



Peel-Harvey Community Environment Grants
(incorporating Sustainable Agriculture projects)
2020-21

Hotham-Williams Subcatchment

Guidelines

These Guidelines cover all 2020-21 Community Environment Grant opportunities for Hotham-Williams Subcatchment of the Peel-Harvey Catchment

Applications close 4pm on 31 August 2020



This project is supported by Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Newmont Boddington

Peel-Harvey Community Environment Grants (CEG)

These guidelines are to assist landholders, community groups, schools and local governments to apply for funding from the Community Environment Grants (CEG) Program.

The CEG Program supports groups and individuals to undertake projects that protect and enhance natural assets or implement sustainable agricultural projects in accordance with the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) NRM Strategy – *Binjareb Boodja Landscapes 2025*. The NRM Strategy is a key document guiding all community-based natural resource management (NRM) in the Peel-Harvey Catchment.

Under our Regional Strategy, the CEG program is currently targeting the following priorities in the Hotham-Williams Subcatchment:

- **On-farm native vegetation, wildlife habitats and native species fodder.**
- **Protection and/or enhancement of habitat of Numbats as well as Woylies, Chuditch, Malleefowl, Red-tailed Phascogale and Matchstick Banksia.**
- **Protection, restoration and/or enhancement of Black Cockatoo Habitat**

Project proposals must address one or more of these priorities and ensure that they comply with all requirements included in these Guidelines.

Applications must be received on the Application Form available from the PHCC. A PHCC Officer will provide you a copy of the Form once you have discussed your proposal with them and scheduled a site visit. Your local PHCC Officer can be contacted by:

- **phone (08) 6369 8801 or 0455 166 780**
- **email: grants@peel-harvey.org.au**

In most cases, a PHCC Officer will arrange a site visit with you to your property or site to discuss your project ideas, and provide advice on how to complete the Application Form.

The 2020-21 CEG grants for the Hotham-Williams Subcatchment are funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Newmont Boddington.

For more information on the PHCC, visit www.peel-harvey.org.au. Our Regional Strategy can be found on our website at https://peel-harvey.org.au/phcc_publications/nrm-strategy/

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Funding priorities 2020-21

Your project proposal must address one or more of the following priorities, as well as comply with all requirements included in these Guidelines.

Your PHCC Officer will discuss how your project may meet one or more of the following priorities for funding.

Projects must be completed by 31 May 2021. Where projects include planting, planting must be completed by 15 Sept 2021 unless otherwise approved by PHCC.

Project: Greening farms for farming, fodder and fauna

Priority: On-farm native vegetation, wildlife habitats and native species fodder

Objective: Projects are to increase or improve the condition of on-farm native vegetation, native fodder and wildlife habitats and lead to benefits for on-farm productivity, biodiversity and/or soil health.

Eligible activities: All funded activities must be on-farm and contribute to sustainable agriculture within the Peel-Harvey Catchment.

Eligible activities include:

- Fencing of remnant vegetation, including watercourses.
- Managing remnant vegetation, such as environmental weed control, feral animal control, dieback disease management.
- Planting or seeding of new areas to native vegetation or native fodder.
- Innovative pasture plantings/seeding.
- Enhancement of habitat associated with on-farm vegetation, rocky outcrops or other natural areas.

Minimum and maximum funding amounts: Applications for grant funding of between \$1,000 and \$10,000 are sought. Other projects may be considered on their merits.

Project: The Numbat Neighbourhood Project

Priority: Protection and/or enhancement of habitat of Numbats as well as Woylies, Chuditch, Malleefowl, Red-tailed Phascogale and Matchstick Banksia.

Objectives:

1. To conserve the listed Numbat, and other Threatened Species, through awareness raising and on-ground activities that reduce threats and increase and/or improve habitat.
2. Partner with the community and other groups to ensure the security of existing self-sustaining subpopulations of threatened species, focusing on the Numbat (Numbat Recovery Plan).

Eligible activities:

All funded activities must be undertaken within the Hotham Williams sub-catchment of the Peel-Harvey Catchment to develop and submit projects that concentrate on activities that remove threats, maintain, protect and/or enhance habitat of the Threatened Species of Numbats as well as Woylies, Chuditch, Malleefowl, Red-tailed Phascogale and Matchstick Banksia. Preference is for sites within approximately 20 km of the Dryandra Woodlands.

Eligible activities to protect Threatened Species include:

- Fencing to increase habitat by protecting remnant vegetation, including water courses.

- Revegetation (seeding or plantings) to improving habitat condition and extent.
- Fencing to remove threats such as stock and unmanaged human access.
- Feral animal control to remove threat of predation and threats to habitat, with a focus on cats and foxes.
- Feral animal control to remove threat of predation and threats to habitat, other – rabbits, pigs.
- Weed control to remove threats to habitat.
- Disease control (such as dieback) to reduce threats to habitat and food sources.
- Installation of artificial structures to augment (increase) habitat.
- Connectivity between significant bushland patches.

Minimum and maximum funding amounts: Applications for grant funding of between \$1,000 and \$15,000 are being sought.

Note: Applications for funding over \$15,000 may be considered for this priority area on a case by case basis, please discuss with your PHCC NRM officer.

Project: The Black Cockatoo Project

Priority: Protection and enhancement of Black Cockatoo breeding and feeding habitat, especially in proximity to breeding sites (Carnaby's Black Cockatoo; Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Baudin's Black Cockatoo)

Objectives:

1. Undertake on-ground works to ensure adequate food resources, nesting hollows and/or water to successfully raise Black Cockatoo chicks to fledglings at known or newly discovered nesting sites in the Hotham-Williams Catchment.
2. To increase the awareness, knowledge and involvement of landholders and the community in the conservation of Black Cockatoos, especially in regard to their nesting and feeding requirements.
3. To improve the condition of Eucalypt Woodlands of the West Australian Wheatbelt Threatened Ecological Communities.

Eligible activities:

All funded activities must be undertaken within the Hotham Williams sub-catchment of the Peel-Harvey Catchment to develop and submit projects that concentrate on activities that remove threats, maintain, protect and/or enhance habitat of Black Cockatoos.

Eligible activities to protect Black Cockatoos include:

- Fencing to protect, restore or establish nesting or feeding habitat (e.g. remnant vegetation or revegetation)
- Revegetation (seeding or plantings) with suitable native species in proximity to nesting habitats, or planting of appropriate exotic species where they will provide short-term food resources for critical periods of local food scarcity.
- Protection and provision of reliable and safe water resources in proximity to nesting habitats.
- Weed control in and around breeding habitats to manage the impact of exotic species on nesting sites and allow growth and regeneration of future nesting trees and food supplies.
- Protection of existing nesting hollows, repair hollows and discourage competitor usage, installation of artificial hollows.
- Feral animal control to remove threat of predation and threats to habitat.
- Disease control (such as dieback) to reduce threats to habitat and food sources.

- Voluntary habitat protection agreements (e.g. Land for Wildlife)

Eligible on-ground works must be within 12 km of Black Cockatoo nesting sites, and preferably 6km. Your PHCC Officer, with the support of Birdlife Australia (WA), will assist you to with information on nesting habitats in your vicinity.

Minimum and maximum funding amounts: Applications for grant funding of between \$1,000 and \$10,000 are being sought.

Note: Applications for funding over \$10,000 may be considered for this priority area on a case by case basis, please discuss with your PHCC NRM officer.

Grant application and funding process

This year’s CEG program opens on 5 June 2020 and applications must be submitted by 4pm on 31 August 2020.

After the close of applications, all applications are assessed by an Independent Assessment Panel according to criteria outlined in Section 12 of these Guidelines. All applicants are notified of the Panel’s decision at the conclusion of the assessment process, anticipated to be in late September 2020. The CEG program is a competitive grants process, and each application is assessed on its merits for access to a limited pool of funds.

The PHCC will offer Funding Agreements to all successful applicants by mid-October. On signing of Funding Agreements, and on receipt of an invoice, the PHCC will provide 50% of the grant to support the commencement of the project. Works to implement funded projects can commence after the signing of Funding Agreements. Agreements will require that all project activities and reporting must be completed by a given date. Upon successful completion of projects, submission of a complete final project report, site visit by a PHCC NRM officer and receipt of an invoice, applicants will be paid the balance of the grant amount owing (final 50% of grant).

Generally, projects must be completed in less than 12 months (see table below). If you have a project proposal which may require more than 12 months, then discuss this with your PHCC project officer.

Important dates

Applications close	4pm, 31 August 2020
Letters of offer to successful grant applicants	mid October
For successful applicants:	
Commencement of project	On signing of Agreement
Deadline for completion of most projects (including fencing, where applicable)	31 May 2021*
Deadline for completion of projects involving planting	15 September 2021*

*Project deadlines will be confirmed with successful applicants as part of Funding Agreements.

Who can apply

These grants are open to community groups, local governments, schools and individuals (private land owners). For the purposes of these grants “community” is defined as individuals or groups (non-paid employees) including environmental groups (e.g. paid practitioners).

Community groups must be incorporated to be eligible to apply for CEG grants. Where groups are not incorporated and/or do not have an ABN they must seek sponsorship from an incorporated group or Local Government. Where individuals apply, they must own the property, or have the written permission of the landowner on whose property works will be undertaken. If your group or organisation is not registered for GST, please discuss this with a PHCC project officer.

NB: State Government agencies are not eligible to apply for CEG funds. However, community groups may apply to undertake works on land vested in State government authorities provided they are working in partnership with the land’s manager.

Activities eligible for funding

It is important that your project proposal focuses on at least one of the priority areas described on page 4 of these Guidelines.

When developing your project please ensure the activities you propose match some or all of the eligible activities listed against that environmental priority and will contribute towards the environmental priority objective.

If the activities you propose are not listed on page 4, and you consider they will address the relevant environmental priority, then please discuss this with a PHCC Officer.

Fencing and access control

Fencing and access control are recognised as key management tools, being a means of protecting native vegetation, controlling stock access, and reducing over-grazing and unauthorised access. In most cases, fencing and controlling stock access works will be eligible for funding. However, there is a presumption against the funding of fencing on a property (cadastral) boundary using CEG grants, as this is generally a landholder’s responsibility.

Exceptions may exist where the Independent Assessment Panel may consider an application for funding of fencing of a property boundary where:

- a. The overall proposal will deliver an exceptional NRM outcome and is of significant public benefit;
- b. The NRM outcome is long-lasting or is guaranteed to be managed into the long-term (e.g. linked to an in-perpetuity conservation covenant); or
- c. Boundary fencing is explicitly supported by the funding body, and a significant NRM outcome of public benefit is to be achieved.

Fencing in proximity to a property boundary may be supported where the proposed fence is to create a shelterbelt or riparian corridor adjacent to a Crown Reserve or Unallocated Crown Land. In these cases, the proposed fence must meet or exceed the Minimum Standards for Fencing and Revegetation (Appendix 2) and

- i. In the case of riparian corridors must be at least 15 metres from the high water mark of the watercourse, or at least 5 m within the landholder’s property, whichever is the greater;
- ii. In the case of a shelterbelt be at least 15 m wide on the applicant’s property.

Weed control

Effective weed control is an important part of many projects, and in many cases will be eligible for CEG funding. However, there is a general presumption against using CEG grants to fund the control of weeds that are required to be controlled under State or Australian Government legislation (e.g. Declared Plants) as this is a landholder's legal responsibility.

Exceptions to this may exist where:

- a. the control of the Declared Plants is incidental to the control of other species, and the Declared Plants are not the primary species targeted by the project;
- b. the control of Declared Plants is a small, but important part of a larger project;
- c. the control of Declared Plants is key to, or permitted by, the funding body from which the project may be supported.
- d. The funding of weed control will support public-private partnership projects.

Please consult your PHCC Officer if you require further information and guidance in regard to weed control components of your project.

Activities not eligible for funding

- Activities that have already been undertaken (retrospective funding).
- Activities that do not have an on-ground emphasis.
- Activities with the potential to adversely impact on any Matter of National Environmental Significance as identified under the EPBC Act or any other locally or regionally important natural assets.
- Activities that involve the planting of species recognised as weeds.
- Activities that involve the planting of species for agroforestry purposes.
- Activities that are considered a statutory responsibility of governments or of private land managers, such as standard boundary fencing, or that are a condition of any kind of development approval (including building licences and subdivision approvals).
- Activities that are required as part of environmental approvals, including management plan conditions or environmental offsetting.
- Activities that are solely for the purpose of beautifying or improving amenity and/or aesthetics.
- The production or purchase of promotional material, equipment, clothing and merchandise.
- Purchase or hire of equipment, materials and major capital items that are normally part of a landholders or organisation's responsibilities, unless it can be demonstrated that it represents value for money and contributes to State or Australian Government priorities.
- Providing bounties for the control of vertebrate pests.
- Business development activities, commercial activities or activities considered to be predominately of private benefit.
- Activities that have already receiving funding or have been funded previously through other State or Australian Government programs where those activities are substantially the same and in the same location.

Assessment of project proposals

Project Applications will be assessed on a competitive basis and submission of an application does not guarantee the project will be funded.

All applications must:

- align with at least one of the Peel-Harvey NRM Strategy priorities (see Binjareb Boodja Landscapes 2025, <https://peel-harvey.org.au/publications/final-nrm-strategy1/>)
- ensure proposed works are technically feasible and will meet or exceed minimum standards (See Appendix 2).

Assessment will be undertaken by an experienced independent technical panel, using the information provided in the application, against the following criteria:

- Extent to which the project protects or improves the environmental priority/natural asset (See Page 4)
- Extent to which the project addresses priority threats to natural assets (or enhances farm productivity, for Greening Farms projects)
- Public-private benefit – extent to which project delivers a sound public benefit (See Section 12 below)
- Relative ecological viability or long-term sustainability of the project area/site
- Value for money – degree to which the project represents value for money
- Is there a site management plan applicable to the project, for example:
 - farm plan
 - Land for Wildlife site assessment
 - Conservation covenant/zoning management plan
 - Threat management plan (e.g. weeds, dieback)
- Applicant or land manager's commitment to ongoing management
- Applicant's capacity to deliver the project including monitoring, evaluation and reporting responsibilities.
- Level of innovation in project, or strategic importance of project (where relevant)
- Partnerships or collective efforts (where relevant).

Your PHCC Officer can provide advice on how you can best demonstrate how your project will meet the above criteria.

Filling out the application form

The following guidance generally follows the order of questions in the CEG Application Form.

1 Project description (Question 1)

This section is for you to provide a summary of your project and 'sell' its merits. It is best to finalise your answer to this question after you have substantially designed and planned your project. The question is in three parts and asks to describe the project activities, project importance, and how the project addresses the 2020-21 CEG priorities. The CEG priorities can be found on pages 4 and 5.

Section 15 of the Application Form asks you to describe your Project Activities in more detail.

2 Site location (Question 2)

Works can only be undertaken on public or private land within the Peel-Harvey Catchment in areas which will address the 2020-21 CEG environmental priorities. You will need to attach a map of your project area, and separate maps for your site(s). A less detailed context map showing where your site is located in the landscape is also very useful to explain how your project may benefit surrounding environments.

3 Applicant details (Question 3)

Where applicable, please complete each section in the Applicant Details of the Application form.

If you (the applicant) are not the landowner or the vesting agency, the written permission of the landholder or vesting agency must accompany your application. This must authorise you to submit the grant and undertake the activities proposed, if successful.

4 Sponsor organisation (applicable to some community groups) (Question 4)

If your group is not incorporated or does not have an ABN you can still apply for these grants, however you will need a sponsor. Any incorporated group can be a sponsor. Local Land Conservation District Committees (LCDC), local government authorities and state government agencies may also act as sponsors. A letter of support from your sponsor must be included in your application that states they agree to act as your sponsor, demonstrates they have read and agreed to the associated responsibilities and outlines their contribution (in-kind or otherwise).

Your sponsor will be responsible for ensuring that you meet obligations set out in the Funding Agreement between the PHCC and the applicant. Ideally Sponsors will provide their support as an in-kind contribution. However, Sponsors may charge an administration fee for their services. This fee will need to be allocated from the standard administration allowance and may be no more than 10% of the project budget, to a maximum of \$900. If your sponsor is charging this fee please show the amount they are charging and what services they will deliver in your Work Plan (Section 16 of the Application Form).

5 Insurances (Question 5)

Successful applicants must maintain sufficient insurance cover throughout the life of the project to cover liability in conducting agreed activities. Insurances include public liability insurance and, where applicable, workers' compensation insurance (where employment is involved), professional indemnity and personal accident

insurance for volunteers (where applicable). Where worker's compensation insurance is not applicable, proof of alternative insurance (personal accident and/or income protection) may be required.

If you don't have these insurances, please discuss this with your PHCC Officer. In these cases, proposals will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the independent assessment panel. For community groups, insurances may be provided through your sponsor organisation or partners.

6 Work health and safety (Question 6)

Successful applicants must be aware of, and comply, with relevant work, health and safety legislation.

7 Partnerships (Question 7)

Projects that work in partnership with other groups such as local government authorities, government agencies, non-government organisations, education institutions and community groups will be considered favourably, especially if these partners contribute resources, cash or in-kind, to the project.

A letter of support from each partner must accompany your application and outline any contributions they have agreed to provide. Contributions can include cash, materials, use of equipment, provision of services and volunteer efforts.

Sponsor organisations can be partners.

Work on public land must be undertaken in partnership with the land manager or vesting agency and a letter of support from that land manager or vesting agency must accompany your application.

8 Consultation and approvals (Question 8)

When undertaking on-ground works, approvals may be required to undertake certain actions. Please establish if your project requires any approvals before applying for funding. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that any approvals and/or permit are identified and have been sought before undertaking on-ground works. These approvals can include:

- Aboriginal sites and Heritage place search - <https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/information-and-services/aboriginal-heritage/aboriginal-heritage-search>
- Dial before you dig - <https://www.1100.com.au/>
- Permit to interfere with the bed and banks along a watercourse
<http://www.licence.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au/BusinessLicenceFinder/prod/licence?licence=8533&council=0>
- Clearing permit - <https://www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/clearing-permits>
- Permits for poisoning e.g. 1080 baiting - <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/1080/baiting-and-poison-permits>

Note: Please ensure you are aware of, and follow up on, any permits or approvals required when undertaking work on your property/landholding.

9 Aboriginal Consultation and Engagement (Question 9)

If your project requires consultation and engagement with the local Noongar Elders and community, please outline the consultation process e.g. who was consulted, why they were consulted and when.

10 Other Persons or organisations consulted (Question 10)

If your project requires consultation and engagement with other persons or organisations, please outline the consultation process e.g. who was consulted, why they were consulted and when.

11 Other funding (Question 11)

If you have applied for, or received funding through another organisation for your proposed project, or elements of the proposed project please include the name of the grant and other details including the amount of funding applied for and element of the project.

12 Alignment with other plans (Question 12)

Please outline if the project activities are aligned with a site or farm plan or any other plan that you are aware of that is associated with the activities or outcomes relating to the application.

Wherever possible works should be planned in accordance with a regional or local management plan, threatened species or ecological community recovery plan, farm plan, Land for Wildlife site assessment or similar.

Private landholders without a management plan are encouraged to speak to your PHCC Officer about opportunities to receive assistance with site assessments that help prioritise on-ground works, such as a Land for Wildlife site assessment.

13 Risk management (Question 13)

A risk management plan is developed to ensure levels of risk and uncertainty are properly managed so that the project is completed successfully. A risk may be the inability to complete the project within the allocated timeframe, you would then evaluate if the risk is high or low and then describe what you will do to mitigate that risk. For example:

Risk/Threat Description: Describe the threat/risk, its sources and impacts <i>e.g. Inability to complete the project within the timeframe</i>	Is the Risk High or Low <i>e.g. Low</i>	Describe what you will do to mitigate the threat/risks <i>e.g. Planning is in place to ensure time is allocated to complete the fencing and schedule in with current farm plans.</i>
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14 Future management (Question 14)

To ensure the asset has been maintained for the long term it is expected that the applicant will commit to the management of the project for a minimum period of 10 years.

The Application must provide information as to how the project will be managed and who will fund the maintenance of the project into the future

15 Budgets (Question 16)

When completing the budget, please ensure you attach quotes for each of the materials for which you are seeking funding.

In terms of fencing, the CEG program provides a **standard grant towards the cost of fencing. In the 2020-21 CEG program this is \$3,800 per kilometre**, and must be reflected in your project budget. These funds contribute towards the purchase of fencing materials, including gates.

16 Co-contributions (financial and in-kind) (Question 16)

Financial and in-kind contributions from applicants and partners generally make a significant contribution to the full cost of delivering a project and add value to the public funds invested. Co-contributions are cash or other grants or commitment to in-kind contributions. Co-contributions form part of the “value for money” project assessment criteria and will be considered favourably. If there is greater public benefit, the co-contribution may be less.

In-kind co-contributors can include the time spent by individuals towards delivering the project, including partners, other groups, government agencies, businesses, landholders, regional NRM groups and other grants. Time spent developing the application cannot be included.

Some examples of in-kind contributions are:

- Adult volunteer assistance accounted at a rate of \$250 per day or \$30 per hour per person
- School children volunteer assistance accounted at a rate of \$15 per hour per child
- Free provision of materials (e.g. fencing materials, chemical, baits)
- Free use of specialised equipment and the services of its operator (account for at operator’s standard commercial rates)
- Free professional and expert services (account for at operator’s standard commercial rates)

In terms of calculating the in-kind contribution attached to the erection of fences/gates, a standard rate of \$3,500 per kilometre of fence erected can be claimed.

Generally, co-contributions should contribute towards 50% or more of the total project budget. If matching contributions cannot be identified please let us know why in the ‘funding requested’ Section 17a of the Application form.

17 Administration allowance (Question 16)

Community groups and sponsor organisations (where applicable) may request an additional 10% of the on-ground funding sought to cover administrative costs such as:

- Cost of project coordination.
- General office costs incurred in running the project including phone, internet and printing (this must be suitably apportioned against the general running costs of the organisation).
- Costs associated with the use a sponsor, if not in-kind.

For example, if the on-ground funds requested from the grant is \$1,800, the applicant may request an additional \$180 for administrative costs.

This administration allowance does not require justification in the application form unless it is an administration fee charged by a sponsor. If your sponsor is charging a fee please show the amount they are charging and what services they will deliver in the ‘funding requested’ section of the application form.

18 Consultants and contractors (Question 16)

Grant funding can be used to engage consultants and contractors for specialist services that the landholder or group doesn't have the capacity to undertake, on a case-by-case basis. In compiling your application you will need to obtain quotes for these services and provide the details of these quotes in the application.

These activities are not classed as salaries or employment and so may be funded out of the general project budget.

19 Assets (Question 16)

Applicants will need to discuss with the PHCC any potential asset purchases as part of their submission, except in the case of fencing or other on-ground assets that have a value of \$5000 or greater and are key to achieving the environmental priority objectives.

For the purpose of these Community Environment Grants, an *“Asset is any item of tangible property, including software, purchased or leased either wholly or in part with the use of the Funds and/or additional contributions with a value at the time of acquisition of \$5,000 or more, excluding GST”*.

20 Project monitoring and reporting (Question 17b)

Monitoring and reporting is a requirement of all projects. Monitoring is undertaken to assess project performance and to gather information that can make future projects more effective. Proponents must provide monitoring and evaluation information relevant to project activities, with a minimum of, but not limited to:

- Photo monitoring in digital format.
- Mapping and GIS data, preferably in a digital format.

Taking photos at different stages in your project's implementation can be very rewarding, with use of photo-monitoring points being strongly encouraged. PHCC NRM officer support may be available to undertake mapping and collection of GIS data as part of your project.

The main reporting requirement will be the completion of a Final Report and Acquittal Statement using a template provided by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council. The Report records final project outcomes, evidence of works, learnings, any future project opportunities and any other feedback to the PHCC. The Acquittal Statement provides a record of income and expenditure for the project and must be signed by an authorised representative of the grant recipient confirming that the detail in the Statement:

- Is correct and in accordance with the accounts of the individual/organisation grant recipient.
- The expenditure was incurred only for the purpose of the contracted activity.

The Final Report and Acquittal Statement can be completed once all on-ground works have been undertaken and a final site inspection has been arranged with a PHCC Officer.

21 Public and private benefit (Question 18)

Work on private land must demonstrate a public benefit and/or private contribution.

Public benefits on private land may include:

- Removal of threats and threatening processes e.g. weed control, feral animal control, disease management.

- Improved condition of an area or an asset, such as vegetation condition.
- Increase in the value of the natural resource, species, waterway or community affected by the change e.g. improved water quality, increase in habitat extent, improvement in habitat value, reduction of threats and threatening processes to a species and/or community.
- Reduction in degradation of an environmental asset such as bushland, waterways, farmland.

22 Minimum standards

All projects will need to meet or exceed the standards of on-ground works attached to these Guidelines in Appendix 1: Minimum Standards for fencing and revegetation. Please include these Standards in the design of your project. The Funding Agreement between PHCC and each successful applicant will require you to meet or exceed these Standards.

APPENDIX 1: Minimum Standards for fencing and revegetation

In applying for funding, landowners and managers must agree to undertake works in accordance with the following Minimum Standards for the Peel-Harvey Catchment. Note that these are minimum standards and some local conditions may warrant higher specification works.

FENCING MINIMUM STANDARDS

Funding granted for fencing is at a set rate per kilometre as per the Community Environmental Grant Guidelines to contribute to the purchase of new materials. Any fence is required to be constructed in accordance with local laws/best practice in your relevant local government area. These fencing standards are designed for stock control. Consult with your PHCC NRM Officer where fences are required for other purposes.

Ringlock – stock proof ringlock to 7 strands with galstar posts at approximately 7 to 8m spacing. A top plain wire may be required to make it 7 strands depending on the ringlock. Note: A top barb wire is required for cattle fencing.

Plain wire – 7 strands, with galstar posts at approximately 7 to 8m spacing.

- Where fencing is undertaken along a waterway, the fence must be placed at a minimum distance of 15m from the high water mark on that bank. If the waterway runs through the property, both sides of the waterway must be fenced.
- If a contractor is used to install the fence, the landholder is required to oversee any works undertaken by the contractor to ensure that the proposed works are undertaken in accordance with the Project Application & Minimum Standards.
- Fencing of native vegetation refers to remnants patches that contain some understorey and is of an appropriate size and has the potential to create links in the landscape.

Note: Any requested variation to these standards must be submitted with the Application Form for assessment.

REVEGETATION MINIMUM STANDARDS

SITE DESIGN AND SET-UP

- Shelter belts are to be a minimum width of 15m.
- When undertaking revegetation within the riparian zone, the vegetation buffer on each bank must be at least 15m wide. Recommended width is 30m. Preference will be given to wider riparian zones.
- Revegetation sites on private land must be fenced to exclude stock.

TUBESTOCK PLANTING

Site Preparation

- Site preparation, such as ripping, and/or mounding, should be undertaken when the site is dry.
- Site preparation should be undertaken once stock have been removed.
- Weeds **must** be sprayed before planting takes place and weed must be effectively controlled up to the time of planting. Where couch and/or kikuyu are present, at least two applications of herbicide are

REVEGETATION MINIMUM STANDARDS

recommended. Applications of a knockdown herbicide and a pre-emergent herbicide have given the best results, allowing sufficient time for chemical breakdown so as not to reduce native species growing success.

Tubestock and planting

- All seedlings must be locally indigenous to the area.
- Seedlings are to be selected and planted according to soil type and topography.
- Composition of seedlings to be a minimum of 60% shrubs and to include a diversity of species, except where this may not reflect naturally occurring vegetation communities on the site.
- Minimum planting density of 1,500 seedlings per ha (in areas where there is no vegetation). Where prior plantings and/or natural vegetation is occurring the number of seedlings is to be discussed with your PHCC NRM Officer.
- There is to be a maximum spacing of 3m between planting rows.
- Upper storey seedlings to be planted at a maximum space of 3m apart. Smaller shrubs and ground covers to be planted at a maximum space of 1m apart. Tree guards should be used where rabbits and kangaroos are likely to graze within the revegetation area.

DIRECT SEEDING

Site Preparation

- Site preparation, such as ripping, mounding, and/or scarification should be planned and undertaken to create optimal soil conditions for seed germination and seedling establishment (e.g. when the site is dry or sufficiently moist, but not saturated).
- Site preparation should be undertaken once stock have been removed.
- Weeds **must** be effectively controlled as part of site preparation through to the timing of seed broadcast. Effective weed control methods include use of herbicide and topsoil scalping. Where couch and/or kikuyu are present, at least two applications of herbicide are recommended. Applications of a knockdown herbicide and a pre-emergent herbicide have given the best results, allowing sufficient time for chemical breakdown so as not to reduce native species seed germination rates.

Seed mixes and seeding

- Revegetation sites on private land must be fenced to exclude stock as required to enable establishment and maintenance of revegetation.
- All seed must be of species indigenous to the area, with preference for local provenance seed. Where revegetation is establishing an area of mixed native species fodder, non-local Australian native species may be considered. Please discuss with PHCC NRM Officer.
- Use of seed of known provenance and quality from an accredited seed collector/supplier is strongly encouraged.
- Seed mixes are to be prepared and distributed according to soil type and topography.
- Composition of seed species to be a minimum of 60% shrubs and to include a minimum of 20 species in most settings. Minimum seeding density is to be at least equivalent to 1,500 stems per ha (in areas where there is no vegetation). Where prior plantings and/or natural vegetation is occurring the seeding composition and rates are to be discussed with the PHCC NRM Officer.
- Revegetation areas are to be free of weeds and vegetative material prior to broadcast of seed.

SITE MAINTENANCE

The landholder is responsible for all aftercare and maintenance of the project site(s).

If the Application for funds is successful the land owner/manager agrees that:

- Fencing will remain in place in perpetuity to meet these Minimum Standards.
- Pest animals and weeds within the fenced area will be controlled.
- Stock will be excluded from the revegetation site in the first three years to enable plant establishment, and thereafter only introduced for limited (crash-graze) periods to reduce fuel loads and weed growth at an appropriate time using best management practices (i.e. before grasses set seed, limited to approximately two days). These methods will allow for the natural regeneration of native vegetation and will ensure that revegetation is not compromised.
- Chemical (i.e. grass selective herbicide) and other weed control methods may be used in the first three years of revegetation establishment to reduce fuel loads. Please discuss this during the application phase with a PHCC NRM Officer.
- Alternative stock management practices can be discussed with PHCC Officers where revegetation is establishing an area of mixed native species fodder.

Note: Requested variation to these standards must be submitted, with the Application form, for assessment.