



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Water and Environmental Regulation**



Local Government Grant Program Funding Guidelines

Round 2

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we live and work throughout Western Australia and we pay our respects to Elders past and present. The department recognises the practice of intergenerational care for Country and its relevance to our work and working with the community. The department continues to move forward with a shared commitment to protect and conserve Country for our future generations.

Grant program details

Applications open	Week of 25 May 2026
Information session	Week of 15 June 2026
Applications close	Friday 3 July 2026
Local governments advised on outcome of application	Week of 31 August 2026
WA Government Agency	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Enquiries	treerecovery@dwer.wa.gov.au



Introduction

The State Government is committed to increasing Perth's tree canopy to 30 per cent by 2040. The [Urban Greening Strategy](#) (Strategy) for Whadjuk (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel) outlines commitments to combat urban heat, strengthen climate resilience, support community health and wellbeing, and enhance biodiversity and access to nature.

The Strategy is supported by practical actions and initiatives in the [Let's Grow Action Plan 2026 2030](#), including the WA Tree Recovery Local Government Grant Program (Grant Program) delivered by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the department). The Grant Program funds local governments to replant trees impacted by the polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB), increasing overall tree canopy cover and native biodiversity, and reducing the impact of further PSHB spread. The first round of the Grant Program awarded almost \$1 million in funding, with more than 2,700 new trees planted across 20 local governments.

Objectives

The objectives of the Grant Program are to:



contribute toward future-proofing Perth's urban tree canopy



promote positive urban biodiversity outcomes



promote a positive attitude towards urban greening



reduce the financial impact on local governments that are:

- replacing trees removed due to Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) infestation
- undertaking planting projects to futureproof against potential canopy loss as a result of PSHB.

Program design

Round 2 of the Grant Program includes two funding streams:

Stream 1 – Tree replacement funding: to replace trees that have been removed due to PSHB infestation.

Stream 2 – Futureproof funding: for proactive planting projects to build canopy.

Local governments that applied for funding in Round 1 can apply for funding in Round 2 for new planting projects.

Stream 1 – Tree replacement funding

Tree replacement funding is available to support local governments replacing trees removed due to PSHB and improve long-term canopy cover. Applicants should note that:

- funding is limited to local governments with trees removed due to PSHB
- funding is not available for trees that were funded for replacement planting in Round 1
- \$1,500 is available for each tree removed due to PSHB to replant 3 trees for every tree removed.
- at least one tree, must be planted for each \$500 of funding and these trees must reach at least 3 metres in height at maturity
- funds can also be used to cover [eligible items and services](#)
- funds can be used for multiple planting projects
- replacement trees do not need to be planted at the removal site
- planting projects may commence following acceptance of an offer of funding and must be completed by 31 August 2028
- additional supplementary funding of up to \$10,000 is available for each eligible planting project.

Eligibility criteria for Stream 1 funding:

- Applicants must be a local government recognised in the *Local Government Act 1995*.
- Applicants must be located in the [PSHB Quarantine Area](#) managed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).
- Grant Program planting must be separate to re-vegetation works required under statutory or legislative planning frameworks (e.g. clearing permit, offsets, vegetation conservation notices or equivalent).
- Stream 1 funding is limited to local governments with trees removed due to PSHB tree infestation.

Stream 2 – Futureproof funding

Funding is available for proactive planting projects that build additional canopy cover to:

- futureproof for trees impacted by PSHB that are being managed, and/or
- futureproof against potential PSHB infestation and canopy loss.

Applicants should note that:

- funds of up to \$100,000 are available per project to plant new trees within the local government area
- local governments may apply for multiple planting projects
- local governments that have applied for Stream 1 funding are also eligible to apply for Stream 2
- at least one tree, must be planted per \$500 of funding and these trees must reach at least 3 metres in height at maturity
- funds can also be used to cover [eligible items and services](#)
- planting projects may commence following acceptance of an offer of funding and must be completed by 31 August 2028
- additional supplementary funding of up to \$10,000 is available for each eligible planting project.

Eligibility criteria for Stream 2:

- Applicants must be a local government recognised in the *Local Government Act 1995*.
- Applicants must be located in the [PSHB Quarantine Area](#) managed by the DPIRD.
- Grant Program planting must be separate to re-vegetation works required under statutory or legislative planning frameworks (e.g. clearing permit, offsets, vegetation conservation notices or equivalent).

Supplementary funding

Up to \$10,000 supplementary funding is available to cover additional costs of more difficult planting projects for all planting projects applied for in Streams 1 and 2.

Examples of eligible projects include those:

- in hardscaped environments (e.g. central business districts and piazzas)
- that require traffic management
- that require larger tree stock (e.g. greater than 35L).

Summary of funding streams

Funding stream	Eligibility	Funding purpose	Funding amount
Stream 1 – Tree replacement funding	Local governments in the quarantine area with trees removed due to PSHB	Replace trees that have been removed due to PSHB	\$1,500 per tree removed due to PSHB, to plant a minimum of 3 replacement trees.
Stream 2 – Futureproof funding	Local governments in the quarantine area: • managing PSHB-impacted trees - and/or • futureproofing against potential PSHB infestation and canopy loss	Support proactive planting projects that build canopy to futureproof against potential PSHB loss	Up to \$100,000 per planting project to futureproof urban canopy against PSHB loss, with one tree planted per \$500 of funding.
Supplementary funding	Planting projects with higher costs in Streams 1 and 2	Cover additional costs of more difficult planting projects	Up to \$10,000 per planting project

Local governments within the Quarantine Area

The following local governments are located within the PSHB Quarantine Area and therefore eligible to apply for funding, subject to meeting the specific eligibility requirements for each funding stream.

City of Armadale	City of Kalamunda	City of Subiaco	Town of Bassendean
City of Bayswater	City of Kwinana	City of Swan	Town of Cambridge
City of Belmont	City of Melville	City of Vincent	Town of Claremont
City of Canning	City of Nedlands	City of Wanneroo	Town of Cottesloe
City of Cockburn	City of Perth	Shire of Mundaring	Town of East Fremantle
City of Fremantle	City of South Perth	Shire of Murray	Town of Mosman Park
City of Gosnells	City of Rockingham	Shire of Peppermint Grove	Town of Victoria Park
City of Joondalup	City of Stirling	Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	

Approved use of funds – eligible items and services

In addition to purchasing suitable tree stock, funding can be used for the following eligible items and services:

- understory plants (includes the use of tubestock)
- contracted labour (e.g. for planting and site preparation)
- structural soil cells
- soil improver
- fertiliser
- mulch
- tree stakes
- tree guards
- tree ties
- soil wetting agent
- deep root watering bowls (e.g. green wells)
- site preparation to remove non-growth mediums (e.g. bitumen, concrete or turf)
- earthworks to install tree pits or structural soil cells
- traffic management or temporary fencing
- truck or manual watering for the first year (note the grant program does not provide for ongoing watering and maintenance).

Non-approved use of funds

The following items and activities are not eligible for funding under the Grant Program:

- planting projects that don't include trees that grow to more than 3m in height at maturity
- removal of trees
- tree pruning and chemical treatment
- PSHB monitoring and surveillance
- costs incurred before the funding agreement is signed
- purchase of seeds for planting
- purchase of understory plants when no canopy trees are proposed for planting
- funding of staff positions or salaries
- urban forest strategy development
- permanent irrigation systems
- tree planting equipment
- underground service location/relocation.

Assessment criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria.

Assessment criteria I – Future-proofing urban canopy

Non-approved tree species

Planting projects **must not include**:

- Introduced and Australian Native Species identified by DPIRD as [reproductive host species with very high and extreme susceptibility to PSHB](#)^{**}:
 - Poinciana (*Delonix regia*)
 - Common fig (*Ficus carica*)
 - Chinese hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*)
 - White mulberry (*Morus alba*)
 - London Plane tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*)
 - Castor oil (*Ricinus communis*)
 - Chinese Wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*)
 - River sheoak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*)
 - Moreton Bay fig (*Ficus macrophylla*)
 - Port Jackson fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*)
 - Wedding bush (*Ricinocarpos pinifolius*)
 - Box elder maple (*Acer negundo*)
 - Coral tree (*Erythrina x sykesii*)
 - Robinia, black locust, mop top (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
- declared pests listed under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) and on the [Western Australian Organism List](#) (WAOL)
- species listed as [Weeds of National Significance](#) (WoNS).

^{**}Planting projects that include the above species will not be eligible for funding under the Grant Program.

NOTE: Western Australian Native species Swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*) and sea hibiscus/cottonwood (*Talipariti tiliaceum* - syn. *Hibiscus tiliaceus*) remain eligible species for funding.

Proposed location

Planting projects can be undertaken in any location within the local government area that is suitable for tree planting. These could include areas that benefit the community, are low in canopy cover, or will have other positive greening outcomes. Local governments will be required to describe the site and its benefits as part of a project overview in the application.

Tree uplift

Projects must plant a minimum of one tree per \$500 of funding in Streams 1 and 2, inclusive of eligible items and services. Where applicable, a minimum of three trees should be planted for every tree managed or removed due to PSHB.

Incorporate new planting into existing maintenance program

To enhance tree survival rates and achieve maintenance cost efficiencies, applicants must declare that new plantings will be integrated into existing maintenance programs such as watering, pruning or safety audits.

Use of waterwise tree species

Local governments are encouraged to plant a majority of waterwise tree and understory species and consider water sensitive urban design. The Water Corporation provides a directory to assist with the selection of waterwise trees. This directory should be consulted in planting project design.

Assessment criteria 2 – Positive biodiversity outcomes

Local governments should demonstrate that their planting projects contribute to the planting of Western Australian native tree and understory species to support local biodiversity.

Western Australian natives

Projects should prioritise using local Western Australian native species that are associated with the area's soil complex. Local native trees are well-adapted to Perth's climate, making them more water-efficient than exotic species. They are also better adapted to local soils and diseases, enhancing long-term ecosystem resilience.

Many Western Australian native plants support urban biodiversity by providing essential food and shelter for local birds, insects and other wildlife.

Justification must be provided if proposing the use of non-Western Australian or exotic tree species in a specific planting context.

Diversity

Projects should aim to plant a diverse selection of tree and understory species. Diversity enhances the resilience of vegetation to pests and diseases, reducing the risk of losing tree clusters to introduced pests like PSHB. Vegetation diversity supports urban biodiversity by offering a wider range of habitats and food sources for birds, insects, and small mammals. It also benefits pollinators by providing a variety of plant types and flowering seasons.

Application process

How to apply

Eligible local governments must apply for Grant Program funding through the SmartyGrants platform.

Each funding stream has a separate Excel spreadsheet which is accessible via the SmartyGrants platform.

Local governments applying for a single stream must complete the relevant spreadsheet. Applicants seeking funding under both Streams 1 and 2 must complete both spreadsheets.

Requests for supplementary funding should be detailed on the relevant project tab in the Excel spreadsheet/s.

SmartyGrants will send an email notification to confirm receipt of the application.

Application requirements

The following must be included in the grant application:

- A completed SmartyGrants application form including a declaration of the number of trees removed due to PSHB and/or managed for PSHB.
- A completed Excel template for each funding stream being applied for.

Further information and application queries

The department's WA Tree Recovery team can be contacted via email treerecovery@dwer.wa.gov.au to assist with application queries.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring their application is correct and complete at the time of submission. If required, the department may contact applicants to verify application details or request supplementary information.

Tree planting requirements

Trees must be planted in accordance with relevant laws to ensure the safety of the public, workers and utilities. Local governments must ensure planting projects:

- comply with the [Utility providers: Code of Practice for Western Australia](#)
- comply with the [Protection of assets: Technical guidelines for safely working near Water Corporation assets](#)
- will not be located where mature trees could grow in the danger zone of an overhead powerline and will not require workers to enter a danger zone (also known as a clearance zone or 'no go' zone). For safe distances between trees and overhead powerlines, refer to:
 - Western Power's [Danger zones](#)
 - Building and Energy's [Guidelines for the management of vegetation near power lines](#)
 - WorkSafe WA's [Managing electrical risks at the workplace: Code of Practice](#)
- will not damage underground assets by conducting [Before You Dig Australia \(BYDA\)](#) checks prior to planting to determine the location of underground assets
- comply with work health and safety laws.

Tree planting recommendations

The following aspects are recommended for inclusion in tree planting project design:

- engage with stakeholders and local communities on tree planting projects, including the promotion of planting activities
- reuse or recycle plastic pots and seek plastic-free alternatives for all items where available
- consider the use of compost blends or soil conditioner derived from food organics and garden organics (FOGO).

Other important information for applicants

Acknowledgement

All funded projects must acknowledge the funding provided by the department on behalf of the State Government.

Promotion

Local governments that receive funding are encouraged to promote their efforts to replace trees lost to PSHB and/or increase urban canopy within their local community.

Any media or press releases that mention the Grant Program delivered by the department should be sent to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Communications Team at: communications@dwer.wa.gov.au for approval prior to release.

Assessment process

Each application will be assessed by an evaluation panel, comprising representatives from the department and the WA Local Government Association (WALGA). The assessment will be based on the information contained in the submitted application and supporting documentation.

Program definitions

Management (in relation to PSHB-infested trees)

- Using proactive measures to actively manage a PSHB-infested tree. Active management may include monitoring, removal, pruning, or chemical treatment to help slow the spread of PSHB.

Planting project

- Planting projects can be undertaken to replace canopy loss due to PSHB (Stream 1), or to futureproof against canopy loss due to ongoing PSHB impacts (Stream 2). Planting projects should be prioritised in areas beneficial to the community that have positive greening outcomes.

Removed trees

- This includes trees removed due to PSHB infestation to assist with minimising the spread of the pest, either at the discretion of the local government or DPIRD.