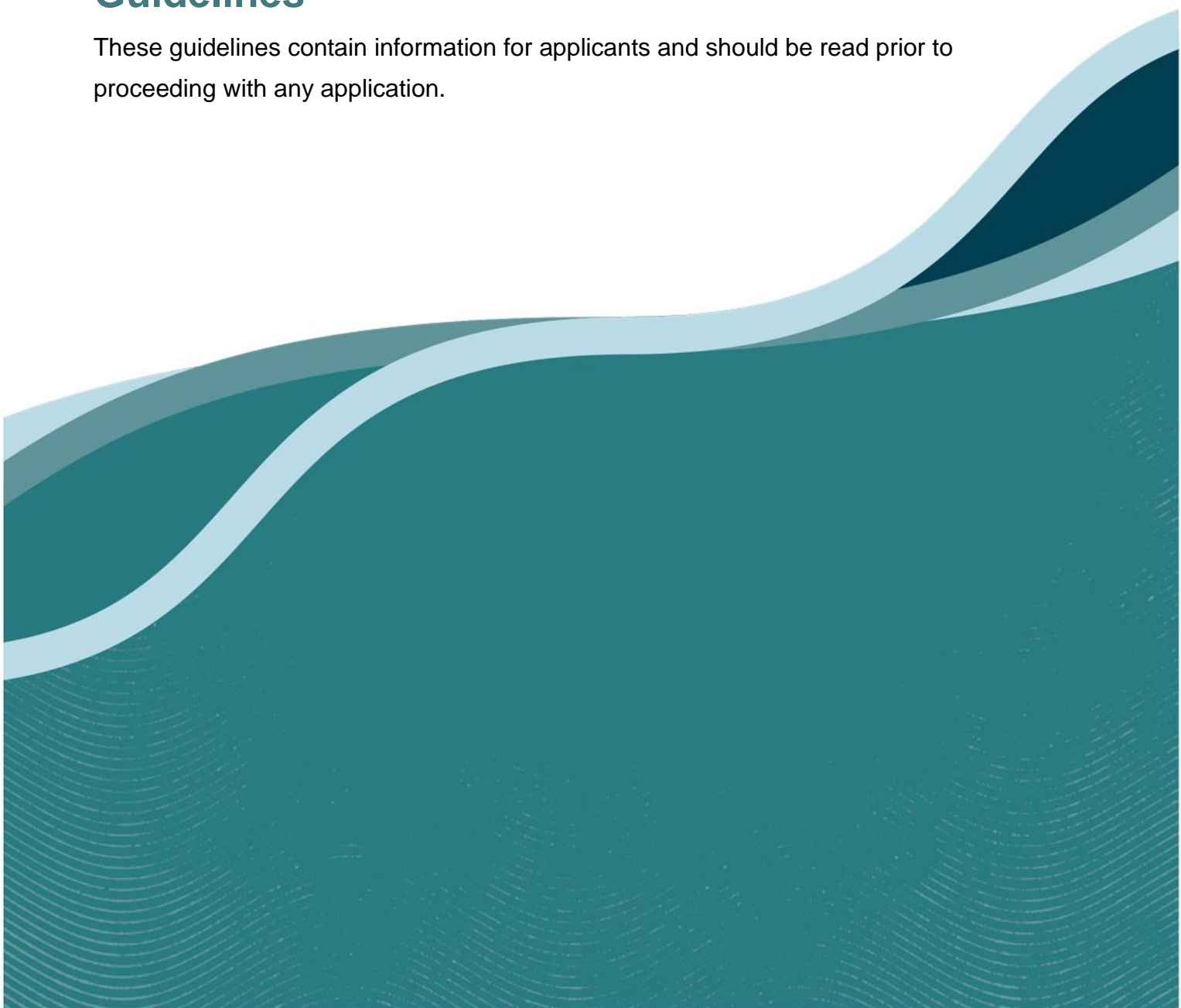




Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Program Phase Three, Stage One:

Guidelines

These guidelines contain information for applicants and should be read prior to proceeding with any application.



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Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Program Phase 3, Stage 1

1 Program Overview

The Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Program (SRRP) is a State Government investment to support pastoralists in WA's Southern Rangelands with the aim of achieving longterm improvement and sustainability.

Program Objective

The program objective is to improve rangeland condition and land productivity, which overtime, will lead to improved livestock profitability.

To fulfill the objective, the program focuses on a whole system approach including:

the regeneration of palatable, productive, perennial vegetation

landscape function & hydration restoration

total grazing pressure control, and

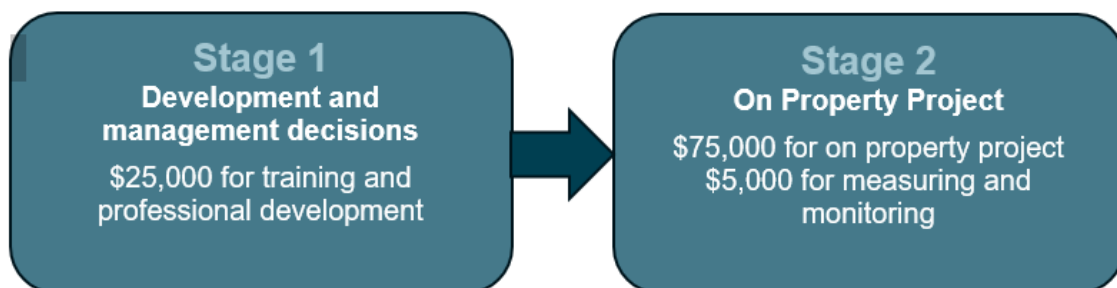
livestock management

Background

The SRRP commenced in 2021, with Phase One focused on investigating solutions, training, and planning to improve rangeland condition. Phase Two was open to pastoralists that participated in Phase One, and successful pastoralists were awarded funding to implement on-station projects aimed at rangeland revitalisation. Phase Two is ongoing and pastoralists will share their learnings with the wider pastoral industry as they progress.

Phase Three

The funding referred to in these guidelines comprises Phase Three, a four-year program to be delivered as multiple grant rounds consisting of two stages:



The two stage approach was developed after participants in Phases One and Two of the SRRP identified that the training improved their capacity and ability to plan effective and achievable on-station projects.

The program will be available over three rounds every six-months. There will be three streams of funding in each round available for:

1. Open - All Southern Rangelands pastoral lease holders
2. Aboriginal held or operated pastoral leases in the Southern Rangelands
3. Biosecurity - Southern Rangelands pastoral lease holders concentrating on managing total grazing pressure for improved biosecurity

Funding unallocated from Streams 2 & 3 will be re-directed into Stream 1 each funding round.

Funding of \$3,150,000 over the program period, with up to \$105,000 for individual pastoral businesses over the two stages is available. Phase 3 funding and support will provide:

- Access to development and innovation materials, such as training, guest speakers, rangeland specialists, and learning from pastoralists already participating in the SRRP.
- Peer to peer learning, including workshops coordinated by the SRRP for participants (timing and location to be determined by participating pastoralists).
- Financial support for development opportunities and on property revitalisation project costs.
- Engagement with the recognised Biosecurity Groups in the Southern Rangelands including access to workshops and information on management techniques to control native and feral grazing animals

Note: These Guidelines refer to Stage 1. Applicants must complete Stage 1 to be eligible to apply for Stage 2.

1.1 Who can apply for funding?

This program is restricted to applicants running a pastoral lease in the Southern Rangelands of Western Australia and operating under the guide of the Pastoral Lands Board - Pastoral Purposes Framework. The Southern Rangelands includes the:

- Goldfields
- Nullarbor,
- Gascoyne and
- Murchison.

For further details on eligibility refer to section 2.

1.2 Activities that can be funded

Funding to a maximum of \$25,000 per applicant.

The funding must be used to complete training and professional development currently available in two core areas (select one option per core area):

	Core Area	Current options
1	Profitable Landscape and Livestock Management	RCS Grazing for Profit <u>or</u>
		Holistic Management <u>or</u>
		MLA Edge Grazing Fundamentals (Southern Rangelands)
2	Ecological Land Assessment and Planning	An Ecologically Sustainable Rangeland Management (ESRM) Plan <u>or</u>
		Ecosystem Management Understanding (EMU™)

Other training and professional development courses that fit the two core areas will also be considered.

Recognised prior learning (RPL) may be applicable if an applicant has completed some or all the required training within the last 5 years. Where RPL applies, Stage 1 funding can be incorporated into Stage 2 funding.

If this applies to you, ensure that you still submit a Stage 1 application, with your training listed, so you are eligible for Stage 2.

1.3 Activities that CAN NOT be funded

The funding in Stage 1 can not generally be used for the following:

- Training and professional services that do not align with the program objectives or approved by the Program.
- Reimbursement of training courses the applicant has previously completed.

1.4 Funding limits and timeframes

In this program the total maximum funding available to each applicant is \$105,000, inclusive of Stages 1, 2 and the AgTech package. The Program will cover activities that are carried out over August 2024 to June 2027.

For the first stage of the program funding to a maximum of \$25,000 per applicant is available for training that should be completed within twelve months.

2 Eligibility Requirements

2.1 Application eligibility requirements

Applicants must complete and submit the Stage 1 online application on the Smarty Grants platform before 1700, Friday 6 September 2024.

Applications received after this date and time will not be eligible for consideration.

If there is a question over whether an application is deemed ineligible because it was submitted late, this matter will be resolved by Kari-Lee Falconer, Project Manager

There will be no appeal regarding eligibility of late applications.

2.2 Applicant eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply for funding applicants must:

- be a pastoral leaseholder in the Southern Rangelands
- have a current Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be registered for GST
- be a permanent resident of Australia
- be a legal entity capable of entering into a legally binding and enforceable financial assistance agreement (Grant Agreement) with the Western Australian State Government;
 - if your business operates as a trust, the ACN must also be provided.
- have an account with an authorised deposit-taking institution (an Australian financial institution or bank) registered with the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.
- and be one of the following entity types:
 - a company incorporated in Australia
 - a company incorporated by guarantee
 - an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
 - a partnership
 - an individual
 - an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006.

2.3 Applicants who are specifically NOT eligible

Applicants will **not** be eligible for funding if they are:

- businesses outside of the nominated region or overseas resident/organisation
- community and not for profit groups
- a Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agency or body (including government business enterprises)
- tertiary education institutions
- recognised biosecurity groups
- regional NRM bodies
- unincorporated association
- participants of SRRP Phases One and Two are not eligible for Phase Three funding

- a Trustee that is not empowered through the Trust Deed to enter into an agreement with the State Government to receive funding.

2.4 Applicant additional information required

Applicants must supply the following information:

If they are a trustee of a trust, a copy of the trust deed that outlines that the trustee has the authority to make application on behalf of the trust

- Bank account details
- Current Australian Business Number (ABN) applicable to the applicant's primary production business
- Physical and postal addresses
- Contact details
- Consent to DPRID to seek confirmation regarding your pastoral lease in respect to any current directives and notices of the Office of the WA State Soil and Land Conservation Commissioner and from the Pastoral Lands Board (PLB) where it relates to pastoral management, and any current management plan or agreement approved by the PLB and the Office of the WA State Soil and Land Conservation Commissioner.

2.5 Applicant funding contribution

A 10% cash co-contribution is required for training courses and professional services used within Stage 1 of the program. The maximum amount of cash co-contribution that will be required in this stage is \$2,500.

Note: A 10% cash and in-kind co-contribution is required in Stage 2 for both grant projects as well as AgTech packages.

Underspent funds in Stage 1 can be used for grant funding in Stage 2. The co-contribution amount required in this instance will be proportional to the funds carried over.

3 Assessment Criteria

Applicants must address the assessment criteria in the Stage 1 application. Alignment with the program aim and objective (in Section 1) will be highly regarded.

- Commitment to revitalising the pastoral lease and willingness to change and enhance management to reach revitalisation goals.
- Commitment to complete training and attend workshops and meetings with other participating pastoralists
- Confirmation of a 10% cash co-contribution for all training courses and professional services fulfilled
- Commitment to apply for Stage 2 after completion of training
- Compliance with the following Legislation, directives and current management plans from the administering Departments:
 - Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945
 - Land Administration Act 1997, (where it relates to pastoral land management).

4 Application - How to apply for funding

The Program will open for applications on 12 August at 1200 (noon) AWST and will close on 6 September at 1700 AWST. Applications will not be able to be submitted after the closing date and time.

Applications are to be submitted online via the following link

<https://agric.smartygrants.com.au/>

5 Assessment – How will the applications be assessed

The assessment process aims to objectively identify eligible applicants to whom funding could be awarded. It is important to note that discretionary consideration may be given to an applicant's performance and compliance under other DPIRD Schemes of Assistance.

5.1 Assessment process

The assessment for Stage 1 will be carried out in the following manner:

- Applications will be firstly assessed to see if they are eligible and if not they will not be included in the assessment process.
- DPIRD will assess applications using a competitive, merit based process.
- Pending eligibility, each application will be assessed against the program's assessment criteria in Section 3 by the SRRP Assessment Team;
- Recommendations will be endorsed by the SRRP Steering Committee and submitted to the Minister for Agriculture and Food for final approval.

6 Conflict of interest

SRRP assessment team members will complete a conflict of interest (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.

7 Decision

The Minister for Agriculture and Food makes the final decision on who will receive funding under this program based on the information contained within the assessment report provided to them by Julia Smith, Director of Livestock / Chair SRRP Steering Committee.

7.1 Appeal process

There will not be an appeal process.

8 Notification of application outcomes

Notification of success and unsuccessful application will take place after the Minister's approval.

Successful applicants will be informed by an email letter of offer. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed by email.

9 Contract Arrangements

Successful applicants will need to confirm their acceptance of the Letter of Offer before commencing activities. The Letter of Offer will also confirm the requirement to participate in an evaluation survey about the SRRP.

Activities in Stage 1 are expected to be completed within twelve months. Grant projects in Stage 2 are required to be completed by June 2027.

10 Tax information

Funding provided to recipients under the Grant is regarded as payment for a supply. GST-registered grant recipients will therefore be liable for GST in connection with the grant.

The grant will be increased by the amount of GST payable. Recipients must provide a tax invoice for the GST inclusive value of the grant.

Applicants are encouraged to seek tax advice on the potential implications of obtaining funding.

11 Personal Information and disclosure of information

Applicants are informed that DPIRD is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (WA), which provides a general right of access to records held by the State Government agencies and local governments.

12 Intellectual Property

Any intellectual property rights that may exist in an application will remain the property of the applicant or the rightful owner of those intellectual property rights.

Any part of an application considered to contain any intellectual property rights should be clearly identified by the applicant. The applicant grants to the State (and will ensure that relevant third parties grant) a non-exclusive, irrevocable licence to use and reproduce the intellectual property for the purpose of administering the fund.

13 Payment arrangements

The payment policy for this program is as follows:

- Payments are made by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development;
- Payments are made on provision of a compliant tax invoice
- Payments are made electronically to nominated accounts

14 Reporting and monitoring requirements

The reporting arrangements for this program include evaluation surveys at the start, and end of each program stage, and following to be made on the program's reporting form.

Any project specific items to be reported on will be identified in the contract.

Reports are to be submitted online on or before due dates.

The following monitoring activities will be carried out:

- Attendance at SRRP meetings and workshops (online and face to face)
- Training and information sessions; and
- Completion of surveys at the start and end of Stage 1

15 Contact Information

For further information on the Program please contact Sue Heriot, Project Officer (08) 9956 8536 southernrangelands@dpird.wa.gov.au, please present questions no later than 4th September 2024.

16 Glossary of Terms

Applicant - the entity who makes the application for funding.

Application - an application (or relevant part of an Application) made to the State of Western Australia for funding under the Fund.

AWST - Australian Western Standard Time.

DPIRD - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Grant – (insert name of granting program).

Grant Opportunity Type:

- **open competitive** funding rounds have open and closed nominated dates, with eligible applications being assessed against the nominated selection criteria (and against other applications)

Guidelines – are the guidelines for the program, this document.

Key Contact - the person to contact if there are any queries or information required in relation to the program.

Program Manager - the person responsible for managing the grant program.

Program Owner - the Director of the operational area responsible for the implementation of the program on behalf of DPIRD (the fund provider).

Project Partners - are other entities, apart from the primary applicant named in the proposal or in the full application.

Program Provider - The program provider is (generally) DPIRD; the policy owner that establishes the program and is ultimately responsible for the program's underlying policy and program deliverables

SmartyGrants – is the grant management software tool used by DPIRD.

SRRP – Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Program

17 Frequently Asked Questions

These Frequently Asked Questions apply to grants for the **Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Program Phase 3, Stage 1 Grants**. Applicants should read this document in conjunction with the **Guidelines for Applicants** prior to submission.

The Fund will open to applications on **Monday 12 August at 1200 (WST)**

The closing date for applications on **Friday 6 September 1700 (WST)**

1 Eligibility

1.1 Who is eligible to apply for funding?

This program is restricted to applicants running a pastoral lease in the Southern Rangelands of Western Australia and operating under the guide of the Pastoral Lands Board - Pastoral Purposes Framework. The Southern Rangelands includes the:

- Goldfields
- Nullarbor,
- Gascoyne and
- Murchison.

1.2 My business doesn't have an ABN – can I apply?

To be eligible for funding applicants must have an ABN.

2 Funding Limits, Timeframe and Eligible Activities

2.1 What is the minimum and maximum funding available per application?

The maximum limit for individual grants is \$105,000 over the two stages. There is no lower limit on the minimum amount of funds that can be requested.

2.2 What are the timeframes to commence and complete the project proposed in the application?

Activities in Stage 1 are expected to be completed within twelve months. Grant projects in Stage 2 are required to be completed by June 2027.

2.3 What types of activities are eligible for funding?

The funding must be used to complete training and professional development currently available in two core competencies (choose one option per competency):

	Core Competency	Current options
1	Profitable Landscape and Livestock Management	RCS Grazing for Profit <u>or</u>
		Holistic Management Course <u>or</u>
		MLA Edge Grazing Fundamentals (Southern Rangelands)
2	Ecological Land Assessment and Planning	An Ecologically Sustainable Rangeland Management (ESRM) Plan <u>or</u>
		Ecosystem Management Understanding (EMU™)

Other training and professional development courses that fit the two core competencies will also be considered.

Recognised prior learning (RPL) may be applicable if an applicant has completed some or all the required training within the last 5 years. Where RPL applies, Stage 1 funding can be incorporated into Stage 2 funding.

If this applies to you, ensure that you still submit a Stage 1 application, with your training listed, so you are eligible for Stage 2.

2.4 What types of activities are NOT eligible for funding?

The funding in Stage 1 can not generally be used for the following:

- Training and professional services that do not align with the program objectives of improving rangelands condition and livestock profitability.

3 Application

3.1 How do I apply?

All applications must be submitted online using the **SmartyGrants** application form, please see [Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Program | Agriculture and Food](#) for more details about the SRRP.

3.2 How will I know if my application has been received?

Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an acknowledgement email that it has been received. Please email sue.heriot@dpird.wa.gov.au if you don't receive this.

3.3 Can I update/revise my application after it has been submitted?

Yes. If you wish to revise your application prior to the closing date, please email southernrangelands@dpird.wa.gov.au and provide your application number to have it re-opened. No updates or revisions will be accepted after applications close and your revised application must be resubmitted before the deadline on 7 September 2024 1700hrs (WST).

3.4 I am having difficulties with the Smarty Grants application form, who can I contact?

For technical issues or queries with the Smarty Grants application form, please contact southernrangelands@dpird.wa.gov.au or telephone (08) 9956 8536.

4

Grant Value

4.1 What is the total grant value for grant?

Funding of \$3,150,000 is available for revitalisation projects up to a value of \$105,000 for individual pastoral businesses over the two stages of SRRP. The value of the grant in Stage 1 is \$25,000.

4.2 How much do I need to contribute?

A 10% cash co-contribution is required for all training courses and professional services offered in Stage 1. The maximum amount of cash co-contribution that will be required in this stage is \$2,500.

4.3 Can my application include collaborator(s)?

Stage 2 Applications can include collaborating partners.

4.5 What happens if the project cost is more than the maximum amount that I can apply for?

The maximum grant amount is \$105,000 for stages 1 and 2. The projects will be assessed based on performance against the criteria.

5

Application Outcome

5.1 Will all eligible applicants be successful?

Not all eligible applicants will be successful, Program entry will be awarded based on quality.

5.2 What are the project reporting and evaluation requirements?

- Attendance monitoring at meetings and training
- Evaluation surveys

6 Have another question?

Get in touch with a Southern Rangelands Revitalisation team member on (08) 9956 8536 or email southernrangelands@dpird.wa.gov.au

Important Disclaimer

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