



Peel-Harvey Community Environment Grants
(incorporating Sustainable Agriculture projects)
2021-22

Hotham-Williams Subcatchment

Guidelines

These Guidelines cover all 2021-22 Community Environment Grant opportunities for the Hotham-Williams Subcatchment of the Peel-Harvey Catchment

Applications close 5pm on 31 August 2021



This project is supported by Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Environmental Restoration Fund.

Peel-Harvey Community Environment Grants

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) Natural Resource Management (NRM) Strategy. The NRM Strategy is a key document guiding all community-based natural resource management in the Peel-Harvey Catchment.

Under our Regional Strategy, the CEG program is currently targeting projects which protect, manage or improve the following priorities in the Hotham-Williams Subcatchment:

- **On-farm native vegetation, native fodder and wildlife habitats** which lead to benefits for on-farm productivity, biodiversity and/or soil health;
- **Protection and/or enhancement of habitat of Numbats as well as Woylies, Chuditch, Malleefowl, Red-tailed Phascogale and Matchstick Banksia;** and
- **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. In most cases, a PHCC Officer will arrange a site visit with you to your property or site to discuss your project ideas, ensure they are in accordance with these guidelines and provide advice on how to complete the Application Form.

You can contact the PHCC via:

- **Phone (08) 6369 8801**
- **Email: grants@peel-harvey.org.au**

The 2021-22 CEG grants for the Hotham-Williams subcatchment are funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Environmental Restoration Fund.

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/resources/phcc-publications>

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Funding priorities 2021-22

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 30 April 2022. Where projects include planting, the planting must be completed by 15 Sept 2022 unless otherwise approved by PHCC.

Priority: Greening farms for farming, fodder and fauna: 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 native 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. Projects outside these amounts *may* be considered on their merits. Note: there is a limited total pool of funding available for allocation.

Priority: The Numbat Neighbourhood Project: 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 20km 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: there is a limited total pool of funding available for allocation.

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.

Priority: The Black Cockatoo Project: 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 Peel-Harvey region.
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 Peel-Harvey Catchment and must concentrate on activities that remove threats, and maintain, protect and/or enhance habitat of Black Cockatoos. Eligible on-ground works must be within 12 km of Black Cockatoo nesting sites, and preferably within 6km. Your PHCC NRM Officer, with the support of Birdlife Australia (WA), will assist you to with information on nesting habitats in your vicinity.

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.
- Establishment of voluntary habitat protection agreements (e.g. Land for Wildlife).

Minimum and maximum funding amounts: Applications for grant funding of between \$1,000 and \$10,000 are sought. Projects outside these amounts *may* be considered on their merits. Note: there is a limited total pool of funding available for allocation.

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 Officer.

Grant application and funding process

This year's CEG program's Expressions of Interest (EOI) process is open 1st to 30th July 2021. EOIs which met the requirements of these guidelines will be invited to submit an application for funding.

Applications will be open from 2nd to 31st August 2021. Completed applications are due 31st August 2021 5pm.

After the close of applications, all applications are assessed by an Independent Assessment Panel according to funding priorities objectives through a specific selection criteria process. All applicants are notified of the Panel's decision at the conclusion of the assessment process, anticipated to be in late September 2021. 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 only commence after the signing of the Funding Agreement. Agreements will require that all project activities and reporting must be completed by a given date.

Upon successful completion of projects and/or project milestone provided all criteria are met as set out in the Funding Agreement and in accordance with the PHCC Minimum Standards for Fencing and Revegetation (Appendix 1), the applicants will be paid the balance of the grant amount owing (i.e. final 50% of grant) following a site visit by a PHCC NRM officer and on receipt of:

- A completed and signed final project report and acquittal statement;
- An Invoice and relevant receipts; and
- Photo evidence and GPS monitoring of the project.

Where there are more than two milestone dates for a project (i.e. fencing and revegetation) a progress report and site visit will be completed for each milestone and the relevant payment made as per the agreement.

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. There may be opportunity for projects to be delivered over two years dependent on the outcomes to be achieved.

Important dates

Applications close	5pm, 31 August 2021
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)	30 April 2022*
Deadline for completion of projects involving planting	15 September 2022*

*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 (farm businesses/private land owners). For the purposes of these grants “community” is defined as individuals or groups (non-paid employees) including environmental groups (e.g. groups who employ 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 such as a Land Conservation District Committees (LCDC) or Local Government. Where individuals/businesses 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, this does not preclude applying.

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 (Note: this is not applicable for the Black Cockatoo Project).

Activities eligible for funding

It is important that your project proposal focuses on at least one of the priority areas described on page 4 and 5 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 5, and you consider they will address the relevant environmental priority, then please discuss this with a PHCC Officer.

Quotes are required for each of the materials for which you are seeking funding.

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 to protect vegetation and/or waterways or to control stock access will be eligible for funding. However, there

is a presumption against the funding of fencing on a property (cadastral) boundaries 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 on 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 1), and

- i. In the case of riparian land, 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, it must be at least 15 m wide on the applicant's property.

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

The CEG program provides **a standard grant towards the cost of fencing. In the 2021-22 CEG program this is \$3,800 (exc GST) per kilometre for the Hotham-Williams Subcatchment**, and must be reflected in your project budget. These funds contribute towards the purchase of fencing materials, including gates.

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 Local, 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 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, with a comparative contribution from all partners.

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

Revegetation

The CEG program provides a standard grant towards the cost of seedlings. In the 2021-22 CEG program this is:

- **65c per seeding – cell trays**
- **\$2 per seedling – forestry tubes (approx. 125mm)**

These costs must be reflected in your project budget. A justification for the PHCC grant to fund more than these standard rates must be included in the application form.

Activities not eligible for funding

- Activities that have already been undertaken or commenced (there is no 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 locally 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 landholder's 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 received 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 1).

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.
- Extent to which the project addresses priority threats to natural assets.
- Extent to which the project contributes to adoption of land management practices that improve the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation (for Greening Farms projects).
- Public-private benefit – extent to which project delivers a sound public benefit.
- 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.

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. Please include these Standards in the design of your project. Note that these are minimum standards and some local conditions may warrant higher specification works. The Funding Agreement between PHCC and each successful applicant will require you to meet or exceed these Standards.

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 galvanised star-picket posts at approximately 7 to 8m spacing. A top wire may be required to make it 7 strands depending on the ringlock.

Plain wire – 7 strands, with galvanised star-picket 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 from the high water mark. Required width is 30m minimum. Preference will be given to wider riparian zones.
- Revegetation sites on private land must be fenced to exclude stock, whether or not stock is currently being run on the property.

TUBESTOCK PLANTING

Site Preparation

- Site preparation should be undertaken once stock have been permanently removed.

REVEGETATION MINIMUM STANDARDS

- Site preparation, such as ripping, and/or mounding, and/or scarification is required and should be 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).
- Ripping depths of up to 200-500mm below the soil surface can improve the growth of seedlings and should be done when the soil is dry.
- Mounding is recommended on soils which are prone to water logging. The topsoil in the mound is beneficial for plant survival.
- Site preparation should be undertaken once stock have been removed.
- Weeds **must** be sprayed before planting takes place and weeds must be effectively controlled up to the time of planting. 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 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 should be undertaken once stock have been permanently removed.
- 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).
- 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 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.

REVEGETATION MINIMUM STANDARDS

- 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.
- Where possible the laying of brushing is recommended to reduce seed being eaten by birds.

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 during 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 planting is establishing an area of mixed native species fodder.
- 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.

Your PHCC NRM Officer can provide additional advice to these standards as required based on your project site conditions.

Note: Any proposed variation to these standards must be submitted with the Application form for assessment and approval.