



Southern Forests Infrastructure Support Scheme Frequently Asked Questions

These Frequently Asked Questions apply to grants for the Southern Forests Infrastructure Support Scheme. Applicants should read this document in conjunction with the **Scheme Guidelines** prior to submission of their application.

The Scheme will open for applications on 19 April 2024.
The closing date for applications is at 1:00 pm AWST on 11 July 2024.

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply for funding?

To be eligible to apply for funding applicants must:

- Be a commercial horticultural producer in the Warren-Donnelly region with a minimum annual gross turnover of \$100,000 or equivalent.
- Apply as landowner or lessee (landlord consent to be provided).
- Demonstrate that operations are in the Warren-Donnelly region (refer to Figure 1); providing address or map of the property will help confirm this.
- Have a current Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN).
- Advise if multiple applications for different properties have been submitted. (Multiple applications will be assessed, but only one successful application per entity, landowner, or lessee is allowable.)
- Provide bank account details for funding disbursement.

Can I apply if I have already received the funding from other sources or other government grants?

Yes.

Funding Limits, Timeframe and Eligible Activities

What is the minimum and maximum funding available per application?

There are three categories of funding that will be offered under this Scheme. They include:

- Under \$20,000
- \$20,001 to \$50,000
- \$50,001 to \$100,000.

The number of questions and level of detail required will increase subject to the funding category selected.

What are the timeframes to commence and complete the project proposed in the application?

Up to two years will be allotted for the completion of projects.

What types of activities are eligible for funding?

Must be future/ proposed works; retrospective items will not be considered. Items must be infrastructure that can demonstrate to the Assessment Panel's satisfaction that it will improve water security. Eligible items include, but are not limited to:

- Water efficient irrigation delivery improvements, including new or upgraded systems – sprinkler, drippers, automation systems and software.
- Water measurement devices, including probes and water meters, as well as systems for monitoring and measuring dam levels, water flows, on-farm usage, and soil moisture—whether new or upgraded.
- Evapotranspiration measures such as bird/crop netting which have proven benefits of reducing crop water use as well as crop protection from birds, hail and storms.
- Farm dam bypass system, either new or upgrades to existing systems.

What types of activities are NOT eligible for funding?

The following activities and projects will not be eligible under the Scheme:

- Onstream dam construction that seeks to be larger than their licenced water allocation will not be considered as current water allocation policy does not allow this.
- Ancillary infrastructure such as outbuildings, fencing and tracks
- Farm machinery, equipment and vehicles
- Farm labour and other inputs, including wages, contractors and consultants associated with usual farming activities.

Application Process

How do I apply?

All applications must be submitted online using the **SmartyGrants** online portal. Please see the Southern Forests Infrastructure Support Scheme Guidelines for more details.

How will I know if my application has been received?

After submitting your application, you will receive a confirmation email from SmartyGrants. Please email sfiss@dpird.wa.gov.au if you don't receive this.

Can I update/revise my application after it has been submitted?

Yes. If you wish to revise your application prior to the closing date, please email sfiss@dpird.wa.gov.au and provide your application number to have it re-opened. No updates or revisions will be accepted after applications close, and your revised application must be resubmitted before the deadline of 1:00pm AWST on 11 July 2024.

I am having difficulties with the SmartyGrants application form, who can I contact?

For technical issues or queries with the SmartyGrants application form, please contact sfiss@dpird.wa.gov.au

Can I make more than one application?

You may submit multiple applications but only one will be selected if all selection criteria are met. Multiple properties from the same or related applicants may be considered in subsequent rounds, contingent upon the uptake of the current round and the availability of future funding.

Please advise us if multiple applications for different properties have been submitted in the SmartyGrants application form.

Grant Value

What is the total amount of funding available for this grant round?

The total amount of funds available for this round of funding is: \$10,000,000.

How much do I need to contribute?

Recipients are required to contribute at least 50% of the project, subject to the funding category selected.

What happens if the project cost is more than the maximum amount that I can apply for?

The Scheme will contribute up to 50% of the project cost, capped at the relevant funding category, any amount exceeding this is at the proponent's cost.

Application Outcome

Will all eligible applicants be successful?

No; eligible applications will undergo a qualitative assessment, and only those that demonstrate a potential improvement in water security will be recommended for approval by the Minister for Regional Development and Minister for Water.

When will grant funds be made available to successful applicants?

Successful applicants will be notified about the outcome of their application via email and will receive a Letter of Offer, which will detail the payment process for the grant and outline any monitoring and reporting requirements. It is anticipated that up to six weeks may be required for assessment and ministerial approvals.

Funding will be released in one final payment at the end of the project. However, DPIRD may consider alternative payment schedules on a case-by-case basis.

What are the project reporting and evaluation requirements?

The reporting arrangements and milestone payment schedule will be identified in the Letter of Offer and be dependent upon the amount of funding requested. Reporting will not be onerous and in most cases will be in the form of invoices of evidence of payment and photos of completed works. The reporting requirements for larger and more complex projects will be considered on case-by-case basis.

Is my Project approval ready?

It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain the necessary permits and/or regulatory approvals to proceed. This may include, but is not limited to, environmental, heritage, Aboriginal heritage or other approvals.

Projects should be completed by December 2026; as such, lead times and necessary approvals need to be appropriately considered. Longer periods may be considered on a case-by-case basis. The WA Government will not support projects that do not have the appropriate approvals.

Have another question?

Get in touch with us by emailing sfiss@dpiird.wa.gov.au

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