



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

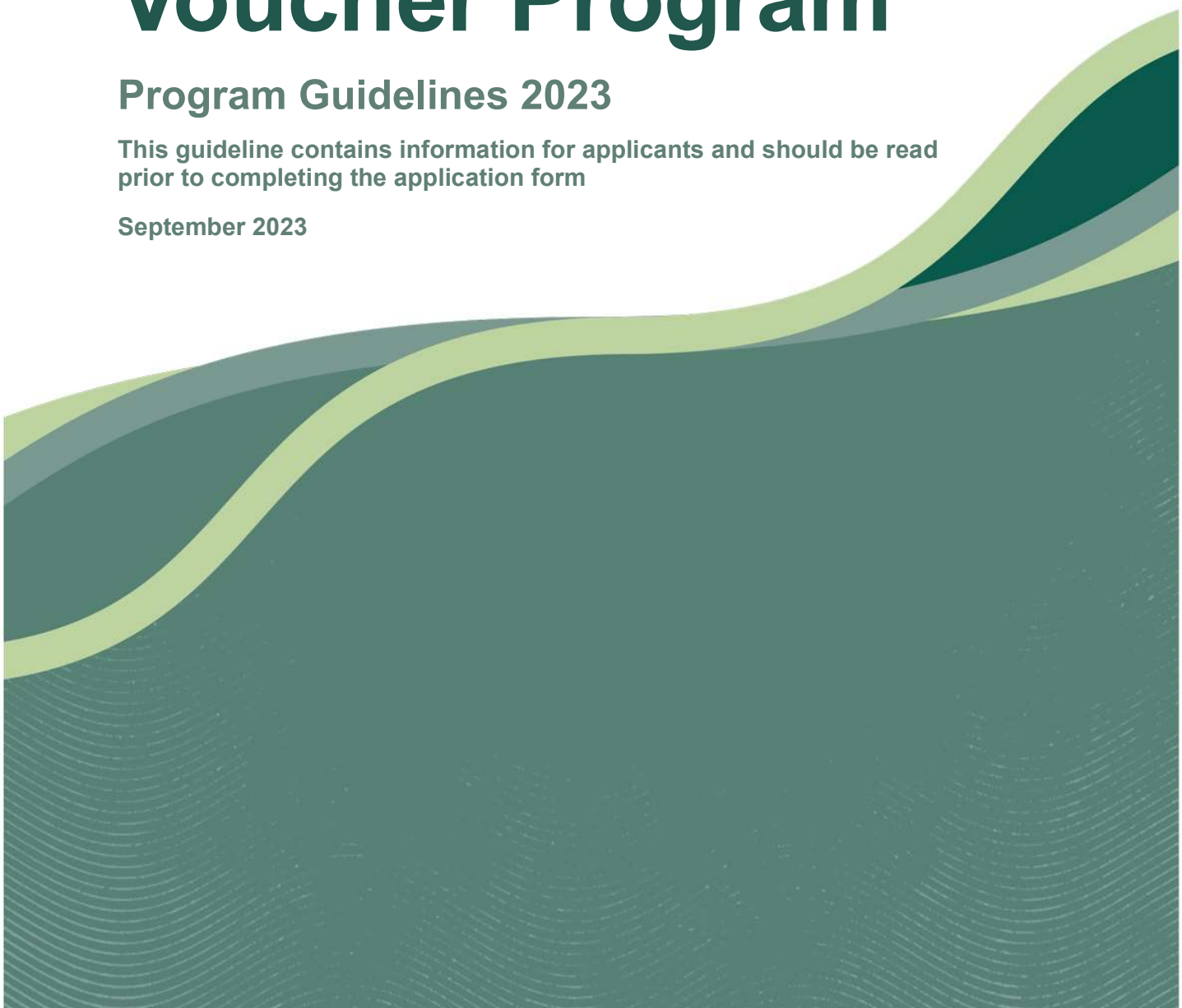
Protect
Grow
Innovate

Gnangara Horticulture Water Use Efficiency Voucher Program

Program Guidelines 2023

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

September 2023



Contents

Contents	2
Gngangara Horticulture Water Use Efficiency Voucher Program at a glance	3
Enquiries	3
All submissions	3
Program Overview	4
Objective of the Program	4
Who is eligible to apply?	4
What qualifies for funding	5
What does not qualify for funding	5
What area is covered by this Program	5
How to apply	5
What do I need to provide with my application?	6
Notification of application decisions	6
Voucher terms and conditions	6
Corrections	6
False and misleading information	7
Conflict of interest	7
Personal information and disclosure of information in application	7
Program evaluation.....	7
Complaints handling process.....	7
Additional Information and map of eligible areas	8
Appendix 1 - Map of Eligibility Areas	9

Gnangara Horticulture Water Use Efficiency Voucher Program at a glance

Key features of the Voucher Program:

Local growers in the defined area can access vouchers of up to \$5,000 to engage qualified irrigation professionals to audit their properties, design efficient irrigation systems, and provide written advice on technologies, soil amendments and cropping strategies to improve water use efficiency within their enterprise, as well as developing soil amelioration plans and options to improve soil health.

- A total of \$100,000 is available.
- The Program will close at midnight on 30 June 2024 or earlier if funds are 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 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, Western Australia (see attached map for eligibility areas).
- My business is conducted on land identified in the attached map and has been identified for a 10 per cent groundwater abstraction reduction from 2028 under the Gnangara Groundwater Allocation Plan.

To receive a Voucher under this Program you must:

- demonstrate that you meet the eligibility criteria (see page 4)
- submit an application online, ensuring all required supporting information and documents are uploaded and are legible.

Enquiries

All enquiries about the Gnangara Horticulture Water Use Efficiency Voucher Program may be made by:

Email to: gnangaragrants@dpird.wa.gov.au

Phone: 0476 379 628

Web address: www.agric.wa.gov.au/horticulture-water-use-efficiency-grants

All submissions

Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted online at <https://dpird.smartygrants.com.au/WUEvoucher>

Program Overview

The purpose of the Gngangara Horticulture Water Use Efficiency Voucher Program (the Program) is to assist eligible commercial horticulture businesses to obtain written expert advice to develop a plan to implement water use efficiency measures on their property.

Assistance is provided by way of a voucher that can be used to engage a professional irrigation consultant. Vouchers are issued in the name of the business (the Recipient), have no cash value and are non-transferable. They are only payable to the Professional Service Provider nominated by the Recipient. Vouchers are not to be used for business-as-usual activities.

Vouchers of up to \$5,000 can also be used to engage the services of a soil science expert of your choice to assist with developing soil amelioration plans and options to improve soil health.

The Western Australian Government has made a total of \$100,000 available for eligible commercial Western Australian Horticulture businesses to seek expert advice and planning from professional consultants by receiving a written report describing improvements and estimating the costs of the improvements.

The initiative will 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 Program will close at midnight on 30 June 2024 (earlier if funds are fully committed). Applications will be assessed in the order they are submitted.

Objective of the Program

The objective of the Program is to deliver productivity benefits by increasing water use efficiency, by eligible horticulture businesses obtaining written advice on any or all of the following technologies including:

- Modifications to irrigation systems that increase the application of water uniformity
- Changing from sprinkler to drip irrigation
- Purchase and implementation of soil and/or crop sensor technology; crop monitoring equipment and annual data hosting fees
- Installation of protected cropping options, which may include greenhouses, glasshouses, shade houses, windbreaks, or permanent netting
- Soil amelioration strategies and inputs
- Professional advice of soil health improvements

Who is eligible to apply?

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

- Own, share farm or lease property that you use for commercial Horticulture production in the eligible area that has been identified for a 10 per cent groundwater abstraction reduction from 2028 under the Gngangara Groundwater Allocation Plan.
- Conduct the majority of your primary production business in Western Australia.
- Operate as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company.
- Hold a current Australian Business Number (ABN) and are registered for GST.
- Are a commercial primary production business (as defined by the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997).

What qualifies for funding

Applicants must provide at least one quote from a suitably qualified irrigation specialist as recommended by Irrigation Australia. Please refer to the link on the webpage for the list of approved specialists

Irrigation specialists may advise on any or all of the criteria listed under section 2

Irrigation specialists must produce a written report of the advice, describing the improvements and providing costs where possible

The written advice must be for horticultural property in the eligible area

Or, applicants must provide at least one quote or report and tax invoice from a qualified soil health specialist

What does not qualify for funding

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

- Projects that 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/replacement of existing systems, unless changing to a more efficient system.
- Costs associated with the preparation of this application.

What area is covered by this Program

The eligible areas are defined in the map at Appendix 1.

How to apply

Your application will need to be submitted online via the following link:

<https://dpiird.smartygrants.com.au/WUEvoucher>

Applications will be assessed in the order they are submitted. If additional information is required to assess your application, the Department will contact you by email or phone to confirm/request what is required. 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 are providing your agreement that should DPIRD request to visit your business for audit purposes to inspect the irrigation infrastructure you will allow them full access to the property and any relevant information required.

Application Steps

1. Horticulture businesses interested in applying should engage an irrigation specialist as recommended by Irrigation Australia (please refer to the approved list of specialists) to provide you with a quote to prepare the written report or a consultant to advise on soil health strategies.
2. Submit an application to this Program using the link above, attaching the quote as a pdf file.

3. Should your application be approved, we will email you a Voucher with the approved amount. The amount of the Voucher will be up to the quoted amount to a maximum of \$5,000 (ex GST). If the quote is above \$5,000 (ex GST), you will be responsible for any amount above \$5,000 (ex GST).
4. Engage the irrigation specialist to prepare the report for you.
5. Once you receive the written report, submit an electronic copy to us via the email address gnangaragrants@dpiird.wa.gov.au as well as a compliant Tax Invoice for the amount on the voucher

Note – the written report will need to meet minimum standards. If it does not meet a minimum standard we may request that the report be upgraded before payment is made.

What do I need to provide with my application?

The following information will need to be uploaded when you are completing your application:

- The original written quotes/estimates from experienced irrigation specialists, as recommended by Irrigation Australia OR for advice on soil health, the quote from the expert engaged to provide a report.
- Proof of your eligibility as a primary producer by producing a tax return no more than two years old.
- Copy of your water licence or document verifying your right to take and use water and notification of the 10% reduction.

Notification of application decisions

You will be notified in writing via email of decisions as soon as practicable. Successful applicants will be provided with a Voucher for an amount up to \$5,000 (GST exclusive) which will entitle them to redeem the agreed service from their nominated service provider. The Voucher will be valid from the date of issue until the time and date specified on their voucher.

Voucher terms and conditions

Each voucher can only be used for the services of one Professional Service Provider. Payment for the value of the voucher will be made directly to the Recipient on confirmation that the services, advice or expertise has been provided as quoted.

DPIRD will not be liable to pay the funds until it has received a valid tax invoice from the Recipient addressed to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, for the services as stated on the voucher and for the vouchered amount.

Corrections

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.

The Department may need to request additional information from an applicant and will allow applicants five business days to respond with information and/or documentary evidence as requested. The Department's decision will be final and will be made at its absolute discretion.

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 audits in the future by the Department that may require you to provide additional information and/or permit an inspection of works carried out under the Gngangara Horticulture Water Use Efficiency Grant Program.

Conflict of interest

Assessment team members will complete a conflict of interested (COI) declaration before as part of the assessment process. An assessor will not participate in the assessment of applications where there is a perceived conflict of interest. The assessment team chair will be responsible for making judgements regarding conflicts 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. If the relevant personal information is not provided by applicants, the Department will be unable to assess the application and it will be declined.

The Department may collect generalised information from the applications for its horticulture research.

Personal information may be disclosed to other Western Australian Government agencies and may be published on the Department's website, provided disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, including the *Privacy Act 1988*. Personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Privacy Principles.

The Department's Privacy Policy is available on the Department's website. Applicants may contact the Department about their personal information or to make a complaint.

Program evaluation

Successful applicants may be required 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 filling in the [DPIRD Complaint and Feedback Form](#)

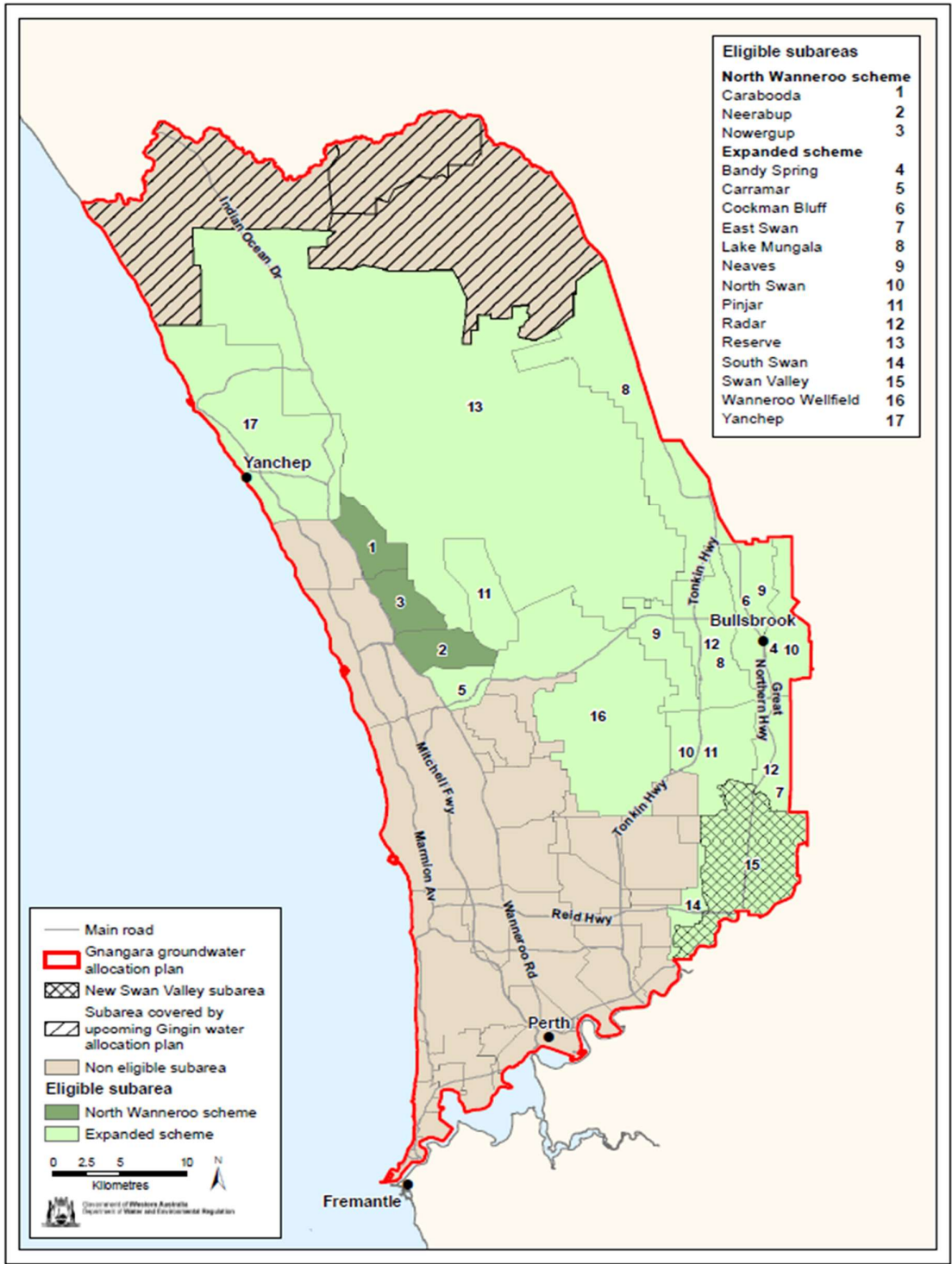
Please note that the Department will not reconsider application decisions as part of the complaints process. Your complaint will be considered internally within the

Department by a departmental officer independent from the original process, who will provide you with a response to your complaint.

Additional Information and map of eligible areas

Please note that grants received may have taxation implications and you should seek independent taxation and financial advice from a suitably qualified professional before submitting your application if you have any concerns.

Appendix 1 - Map of Eligibility Areas



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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