



Rangelands Cell Fencing Program

Frequently asked questions

What is a cell fence?

Cell fencing involves the construction of wild dog exclusion fencing around neighbouring properties, completely enclosing them. This allows for a concerted effort to remove wild dogs inside the fence. A well-maintained fence prevents wild dogs reinvading the properties and allows pastoralists to restock their properties with small livestock such as sheep or goats.

Why build cell fencing?

Wild dog predation on livestock is taking a heavy economic and emotional toll on livestock producers in affected pastoral and agricultural areas. Despite best current effort, the impact of wild dogs is an increasing threat to livestock industries in Western Australia.

Wild dogs are estimated to cause losses of \$25 million per year to rangelands sheep and goat production. In addition to significant annual stock losses to wild dogs, their threat is a major deterrent to restocking of livestock enterprises and to associated regional development opportunities such as transport and shearing services.

Who is eligible to apply?

The program is open to groups of pastoral landholders within the rangelands of WA. The proposed cell fence must encompass multiple properties held under pastoral lease. Successful applicants will need to form a single legal entity to enter into a funding agreement with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

What is a 'single legal entity' and how can we form one?

Lessees within the cell must be part of a single legal entity that is the proponent of the cell project, and provide evidence of having formed the single legal entity within two months of being notified that their application was successful.

Communitygrants.gov.au provides guidance on how to confirm legal entity status.

The applicant must be a WA-based, farmer-driven organisation, incorporated, with an Australian Business Number and registered for GST.

Applicants should obtain their own financial and legal advice from a suitably qualified professional. Please note that the process to form a legal entity may take several weeks.

The [Small Business Development Corporation](#) and the [Australian Taxation Office](#) both provide guidance on choosing a business structure. The [Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety](#) provides a comprehensive guidance for associations and clubs, including [INC. A Guide for Incorporated Associations in Western Australia](#).

How long is the program duration?

The Rangelands Cell Funding program is a two-year funding program and requires successful applicants to complete construction of the fenced cell by 31 March 2020. All funds will be acquitted within two years of project commencement.

Successful applicants will need to commit to remain in a single legal entity and commit to ongoing fence maintenance and wild dog management within the fence for a period of no less than 10 years after fence completion. Program participants are required to commence restocking their properties within 3 years of fence completion.

How much funding will be provided?

A total of up to \$4.03 million (GST exclusive) will be granted to up to three successful applicants through the Rangelands Cell Fencing Program.

Successful applicants must contribute at least 50 per cent of the fence construction costs. Up to \$2900 in grant funding may be used to purchase fence materials per kilometre of fence to be built under the program. The actual amount of grant funding offered to successful applicants will be determined during the assessment process.

Successful applicants will commit to ongoing maintenance of the fence and wild dog management.

Where is the funding coming from?

The Rangelands Cell Fencing Program is co-funded by the State Government through Western Australia's Royalties for Regions program and the Australian Government, and supports the WA Wild Dog Action Plan. The program is being delivered by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), Agriculture and Food Division.

Can other government funding be used for cell fencing?

Applicants must contribute at least 50 per cent of the fence construction costs. Declared Pest Account funds may not be used to as part of the applicant's contribution to the project as these funds are matched dollar-for-dollar by the State Government. Applicants should obtain their own financial advice from a suitably qualified professional and are required to provide confirmation of finance for their contribution within two months of being notified that their application was successful.

Grant funds provided through the Rangelands Cell Fencing Program may only be used for fence construction activities. Successful applicants commit to managing wild dogs within the cell and maintaining the fence for at least 10 years, as well as restocking properties within the cell. The applicants are responsible for obtaining the finances for these ongoing commitments, and may seek funding from other grant programs where available.

Will there be future rounds of funding?

Grants made available through this program are one-off. This government funding support is intended to act as a catalyst to establish up to three cell fence projects. If these trial projects prove successful, they will provide confidence to pastoral sector and private capital financiers to fund additional future cell fencing as viable business investments.

What will successful applicants need to do under the program?

This funding will assist pastoralists to trial up to three cell fences in WA to demonstrate whether cell fencing can secure and revitalise small livestock enterprises and deliver a sustained benefit to industry and regional communities.

Successful applicants will be required to:

- build a cell fence constructed to the minimum fencing requirements outlined in the program guidelines by 31 March 2020 and maintain it for at least 10 years.
- remove all wild dogs from within the fence and implement a long-term wild dog management plan
- restock all participating properties within the cell with small livestock within 5 years of cell fence completion.

How will this program help create jobs?

The program encourages successful applicants to employ local workers for the construction of the fence. Grant funds may be used for labour for fence construction activities and the employment of up to one project manager or construction manager to oversee the project.

The absence of wild dogs will enable pastoralists to re-establish profitable small stock enterprises, thus creating local jobs within the meat processing and transport and shearing industries.

Can I apply to have part of the fence constructed?

Grant funding is available for the construction of a fence around multiple properties to form a cell. Groups that have already commenced fence construction may apply for funding to complete the fence. However, grant funding will not be provided for projects planning to build only part of the fence. The fence must be finished in its entirety and form a closed cell by 31 March 2020.

What if there are properties other than pastoral leases within the planned cell?

Eligible cells may include several properties, including properties of a tenure other than pastoral lease. Applicants should ensure that all properties within the proposed cell support the project and agree to wild dog management being undertaken within the cell.

Why is this program only available in the rangelands?

It is acknowledged that wild dog impacts are also increasing in the agricultural region inside the State Barrier Fence. However, this program focuses on revitalising stock enterprises outside the State Barrier Fence for the following reasons:

- The state government has committed to funding eight additional Licensed Pest Management Technicians (doggers) over the next three years and continues match funds raised by biosecurity groups to address wild dog issues across WA.
- Pastoral leases are not freehold and lessees have a reduced ability to borrow funds for long-term fencing infrastructure investment.

- Unlike those in the agricultural region, pastoralists generally have no alternative income source such as cropping.
- The small stock industry in the rangelands has been decimated by wild dogs over the past 10-15 years and trialling new cell fencing projects provides an opportunity for recovery.

How does cell fencing affect native animals?

Cell fencing is a non-lethal method of controlling wild dogs and is considered one of the most humane methods of protecting livestock and other animals from wild dog predation and harassment.

Cell fencing should be built to the minimum fencing guidelines outlined in the program guidelines. These include a requirement for a minimum fence mesh size of 152mm x 102mm, which is small enough to stop wild dogs, but large enough to allow most native wildlife to pass through the fence. Direct impacts to large fauna (such as kangaroos and emus) through collisions and entanglement with the fence are expected to be low, particularly over the long term.

Applicants should consider the potential impacts to wildlife as part of their proposal and adapt the fence design to minimise impacts.

How long are applications open for?

Applications open on 29 September 2017 and must be submitted to DPIRD by 5:00pm (AWST) on 17 November 2017.

Late applications will not be accepted. Applicants will be informed of the outcomes of the selection process by 20 December 2017.

Where can I get more information?

More detailed information regarding the program is provided online at agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/rangelands-cell-fencing-program.

Please contact Barry Davies, DPIRD on +61 (08) 9780 6266 or barry.davies@dpiird.wa.gov.au with any questions.