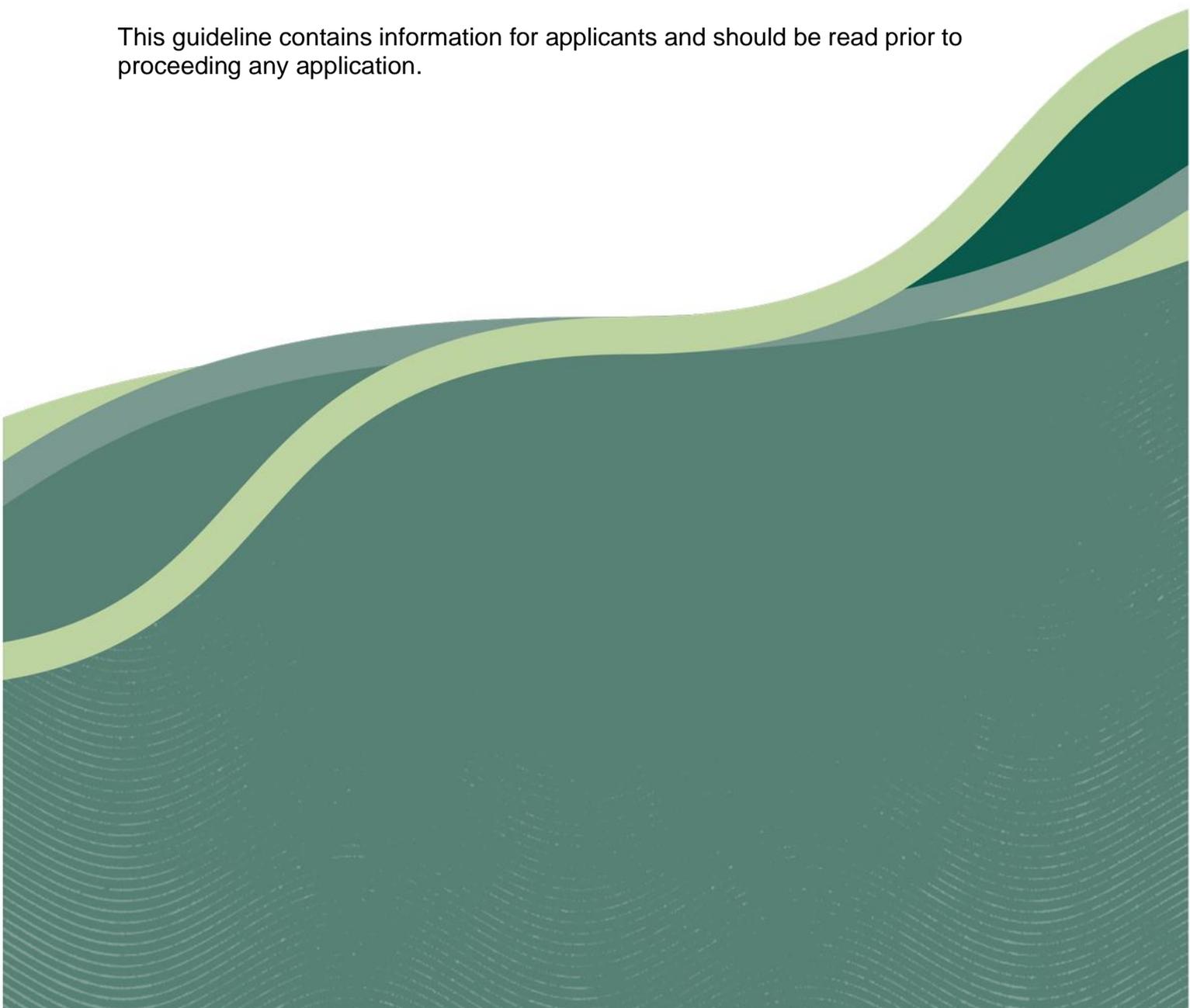




Competitive Research and Development Grants – Western Australia Wild Dog Action Plan 2021-25

Guidelines

This guideline contains information for applicants and should be read prior to proceeding any application.



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1. Program Overview

Western Australia's Wild Dog Action Plan is in its second iteration, 2021-2025. Objectives of the plan are to target wild dog activity and pressure as determined by assets, reduce the impacts of wild dogs on agriculture and biodiversity, as well as develop the capacity of the industry for wild dog management. Wild dog management in Western Australia plays an important role in protecting the livestock industry and biodiversity of state. Understanding the behaviour and activity of wild dogs is pivotal in managing the invasive species. The Western Australia Wild Dog Action Plan Research and Development Fund is opening the competitive grants to further the understanding of wild dog activity in Western Australia.

Given the extreme weather conditions (e.g. heavy rainfall over many months) of 2021 and 2022 a better understanding of how this extremely good year will change wild dog activity over the coming years will enhance the management of wild dogs for livestock production and biodiversity conservation.

The proposed R&D projects must contribute toward examining and investigating all forms of wild dog monitoring. This includes research into better long-term methods of assessing wild dog numbers and activity, and how the recent 'good seasons' will play a role in the numbers of wild dogs on the ground. Impacts of wild dogs on livestock (i.e. sheep, goats and cattle) are also important to quantify within these projects. Proposed projects may include consideration of local wild dog control programs already underway (e.g. Recognised Biosecurity Groups). Government agencies can apply as a partner to the project but not be a lead.

All research activities must be performed in Western Australia.

1.1 Who can apply for funding?

This program is applicable to groups or organisations of the following category:

- Interested research, not-for-profit and other organisations,
- Community groups,
- industry and producer groups, and
- education institutions.
- A consortium of the above groups
- Government agencies can partner in a project application but cannot be the lead applicant.

1.2 Activities that can be funded

The funding can be used for the following types of tasks:

- Monitoring or on-ground control of wild dogs,
- Measures of impacts and wild dog numbers/abundances,
- Capital (e.g. purchase of cameras), and
- Salaries (e.g. post-doctoral researchers or contractors).

1.3 Activities that CAN NOT be funded

The funding cannot generally be used for the following:

- Activities or research outside Western Australia,
- Activities already funded, and
- Activities or research that are not focussed on wild dogs and/or their impacts.

1.4 Funding limits and timeframes

Individual, one-off grants of between \$20,000 and \$100,000 will be offered to successful applicants. The total available funds for this scheme is \$320,000.

The program will cover projects/activities that are carried out from 1 July 2023 to 28th February 2025.

2. Eligibility Requirements

2.1 Application eligibility requirements

To be considered for funding through this program, applicants need to complete and submit an application through the Smarty Grants portal.

The completed application must be submitted before 3rd March 2023, at 5pm AWST. Applications received after this date and time will not be eligible for consideration.

Clarity on whether an application is deemed ineligible because it was submitted late, will be provided by the Grant Program 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:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be registered for the purposes of GST
- have an account with an Australian financial institution
- be located in Australia
- indicate how local activities and groups have been engaged in the project planning

2.3 Applicants who are specifically NOT eligible

Applications from individuals will **not** be eligible for funding.

2.4 Applicant additional information required

Applicants must supply the following information:

- Project details (including meeting all criteria below),
- Detailed budget including required funding and in-kind contributions,
- Milestone details,
- Bank account details, and
- Physical and postal addresses.

2.5 Applicant funding contribution

Applicants should demonstrate any cash funding or in-kind contributions.

Applicants must include evidence of co-funding contribution commitments.

There is no minimum requirement.

3. Assessment Criteria

Applicants must address all of the following assessment criteria in the application.

All criterion will be rated against their weighting.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence requested and provided in the application should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested.

Criterion 1

Innovative wild dog monitoring method [45%]

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- Innovative or new idea
- Usefulness as a long-term monitoring method
- Likelihood the methods will be used in the future
- Results include robust measures of wild dog numbers or abundance
- Does it also measure wild dog impacts

Criterion 2

Contribution to on-ground wild dog management [45%]

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- Improved (or attempt to improve) on-ground control of wild dogs
- Inclusion of local groups performing on-ground control

Criterion 3

Impact on the community [10%]

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- Sharing of results and outcomes with the community

4. Application – How to apply for funding

The program assessment process is through the online Smarty Grants platform.

Eligible groups and organisations can apply for funds by the online process. Applications must be submitted within the dates listed below.

The funding round/s details are:

- applications open on 12pm 12 December 2022 and close on the 3 March 2023 at 5.00pm AWST.

Only one application can be submitted by an eligible group or organisation

5. Assessment – How will the applications be assessed

The assessment process aims to objectively identify eligible applicants to whom funding could be awarded. Applications will be assessed by the panel by the 30th of March 2023; and applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection/decision process by 19 June 2023.

The assessment of all applications will be carried out within 30 days after applications are received; and be completed within another 15 days.

5.1 Assessment process

The assessment will be carried out in the following manner:

- Applications will be checked for eligibility and will not be included in the assessment process if found to be ineligible;
- Applications will be assessed against the program's assessment criteria;
- This is a competitive grants process and as such a comparative assessment will be undertaken;
- An assessment report will be developed from the assessment process and will be presented in the following manner:
 - A list of all eligible projects will be listed in terms of suitability and ranked.

The assessment report will be considered by the DPIRD Deputy Director General Biosecurity and Sustainably and the provided to the program decision-maker the Minister responsible for Agriculture and Food.

6. Conflict of interest

Assessment panel members will complete a conflict of interest (COI) declaration as part of the assessment process. An assessor will take appropriate actions in the assessment of applications where there is a perceived conflict of interest. The assessment panel chair will be responsible for making judgements regarding conflicts of interest.

7. Decision

The Grants Program Manager (Tracey Kreplins, Research Scientist) is the person/position who is ultimately responsible for the competitive R and D grants for the WDAP 2021-2025.

This person will ensure that the funding allocation process is accountable and that it complies with the agreed purpose, policies and processes of the program; and the purposes, policies and processes of the department.

The Minister responsible 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 by Tracey Kreplins, Grants Program Manager and Tim Thompson, WAWDAP manager.

The decision-maker's decision is based on the same compliance and assessment criteria as identified in all other policy aspects of this program.

As the final decision-maker, the Minister can ask the program or WDAP manager for additional information, but not for information that is not included in the selection criteria, in the promotional material or in the applications.

If funds requested exceed funds available for suitable or recommended applicants, the selection panel can reduce funding levels for individual projects.

8. Notification of application outcomes

Notification of successful and unsuccessful applications will take place within 45 days after the decisions are made; and be completed at the latest within 60 days.

Successful applicants will be informed by:

- Initial formal email;
- Letter of offer to negotiate a contract; and inclusion in a public media release; and
- An announcement on the program website.

Unsuccessful applicants will be informed in the following manner:

- Initial formal email,
- Letter regarding unsuccessful application, and offer of feedback/contact details of person to provide feedback,
- How to lodge an appeal (if applicable),
- An announcement about successful applications on the program website.

9. Contract Arrangements

All projects must be approved and the grant agreement executed prior to project commencement. No retrospective payments will be made. Progressive payments may be made where applicable and subject to the applicant providing the program with:

- Sufficient information on the agreed milestones to indicate that the project is progressing satisfactorily.
- A statement of income and expenditure for the project to the date of the progressive payment claim, signed by the applicant's Chief Executive Officer or equivalent position. The statement should include details of project expenditure compared to budget.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into an agreement in June 2023; with funded projects scheduled to start in late 2023.

There is a standard grant agreement that sets out the terms and conditions of the funding. Contracting arrangements for this program are:

- Letter advising successful application;
- Negotiation of grant agreement

- Agreement signed by recipient
- Agreement executed by DPIRD
- Start of project

The agreement must be signed and returned to DPIRD within 30 days of the date of issue. The contract must be signed by both parties before the activity commences and prior to disbursement of funds.

As a condition of funding, all grant recipients are required to provide a detailed final acquittal report to the R and D WDAP grants team within 30 days of the completion of the project.

Acquittal requirements for Grant recipients will be specified in the agreement.

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 DPIRD (may also be on behalf of a funder);
- Payments are made as per the milestones;
- Payments are made electronically to nominated accounts.

14. Reporting and monitoring requirements

The reporting arrangements for this program include milestone reports as per the contract agreements 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 to the program manager on or before due dates.

The following monitoring activities will be carried out:

- milestone reports submitted via email to the Grant Program Manager.
- An acquittal report is to be submitted to DPIRD's online platform SmartyGrants

15. Contact Information

For further information on the Program please contact Tracey Kreplins, tracey.kreplins@dpird.wa.gov.au; (08) 9690 2186

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);
- **targeted or restricted competitive** funding rounds are open to a small number of potential applicants based on the specialised requirements of the grant activity under consideration;
- **a non-competitive, open process** under which applications may be submitted at any time over the life of the grant opportunity and are assessed individually against the selection criteria, with funding decisions in relation to each application being determined without reference to the comparative merits of other applications; and
- **a closed non-competitive process.** For example, where applicants are invited by the entity to submit applications for a particular grant and the applications or proposals are not assessed against other applicants' submissions but assessed individually against selection criteria.

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.

17. Frequently Asked Questions

These Frequently Asked Questions apply to grants for the Western Australian Wild Dog Action Plan Competitive Research and Development grants. Applicants should read this document in conjunction with the **Guidelines for Applicants** prior to submission.

The Fund will open to applications on **12pm 12th December 2022**

The closing date for applications on **5pm 3rd March 2023**.

1 Eligibility

1.1 Who is eligible to apply for funding?

To be eligible to apply, an applicant must be Interested research, not-for-profit and other organizations, community groups, industry and producer groups, and education institutions, or a consortium of the above groups Government agencies can partner in a project application but cannot be the led applicant.

1.2 My business hasn't been operating for more than two years, am I eligible?

As long as your business has an ABN you can apply.

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

No, you must have an ABN to apply.

1.4 Can I apply if I have already received the funding from the Grants for other government grants?

Yes, you can receive more than one grant.

2 Funding Limits, Timeframe and Eligible Activities

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

A maximum of \$100 000 and a minimum of \$20 000 for each project is available.

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

The project may be carried out between 1st July 2023 and 28th February 2025.

2.3 What types of activities are eligible for funding?

The funding can be used for monitoring or on-ground control of wild dogs, measures of impacts and wild dog numbers/abundances, capital (e.g. purchase of cameras), and salaries (e.g. post-doctoral researchers or contractors).

2.4 What types of activities are NOT eligible for funding?

The funding cannot generally be used for activities or research outside Western Australia, activities already funded, and activities or research that are not focussed on wild dogs and/or their impacts.

3 Application

3.1 How do I apply?

All applications must be submitted online using the **SmartyGrants** application form, please see <https://agric.smartygrants.com.au/WAWDAP-RDG> for more details.

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 tracey.kreplins@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 tracey.kreplins@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 **5pm 3rd March 2023 (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 tracey.kreplins@dpird.wa.gov.au or telephone +61 (0)8 9690 2186

4 Grant Value

4.1 What is the total grant value for grant?

The total amount of funds available for this round of funding is \$320 000.

4.2 How much do I need to contribute?

There is no minimum contribution but projects with a cash contribution are looked upon more favourably.

4.3 Can my application include collaborator(s)?

Yes, projects with collaborators are looked more favourably upon.

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

The maximum amount each project can receive is \$100 000.

5 Application Outcome

5.1 Will all eligible applicants be successful?

No, only selected projects will be funded.

5.2 When will grant funds be made available to successful applicants?

When projects commence on the 1st of July 2023.

5.3 What are the project reporting and evaluation requirements?

Each project will have milestones and reporting requirements that are stylised to their needs.

6 Have another question?

Get in touch with [Tracey Kreplins](#) team member on +61 (0)8 9690 2186 or email tracey.kreplins@dpird.wa.gov.au

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