouses, glasshouses, shade houses, windbreaks or permanent netting. Note: if netting is to be self-installed, grant funding will only be provided for infrastructure materials (netting and netting supports). If netting is to be installed by an independent third-party contractor, grant funding will cover the cost of the supply and installation of the netting infrastructure.

The grant application must document all infrastructure items, including specifications.

### Grants to implement soil amelioration activities

The grant application must include a detailed description of the soil amelioration activities proposed, including site location and dimensions and itemisation of materials. Examples of soil amelioration activities that may be considered for funding include:

- addition of suitable clays to improve water retention capacity.
- addition of suitable compost or a mixture of clay and compost
- other soil improvement additives such as biochar, red sand or bentonite.

## What does not qualify for funding

The following activities and projects will NOT be eligible under the Program:

- Projects for which you have received funding under other State or Federal Government sources to achieve the same project outcomes.
- Projects where the new installation replaces damaged irrigation infrastructure and/or associated support structures, or general maintenance of existing systems (unless upgrading to a more efficient system).
- Feasibility studies, business cases, reports and development plans
- Costs associated with the preparation of the grant application.
- The normal operational expenditure of the applicant's business, including wages, utilities, fuel, self-installation, repairs and maintenance.

## What area is covered by this Program

The eligible groundwater subareas are defined in the map at Appendix 1.

If additional information is required to assess your application, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) will contact you by email or phone to discuss your application. Applicants will need to provide requested information within five (5) business days. Failure to provide requested information within five (5) business days may result in the application being declined.

By submitting an application, you agree that, if requested, you will allow DPIRD access to visit your business for audit purposes to inspect the infrastructure or soil amelioration project, and you will provide any relevant information requested by the auditor.

It is your responsibility to ensure you have complied with all relevant planning and building approvals applicable to the Local Government Area in which any permanent infrastructure has been installed. Should an installation that has been subsidised under this Program be found to be non-compliant and is dismantled, you will be required to repay any grant monies received in relation to the non-compliant installation.

## What do I need to apply?

The following information must be uploaded when you are completing your application:

- A plan/report that outlines what improvements are required to implement the water use efficiency infrastructure or soil amelioration activities. Under the Voucher Program, you may be eligible for a voucher of up to \$5,000 to cover the cost of the plan/report by applying here [-https://dpiird.smartygrants.com.au/WUEvoucher](https://dpiird.smartygrants.com.au/WUEvoucher)
- The original written quotes/estimates from commercial suppliers of materials and/or appropriate and experienced irrigation installation businesses confirming project specifications and the location of installation.
- Any additional details about the size of the area under cultivation that the irrigation infrastructure or soil improvement covers.
- Proof of your eligibility as a primary producer by producing a tax return no more than two years old.
- A copy of your water licence or document verifying your rights to take and use water and notification of the 10% reduction.

Please note that a co-contribution requirement applies to both grant activity categories (infrastructure and soil amelioration). Co-contributions for smaller grants (<\$40,000) will

be based on a sliding scale (Appendix 2) and grant amounts of over \$40,000 will require a 50/50 co-contribution, excluding GST.

## Notification of application decisions

You will be notified in writing (via email) of a decision on your grant application as soon as practicable.

Successful applicants will be requested to provide the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) with a compliant tax invoice for the amount approved plus GST.

Evidence to substantiate your invoice to DPIRD should be provided at the time of invoicing. This includes, for example, evidence of payment for materials or installation of infrastructure such as copies of receipts, statements/invoices from suppliers, bank statements or bank payment receipts, or detailed quotations from suppliers.

## Amendments to applications

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure their application is complete and correct. The department will not accept responsibility for any misunderstanding arising from the failure by an applicant to comply with the guidelines, or arising from any discrepancies, ambiguities, inconsistencies or errors in an application.

Any additional information requested by DPIRD must be provided within five (5) business days. The department's decision will be final and will be made at its absolute discretion.

If, during the application assessment period, the applicant's circumstances change and a variation in the details of the application is required, the applicant must immediately notify the department of this change. Similarly, the department must be notified immediately of any changes to an approved project that occur following grant approval and/or receipt of funds.

## False and misleading information

Applicants should be aware that the giving of false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth).

Approved applicants may be subject to future audits by the department that may require you to provide additional information and/or permit a site inspection of works funded under this Program.

## Conflict of interest

Assessment team members will complete a conflict of interest (COI) declaration before any involvement in the assessment process. An assessor will not participate in the assessment of applications where there is a perceived conflict of interest.



## Personal information and disclosure of information in application

The department may collect personal information from applicants for the purposes of administration, evaluation and assessment of an application. This information will only be used for the purpose for which you have provided it and will not be used for any other purpose without your consent. If the relevant personal information is not provided by applicants, the department will be unable to assess the application and it will be declined.

## Program evaluation

Successful applicants may be requested to provide information to assist in the Program evaluation at a later date. This may include responding to telephone and/or online surveys.

## Complaints handling process

If you are dissatisfied with the way your application has been handled by the department, you can lodge a complaint by sending an email to:

[gnangaragrants@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:gnangaragrants@dpird.wa.gov.au)

Please note that the department will not reconsider application decisions as part of the complaints process. Your complaint will be considered by an officer independent from the original process, who will provide you with a response to your complaint.

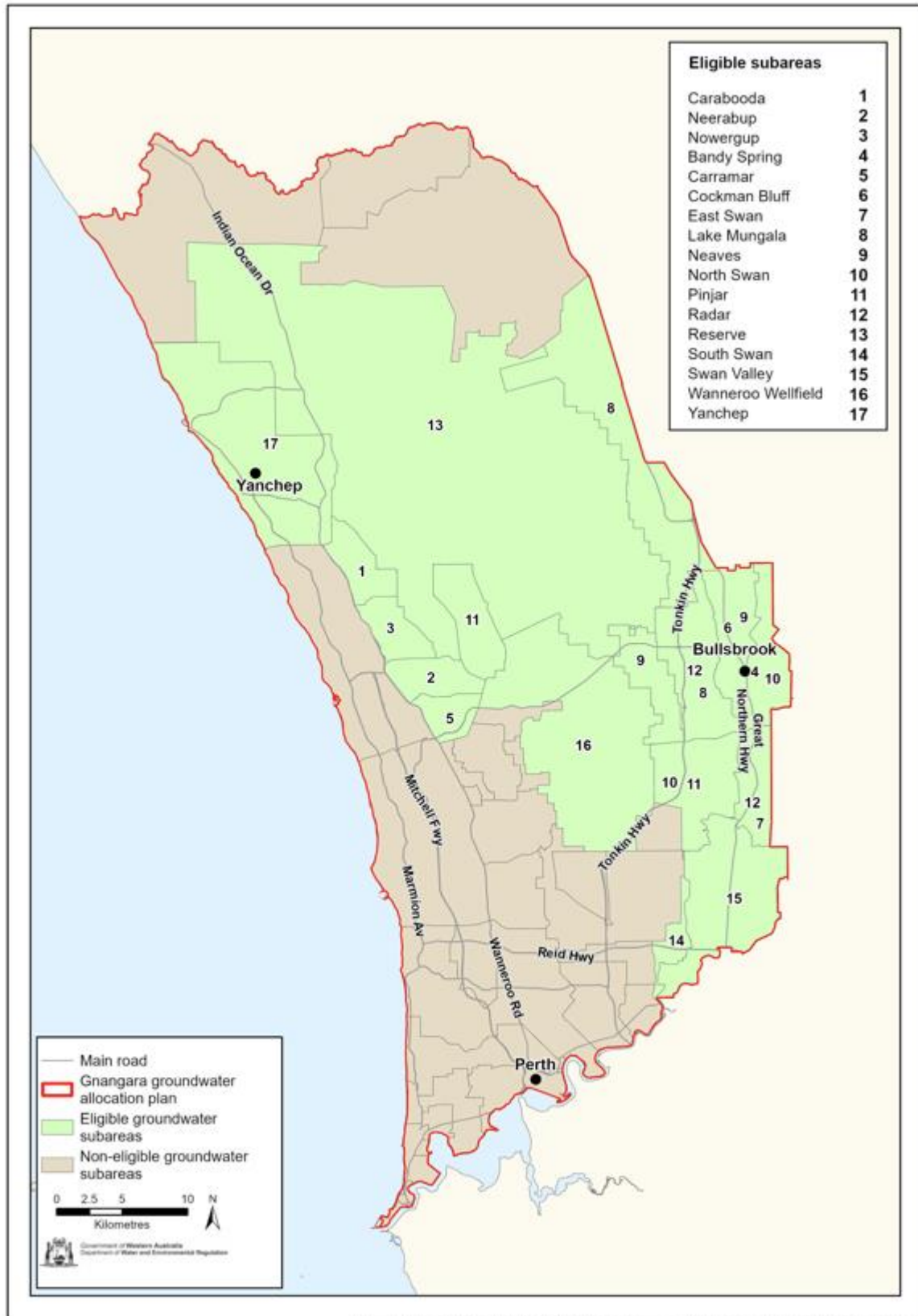
## Additional Information and map of eligible areas

You are advised that rebates received may have taxation implications and therefore, you should seek independent taxation and financial advice from a suitably qualified professional before submitting your application.

See Appendix 1 and 2 for a map of areas eligible under this program and co-contribution sliding scale calculations.



## Appendix 1 - Map of Eligible Areas



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## Appendix 2 – Co-contribution Sliding Scale

Sliding scale detailing grower and government contributions for the Gngangara Horticulture Waste Use Efficiency program.

Bracket (\$)	Government Contribution Rate	Government Contribution	Farmer Contribution rate	Farmer Contribution	Government Cumulative contribution (max)	Grower Cumulative contribution (max)
0 to 10000	90%	\$9,000	10%	\$1,000	\$9,000	\$1,000
10001-20000	80%	\$8,000	20%	\$2,000	\$17,000	\$3,000
20001-30000	70%	\$7,000	30%	\$3,000	\$24,000	\$6,000
30001-40000	60%	\$6,000	40%	\$4,000	\$30,000	\$10,000
40001-50000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$35,000	\$15,000
50001-60000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$40,000	\$20,000
60001-70000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$45,000	\$25,000
70001-80000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$50,000	\$30,000
80001-90000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$55,000	\$35,000
90001-100000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$60,000	\$40,000
100001-110000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$65,000	\$45,000
110001-120000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$70,000	\$50,000
120001-130000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$75,000	\$55,000
130001-140000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$80,000	\$60,000
140001-150000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$85,000	\$65,000
150001-160000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$90,000	\$70,000
160001-170000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$95,000	\$75,000
170001-180000	50%	\$5,000	50%	\$5,000	\$100,000	\$80,000
180001 and above	0%	\$0	100%	\$0	\$100,000	\$80,000+

### Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

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