



Environmental Revegetation and Rehabilitation Fund - frequently asked questions

General enquiries

What is the Green Jobs Plan?

The Green Jobs Plan is an initiative of the Government of Western Australia under the [WA Recovery Plan](#) for the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this, \$60.3 million will be invested by the State Government during the next three years. The Green Jobs Plan aims to support projects that protect our environment and create more than 1,000 conservation jobs across the state.

What are the programs under the Green Jobs Plan?

Programs under the Green Jobs Plan include:

- \$15 million to set up a Native Vegetation Rehabilitation Scheme (Department of Water and Environmental Regulation [DWER])
- \$8 million for the Offsets Funds for Recovery program (DWER)
- \$2 million to extend the current fauna fencing around Whiteman Park, and the electrified feral animal exclusion fence around the Woodland Conservation Reserve inside Whiteman Park (Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage)
- \$5 million to enhance roadside vegetation corridors, widen road reserves and replant vegetation through the Wheatbelt (Main Roads WA)
- \$3.3 million from the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund available to Aboriginal and conservation groups to undertake conservation work in the Pilbara (DWER)
- \$2 million to enhance foreshore protection measures in the Swan and Canning River systems (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions)
- \$25 million for the Healthy Estuaries WA program to continue working with the community to improve the condition of at-risk regional estuaries in the south-west (DWER).

What is the Offsets Funds for Recovery program?

Over three years (2020/21 to 2022/23), DWER will administer \$8 million in funds from the [Native Vegetation Offsets Fund](#) (in combination with up to \$15 million in new funds from the Native Vegetation Rehabilitation Scheme) to target restoration of biodiversity values impacted by past clearing. On-ground works like fencing, weeding, seeding and planting will create employment opportunities while achieving revegetation, rehabilitation, habitat restoration and protection of existing vegetation. Expenditure of these funds is constrained to localities where clearing has been

authorised in the past and properties where target environmental values can be re-established.

What is the Native Vegetation Rehabilitation Scheme?

The Native Vegetation Rehabilitation Scheme program has a budget of \$15 million over three years to establish native vegetation, with less constraints than the Offsets Funds for Recovery program. To complement the broad outcomes identified in State Recovery Plan implementation, funds from the program will be designed and delivered with a focus on young people, women, Aboriginal people, unemployed people, and the regions of the state that have been most impacted by COVID-19. The program will also be structured to assist with the development of the 'restoration economy', building in training pathways and opportunities to increase capability within new social enterprises.

What is the Environmental Revegetation and Rehabilitation Fund?

The Environmental Revegetation and Rehabilitation Fund (ERRF) was launched in July 2020 by DWER to help deliver the Offsets Funds for Recovery and Native Vegetation Rehabilitation Scheme programs. The scope of what is able to be funded from the ERRF is guided by the principles in the [State](#) and [Australian Government](#) environmental offset policies, and the [WA Recovery Plan](#).

Have co-benefits with carbon farming been explored?

The legal aspects of overlaying covenants for different purposes, and approaches to ensure carbon plantings and biodiverse plantings are physically separate, are yet to be clarified.

Can I claim carbon credits on revegetation funded by the ERRF?

No. If the revegetation is funded wholly or partly by the Offsets Funds for Recovery program, carbon credits cannot be claimed. This is because of the regulatory additionality requirement under the Emissions Reduction Fund which is intended to ensure that projects to reduce emissions or sequester carbon do not receive Australia Carbon Credit Units if those activities are already required by law. Further information is available on the [Clean Energy Regulator](#) website.

Do I need to demonstrate security of tenure for the project site?

Yes. This can be achieved through the registration of a conservation covenant on the title of freehold land, the changing of a reserve's purpose to include conservation, or ceding the land to the conservation estate.

Noting that each of these processes can take several months, demonstration of a commitment can be provided by way of a letter from the organisation with which you have initiated the conservation covenant, a letter from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage supporting the change in reserve purpose, or a letter from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions supporting the ceding and ongoing management.

Project applicants

Am I eligible to apply for a grant?

You are eligible to apply for an ERRF grant if you are one of:

- an incorporated, not-for-profit organisation within the jurisdiction of the state of Western Australia that has a registered ABN, including a:
 - Landcare group
 - land conservation district committee
 - ‘friends of’ group
 - regional NRM group
 - community resource centre
 - residents and ratepayers associations
- a Corporations Act company
- a partnership
- a trust
- an Aboriginal community organisation, including Registered Native Title Bodies Corporates
- a government-related entity (excluding federal agencies subject to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*), including local government authorities
- an unincorporated organisation or community group applying through the auspice of an incorporated body or a local government authority that has an ABN.

What types of project/activities can I apply for?

Eligible projects include those that:

- occur wholly or partly within broad offset project areas (refer to Appendix A in the [ERRF grants guidelines for applicants](#) for more information)
- demonstrate tangible benefits for vegetation
- align with State and Australian Government environmental offset policies, and are:
 - relevant and proportionate
 - cost-effective
 - strategic and landscape scale
 - enduring and secure in the longer term
 - additional to activities that are already required under legislation
- have in-principle support from parties with rights and interests to land

- have a strategy to secure longevity for offset outcomes (e.g. ceding land to conservation estate, adding 'conservation' as a purpose to reserve vesting, registering a conservation covenant over the land).

Eligible activities must directly relate to the delivery of an on-ground project and include:

- purchase of materials (e.g. seedlings, fencing)
- labour and training (job creation for vulnerable communities)
- plant and equipment hire (e.g. seed collection/storage equipment; hired equipment for site preparation)
- external consulting costs directly related to the delivery of the project
- project management that relates directly to on-ground project delivery
- survey, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Examples of some types of eligible project activities include seed collection, revegetation, fencing of remnant vegetation, rehabilitation within areas of degraded remnant vegetation to manage threats and improve habitat value, and installing nest boxes.

How do I apply for a grant?

The ERRF open funding round will be available on DWER's [SmartyGrants](#) platform. Applicants will need to complete an application form and other documents as indicated (guidance on how to apply through the SmartyGrants platform is included).

What are the focus areas for funding?

Projects that contribute to DWER's environmental offsets requirements and create employment will be given highest priority. This includes projects within the ERRF priority areas for investment, which currently include the Peel, Wheatbelt and Great Southern Regional Development Commission regions, the broad Offset Project areas and local government areas with 15–40 per cent remnant vegetation cover. Refer to Appendix A in the [ERRF grants guidelines for applicants](#) for more information.

Is GST excluded from the funding amount?

Yes. DWER will cover the GST component of projects receiving the ERRF grants.

Are wages for trainees and workforce included in the funding amount?

Yes. The costs associated with employing people in accordance with the objectives of the Green Jobs Plan are eligible for funding.

Can people on JobSeeker and TAFE students form part of a workforce?

Yes. DWER supports utilising unemployed JobSeeker recipients and TAFE students, as well as people within under-represented sectors, for projects funded under DWER's Green Jobs programs.

What opportunities are there for the development of a devolved grant model?

While devolved grant models certainly have their benefits, because of the limited funding available the ERRF open funding round is designed for individual applicants with individual projects rather than consortia or lead delivery partner approaches.

Can I apply specifically for Native Vegetation Rehabilitation Scheme funding?

No. The delivery of funding from the Offsets Funds for Recovery and Native Vegetation Rehabilitation Scheme programs is through the ERRF open funding round, which will be available on DWER's [SmartyGrants](#) platform.

Project activities

Will I need to prepare a revegetation plan?

Yes. Projects involving revegetation must include a revegetation plan prepared in line with DWER's [Guide to Preparing Revegetation Plans](#) (a checklist is provided in Appendix A of that document).

Will I need a seed collection licence?

Likely. Seed collection on many types of land tenure is regulated under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Contact the [Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions](#) for further information. Evidence of required approvals should be provided with your grant application.

What is the position on local provenance?

Local provenance is defined in DWER's [Guide to Preparing Revegetation Plans](#) to mean 'native vegetation, seeds and propagating material from natural sources geographically similar and within as close proximity as practicably possible. Local provenance in higher diversity bioregions, such as the Swan Coastal Plain, can be within less than 50 kilometres, while in areas with homogenous diversity, such as the Central Kimberley, it may be within 200 kilometres.'