

Regenerative Agriculture Landowner Grants NOW OPEN

Close 21st April 2017

All projects must be completed by October 30th 2017

“Regenerative agriculture is any kind of farming that enables the restorative capacity of the earth. Regenerative agriculture preserves or improves the fertility of the soil, creates an abundance of food and other agricultural products, contributes to vibrant communities and equitable economies, and respects the ecology of the natural world. Fertile soil helps create nourishing food and, in turn, healthy people and robust communities.” (Farmers without Borders)

Guidelines

Background

The PHCC’s project “Supporting Sustainable Agriculture in the Peel-Harvey” has recently supported the delivery of a series of sustainable farming workshops with a particular focus on regenerative agriculture. Building on the success of these workshops, the PHCC is offering landowners who attended these workshops the opportunity to apply for a Regenerative Agriculture Landowner Grant to undertake activities that help support farming practices that are sustainable and help to improve (regenerate) the landscape. The PHCC has engaged the SJ Food and Farm Alliance Inc. to assist with the delivery of the funding round.

The Grant objectives and priorities, and examples of what we will be considered for funding are provided below.

This is a competitive grant round with a total funding allocation of \$35,000.

Grants of up to \$2,500 are available. Please refer to the information below for more details.

If after reading these Guidelines you have any queries or require assistance, please contact Ellen Walker, on 0438 554 421 or email ellen@sjfoodandfarmalliance.com.au.

The grants are supported by PHCC through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Programme.

Who can apply?

Landowner with more than 2ha of land within Swan Coastal Plain portion of the Peel-Harvey catchment (map attached). Note that it is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure all proper approvals are in place before preparing an application. This may be particularly relevant to smaller landholders in semi-rural type developments, where an approval is necessary for rural type pursuits.

Grant Objectives and Priorities

Projects must clearly meet at least one of the following objectives:

1. Improve soil biology.
2. Reduce or eliminate use of chemical fertilizers.
3. Improve health and diversity of pastures (e.g. improve carbon storage capacity, introduce perennial pastures etc).

4. Increase personal knowledge or share knowledge of regenerative agriculture (i.e. attend relevant training courses or host demonstration days on your property).
5. Increase and/or re-establish areas of natural environment on your landholding (i.e. revegetate riparian and bushland areas).
6. Reduce and/or recycle waste.
7. Development of viable on-site energy production.
8. Implementing activities that restore and build resilience in priority water ecosystems (rivers, estuaries, wetlands).
9. Manage water runoff for on-farm re-use.

Examples of what we will fund

1. Property planning that helps to develop a strategy for re-booting your enterprise for regenerative agriculture (**to meet objectives 1 to 9 above**).
2. Implementation of rotational grazing systems (purchase of movable electric fencing, introduction of perennial grasses for example) (**to meet objectives 1, 2 and 3 above**)
3. Purchase of water pipes and troughs to increase paddock options and encourage rotational grazing (**to meet objectives 1, 2, 3 and 9 above**).
4. Trials or demonstrations (set up control sites) to see how different management tools will work on your farm. This might include for example use of home-made compost or releasing dung beetles in certain areas (**to meet objective 4 above**).
5. Installation of renewable energy systems to reduce reliance on grid power (**to meet objective 7 above**).
6. Development of a composting system (**to meet objectives 1, 2, 3 and 6 above**).
7. Construction of water collection and storage systems (**to meet objectives 6 and 9 above**).
8. Development of waste recycling systems (**to meet objective 6 above**).
9. Revegetation of riparian and bushland areas to support greater ecosystem stability (**to meet objective 5 above**).
10. Attend a training course on regenerative farming (e.g. permaculture, holistic management) (**to meet objective 4 above**).

We will **NOT** fund

1. Retrospective costs, for activities.
2. Activities that sit outside the stated objectives and criteria.
3. Purchase of assets and equipment that can be used for other on-farm activities that don't support the grant objectives and priorities.
4. Standard boundary and internal fencing, sheds and other standard farming infrastructure.

In-kind contribution

Applicants need to demonstrate and provide a minimum 50% cash or in-kind co-contribution to each project and its outcomes (any co-contribution above 50% will be favourably considered). This recognises the contribution of public funds and demonstrates the commitment of the applicant to the project, the ongoing project maintenance and result driven outcomes long-term. An in-kind contribution can include the cost of labour (i.e. your time), calculated at \$30 per hour, or cost of equipment or other materials to at least match the requested grant amount.

Conditions on specific activities (note other activities will be assessed against the grant objectives and priorities on a case by case basis)

Moveable Fencing

The purchase of temporary fencing may be considered for funding, provided it can be demonstrated that the fencing specifications facilitate easy movement across paddocks for the explicit purpose of regular stock rotation. A property management plan outlining the application of rotational grazing will assist the assessment of the application.

Stock Watering Equipment

The purchase of watering equipment such as troughs and pipes may be considered for funding, provided it can be demonstrated that these materials will support a change in stock management on-farm around regular stock rotation and regenerative agriculture principles, and may include the removal of on-stream watering points.

Training and Workshops

The cost of attending training courses, workshops and other events that increase knowledge of regenerative agriculture may be considered for funding, provided it can be demonstrated the content of the course or event is primarily focussed on regenerative agriculture outcomes and objectives. Please call the grant contact person to discuss specific events and if they would meet the objectives of the funding. Please note that travel and accommodation may be considered as part of the funding – however this component may better allow for the applicant to provide a 50% in-kind contribution. Interstate or international travel will generally not be funded, but the cost of attendance will be considered on a case by case basis.

Property Planning

Support for property planning that assists a landholder in implementing a regenerative agricultural farm system will be considered for funding, for the purchase of software or apps that may be necessary to undertake this activity, and the cost of the development and printing of maps and aerial layouts of the farm. Cost to hire a consultant to prepare a property plan may be considered where the consultant or agronomist understands and has experience in implementing regenerative agriculture. However the applicant will need to provide at least 50% of the cost of these services to ensure the in-kind contribution is being met for this activity.

Renewable energy systems

The installation of a renewable energy system will be considered for funding, provided it can be demonstrated that:

- The system will provide energy to the operation of the farm (i.e. not for domestic use).
- That the energy produced will replace the energy used from grid power (i.e. not to fund additional farm activities, although this will be considered provided it is also funding existing farm operations).
- That the energy system is completely maintained and managed on-site.

Trial or Demonstration Sites

Trials or demonstrations on-farm will be considered, provided it can be demonstrated that:

- The trial or demonstration meets one of the grant objectives or priorities.

- The results of the trial or demonstration will be shared with other farmers, either through a field day on-site, or through the sharing of post-trial information to the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council for dissemination. The PHCC can assist in organising field days/events. The applicant must detail how they intend to share the results.

Increasing Ecosystem Diversity

Things for you to consider in your application:

- Funds can be used to employ a contractor for site preparation and planting if the landholder is unable to undertake these tasks if justification is provided and the in-kind contribution can be still be met.
- Funds can be used for the purchase or collection of local provenance seeds.
- Only the planting of locally endemic (native) species will be considered for funding.
- This funding allows for the planting of wind-breaks, wetland buffers, regenerating bushland areas or riparian planting on streams or watercourses, as examples.
- Areas planted will need to be fenced to ensure plantings are not trampled or eaten by stock.
- Weeds will need to be controlled before and following planting to ensure survival of seedlings.

Composting and Waste Recycling

The implementation of a compost and/or waste recycling system may be considered for funding, provided it can be demonstrated:

- Compost consists of on-farm materials (organic matter, animal waste etc) only (i.e. no purchase of materials to be composted)
- Waste recycling must demonstrate the re-use of waste materials from the farm, and no profit can be made on the recycled materials (i.e. must be used back on farm).

When can you apply?

The Regenerative Agriculture Landowner Grants are open from the 29th March and will close on 28th April 2017. Successful applicants will be notified within 4 weeks following.

Assessment process

The pool of funds is limited. Eligible projects will be assessed using a priority ranking based on the objectives and criteria outlined above. Your application may be subject to a site inspection to help determine this.

Successful applicants

All applicants will be notified within 4 weeks of Applications closing, whether successful or not. Successful applicants will receive a landholder agreement outlining terms and conditions and funding requirements of the grant. You will need to sign and return the agreement and a signed copy will be sent back to you. 50% upfront payment of funds will be provided upon return of the landholder agreement and receipt of a Tax Invoice. Final funds will be provided on completion of the Acquittal process including the provision t of any invoices for the purchase of the agreed materials as outlined in the landholder agreement. Applicants will also need to provide “before and after” photographic evidence of activities undertaken, and acknowledge that photos will be able to be used by PHCC and project partners for all purposes – social and general media/on website etc. – i.e. unfettered use.

How to apply?

An application form is included in this kit. For additional copies contact Luke Rogers on 6369 8800 or email luke.rogers@peel-harvey.org.au

Please read the Guidelines, Application Form and Acquittal Form carefully before submitting your application.

Applications for funding must be submitted by the 5pm April 21st 2017 via:

- Emailing to: luke.rogers@peel-harvey.org.au or;
- Hand deliver or post a printed copy to the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council Office – 58 Sutton Street, Mandurah 6210 (allow up to a week for delivery).

Acquittal process

There is an Acquittal Form at the end of the Application Form. This provides you with what your acquittal requirements will be on completion of the project. The acquittal provides formal evidence that the funds have been spent in accordance with the Application and MoU. The Acquittal Form must be completed and returned with the required evidence of expenditure of the funds within four weeks of the project completion date.

Application Form

1. APPLICANT DETAILS																					
Business Name: (Legal entity for invoicing)																					
Landowner: (if different to Business Name)																					
Are you a lease-holder? If so how long are you planning on implementing this activity for?																					
Contact person: (if different to landowner) Position/Role:																					
Project Site: (e.g. lot number, address)																					
Landholding size:																					
Email address: Phone number:																					
Australian Business Number (ABN):																					
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Please identify the GST status: <input type="checkbox"/> Registered for GST <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not Registered for GST</div>																					

2. PROJECT TITLE
3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION – Purpose, Actions, Objective/s
<p><i>Please provide a brief description of the purpose and objective of the proposed Project/Activity. What do you want to do? Why is it important? What will the project achieve? How does the activity meet the grant objectives and priorities?</i></p>

4. MAIN ACTIVITIES/MATERIALS TO BE FUNDED
<p>1. 2. 3. 4. (Add lines as required)</p>

5. PROJECT DETAILS	
Location of the Project (provide map if necessary):	
What is the land tenure of the Project location (if applicable):	
<p>If required, have you sought appropriate approvals to undertake your activity?</p> <p><i>Note you may need to consult with the Local Government and other government agencies if you are proposing an activity that requires approval.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Sites</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Interference with bed and banks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dial before you dig</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Owners/vesting authority approval, if on public land</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Clearing regulations (these apply to both public and private land)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Planning or building approval from your Local Government</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Help requested</p>
Expected commencement date:	
Expected completion date: <i>must be on or before 30 October 2017</i>	
Please indicate which objective/s this project addresses:	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Improve soil biology.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reduce or eliminate use of chemical fertilizers.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Improve health and diversity of pastures.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increase personal knowledge or share knowledge of regenerative agriculture (i.e. host demonstration days on your landholding, or attend relevant training courses).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increase and/or re-establish areas of natural environment on your landholding (i.e. revegetate riparian and bushland areas)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reduce and/or recycle waste</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Development of viable on-site energy production</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Implementing activities that restore and build resilience in priority water (rivers, estuaries, wetlands) ecosystems.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Manage water runoff for on-farm re-use</p>

6. BUDGET (ex GST)		
Items for which funding is requested	Total cost of item	Funding sought
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
TOTAL cost of items	\$	\$
In-kind contribution details (<i>ie: anticipated hours that will be spent by all involved in project - \$30/hour plus any cash contributions</i>)		X
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
Total in-kind	\$	
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT (<i>Items and in-kind</i>)	\$	
TOTAL FUNDING SOUGHT		\$

Checklist

- I have read the Grant guidelines
- I understand the project must be completed within the stated timeframe
- I have completed all sections of the application form
- I have attached a map and included copies of additional documents as required, including any quotes for materials
- I understand that I will be required to provide evidence and complete the Acquittal Form within four weeks of the project ending
- I understand that photos need to be provided and may be used by the project partners for any purposes (marketing/promotion/reporting etc.)

7. GRANT ADMINISTRATOR AUTHORISATION

Declaration

I, the Applicant (or applicants representative) affirm that:

1. Any funds provided will be expended only for the agreed purpose as per this Application, and any unused funds will be returned to the PHCC on acquittal of this project.
2. All details supplied in this Application and any attachments are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
3. This Application Form has been submitted with the full knowledge and agreement of the Applicant Organisation or individual.
4. I acknowledge that I have read and agreed the Guidelines.

Authorised Applicant:

Print name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Acquittal Form – TO BE FILLED OUT ON COMPLETION OF PROJECT

Application Details	
Name:	
Address:	
Email address: Phone number:	

Project Title

PROJECT DESCRIPTION – Purpose, Actions, Objective/s	
<p><i>Please provide a brief outline of your project activities. What did you achieve? Did you achieve all your objectives? How well? Did you come across any difficulties? How did you deal with these?</i></p>	
Project Outcomes:	
Total number of participants involved in project implementation (no. of people)	
Total area of land on which this project has been implemented resulting in sustainable practice change (ha)	

Application Kit – Acquittal Form

EXPENDITURE (ex GST)		
Expenditure details	Budget requested	Actual expenditure
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$	\$
In-kind contribution details <i>(ie: hrs spent by all involved in project, cash contributions)</i>	X	Actual total in-kind
TOTAL		
ACTUAL PROJECT COST		\$

The future and feedback
<p><i>Are there any comments you would like to make in regard to these funds, the project and/or your future plans and support needs?</i></p>

ACQUITTAL DECLARATION

Declaration

I, the Applicant (or applicants representative) affirm that:

1. Project funds have been expended only for the agreed purpose as per the Application.
2. All details supplied in this Acquittal are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
3. The Acquittal Form has been submitted with the full knowledge and agreement of the Applicant Organisation or individual.
4. Their project details and any photos to be used by the PHCC in follow up reports, case studies and other marketing. I understand the PHCC may contact me for further project details and/or photos following project completion.
5. I have attached relevant invoices as evidence of expenditure of funds.
6. I have provided electronic copies of “before” and “after” photos.
7. I have attached the invoice for the final payment of funds.

Authorised Applicant:

Print name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Application Kit – Acquittal Form

APPENDICES

Please place evidence collected below or attached as separate files.

Project photos and additional evidence (please make reference to guidelines provided)