



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



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North Midlands Regional Drought Resilience Plan Community Grant

Scheme Guidelines

This guideline contains information for applicants and should be read prior to completing the application form

September 2026



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North Midlands Regional Drought Resilience Plan Community Grant

Scheme Overview

The North Midlands Regional Drought Resilience Plan Community Grant provides funding to support community led initiatives that strengthen resilience to dry seasons and drought across the North Midlands subregion of Western Australia. For the purposes of the North Midlands Regional Drought Resilience Plan, the subregion includes the Shires of Carnamah, Coorow, Irwin, Morawa, Mingenew, Perenjori and Three Springs.

The grant program forms part of the implementation phase of the Mid West Regional Drought Resilience Plan for the North Midlands subregion and is funded through the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program, jointly supported by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Western Australian Government.

The Community Grant supports delivery of projects aligned with the themes, outcomes and action ideas identified in the Regional Drought Resilience Plan.

The program strengthens collaboration between community organisations, local governments and regional stakeholders and supports initiatives that contribute to economic, environmental and social resilience across the subregion.

Scheme objectives

The objectives of the North Midlands Regional Drought Resilience Plan Community Grant are to:

- support community led initiatives that improve drought resilience
- encourage local solutions aligned with North Midlands Regional Drought Resilience Plan themes, outcomes and action ideas
- strengthen collaboration between community groups, local governments and regional stakeholders
- support initiatives that contribute to community, economic and environmental resilience
- increase community awareness and engagement with drought resilience activities
- deliver projects that provide a clear public benefit to North Midlands communities
- support activities that build long-term drought preparedness and resilience, rather than providing direct assistance for hardship during drought
- encourage collaboration and coordination across the subregion and avoid duplication of existing programs and services
- promote inclusive participation, including engagement with Aboriginal organisations and stakeholders where appropriate
- support the sharing of knowledge, outcomes and learnings with the broader community.

Opening and Closing Dates for Applications

Applications open on: 7 September 2026 at 9.00am WST

Applications close on: 16 October 2026 at 5.00pm WST

Applications submitted after the closing date and time will not be assessed.

Who can apply for funding?

This scheme is open to organisations operating within the North Midlands subregion.

Eligible applicants may include:

- local governments
- incorporated not for profit community organisations
- incorporated industry or producer groups
- locally-based businesses with an ABN, where the project demonstrates broader community benefit
- incorporated Aboriginal Corporations
- unincorporated groups auspiced by an incorporated organisation.

Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed project will primarily deliver benefits within the North Midlands subregion.

Activities that can be funded

Projects should demonstrate a clear link to the North Midlands Regional Drought Resilience Plan, including the region's identified themes, outcomes and action ideas (pages 39–68), identified resilience challenges and risks (pages 25–28), and intended outcomes (page 39).

The Regional Drought Resilience Plan is available at:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/mid-west-north-midlands-rdrp.pdf>

Examples of eligible activities include projects that support:

- agricultural resilience
- community resilience and wellbeing
- regional economic resilience and diversification
- environmental and landscape resilience
- water security awareness and water literacy initiatives.

Activities that cannot be funded

Grant funding **cannot** be used for

- activities that do not align with the objectives of the Regional Drought Resilience Plan
- retrospective funding for projects already commenced or completed
- projects located outside the North Midlands subregion
- routine operational costs not directly related to the project
- activities that provide a predominant private benefit, including on-farm infrastructure
- activities that have not secured relevant permits or approvals
- activities that are a statutory or regulatory responsibility of the landholder
- activities that duplicate existing funded programs.

Funding limits and timeframes

Under this scheme the maximum funding available to each applicant is:

\$15,000 (excluding GST)

The total funding available for the Community Grant program is approximately \$150,000 (excluding GST).

Projects must commence after funding approval and should be completed by 31 December 2027.

Applicant Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility requirements

To be considered for funding through this scheme, applicants must complete and submit an application through the SmartyGrants online application system.

Completed applications must be submitted before the closing date and time listed in these guidelines.

Applicant eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply for funding applicants must:

- have a current Australian Business Number (ABN) or be auspice by an incorporated organisation with an ABN
- be registered for GST where applicable
- have an account with an Australian financial institution
- demonstrate the capacity to deliver the proposed project
- demonstrate that the proposed activity aligns with the themes, outcomes and action ideas of the Regional Drought Resilience Plan
- comply with reporting and accountability requirements.

Applicants who are specifically not eligible

Applicants will **not** be eligible for funding if they:

- are individuals applying in a personal capacity
- operate outside the North Midlands subregion
- cannot demonstrate the capacity to deliver the proposed project
- have not complied with previous grant funding obligations with the State Government.

Additional information required from Applicant

Applicants must supply the following information as part of their application:

- bank account details
- ABN and GST registration details
- organisation contact details, including the individual responsible for delivering the project
- physical and postal addresses
- project budget and timeline
- if a trustee of a trust, a copy of the trust deed that outlines that the trustee has the authority to make application on behalf of the trust
- supporting documentation relevant to the project proposal.

MWDC may contact applicants to seek additional information to support the assessment.

Applicant funding contribution

Applicant financial and/or in-kind contribution towards the delivery of their project would be considered favourably.

In-kind contributions may include volunteer time, donated materials, equipment use or other non-financial resources that support project delivery.

Full details of contributions must be provided in the budget section of the online application form.

How to apply for funding

Applicants must submit an online application in SmartyGrants addressing the assessment criteria and supplying all information requested by 5.00pm WST on 16 October 2026.

Applications received after this date will not be assessed.

Application form is available on the Mid West Development Commission website:

<https://www.mwdc.wa.gov.au/business-and-industry-support/regional-drought-resilience.aspx>

Assessment – How will the applications be assessed

The assessment process aims to objectively identify eligible applicants to whom funding could be awarded. Applications will be assessed by MWDC officer and applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection/decision process..

Assessment process

The assessment process will be carried out in the following manner:

- eligibility screening of all applications
- assessment of applications against the Scheme assessment criteria
- submission of recommendations to the Project Advisory Group (PAG) for endorsement
- submission of recommendations to Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- review of the endorsed recommendations and approval by Minister for Agriculture and Food

Assessment criteria

Applicants must address the assessment criteria in the online application form.

Each criterion has a weighting value.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence requested and provided in the application should be relative to the size and complexity of the grant amount requested.

Criterion 1 – 35%

Alignment with the Regional Drought Resilience Plan

Applicants should demonstrate:

- how the project aligns with the North Midlands Regional Drought Resilience Plan, including the relevant themes, outcomes and action ideas.
- how the project contributes to strengthening community, economic and/or environmental resilience to dry seasons or drought.

Criterion 2 – 35%

Value for money and community impact

Applicants should demonstrate:

- how the project will deliver benefits to the community
- that the proposed budget is reasonable and appropriate
- opportunities for collaboration or co-contribution (leverage funding).

Criterion 3 – 30%

Project feasibility and delivery capability

Applicants should demonstrate:

- the capacity of the organisation to deliver the proposed project
- clear implementation approach and timeline

- the relevant permits and approvals have been secured
- appropriate governance and project management arrangements.

Conflict of interest

All people involved in the assessment process must complete a conflict of interest (COI) declaration.

Where a conflict is identified, the individual will not participate in the assessment or decision-making process for the relevant application.

The Scheme Manager will be responsible for making judgements regarding conflicts of interest.

Decision

The Minister for Agriculture and Food will approve final grants, having considered the assessment report and recommendations endorsed by the PAG and Scheme decision maker.

Appeal process

There will not be an appeal process.

Notification of application outcomes

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application. Successful and unsuccessful notification will take place within a week after the decisions have been made.

Agreement Arrangements

MWDC will discuss the development of an agreement with each successful applicant. The agreement will describe how and when payment of the grant is to be made, milestones to be and reporting requirements, as detailed below.

Reporting and monitoring requirements

Recipients must provide reports in accordance with the requirements outlined in their funding agreement.

Reporting requirements may include milestone or final reports detailing:

- project progress
- project outcomes
- financial expenditure.

Monitoring activities may include:

- email or phone contact with the Scheme Manager
- project updates or meetings
- participation in program evaluation activities.

Tax information

Funding provided to recipients under the grant is regarded as payment for a supply. Recipients must be GST-registered and will therefore be liable for GST in connection with the grant. The grant will be increased by the amount of GST payable.

Recipients must provide a tax invoice for the GST inclusive value of the grant. Applicants are encouraged to seek tax advice on the potential implications of obtaining funding.

Personal Information and disclosure of information

Applicants are informed that DPIRD is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)*, which provides a general right of access to records held by the State Government agencies and local governments.

Payment arrangements

The payment process for this Scheme is as follows:

- payments are made by MWDC
- payments are made on provision of a compliant tax invoice
- payments are made once agreed Milestone Activity has been met
- payments are made electronically to nominated accounts.

Aboriginal Heritage Compliance

Laws are in place in Western Australia to protect and manage Aboriginal heritage. This could include rock art, ancient caves or burial sites, waterways, ceremonial sites or scar trees.

Applicants should:

- Ensure they comply with all obligations regarding the [Aboriginal Heritage Act \(WA\) 1972](#)
- Where required, provide evidence that they have conducted due diligence specific to Aboriginal heritage before undertaking any activities on land, sea or country.

For more information:

- ACHknowledge Portal: <https://achknowledge.dplh.wa.gov.au/>
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System:
<https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS>

Contact Information

For further information on the scheme please contact kyle.williams@mwdc.wa.gov.au.

Glossary of Terms

Applicant - the entity / individual who makes the application for funding.

Application - an application made to the State of Western Australia for funding under the Fund

AWST - Australian Western Standard Time

DPIRD - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

MWDC - Mid West Development Commission

Governance & Operational Framework - to provide clear and concise details of scheme management processes, administration, and governance.

Grant Scheme - North Midlands Regional Drought Resilience Plan Community Grant Scheme

Key Contact - the Applicant representative to contact if there are any queries or information required in relation to the Scheme.

PAG - Project Advisory Group, comprising representatives from the seven local governments that will consider recommendations against North Midlands RDRP priorities.

Recipient – the Applicant becomes a Recipient once the decision maker has approved applications.

Scheme decision maker - the MWDC staff member responsible for approving the final funding decisions.

Scheme manager - the MWDC staff member responsible for managing the Grant Scheme and is the primary contact for Applicants.

Scheme owner - the MWDC staff member responsible for the implementation of the Scheme on behalf of the funding provider.

Scheme guidelines (this document) - the approved guidelines for this Grant Scheme.

SmartyGrants - is the online grant management software tool used by DPIRD.

Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

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