



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions

Supplementary B2

**Hon Tjorn Sibma MLC asked:**

What criteria was used to assess the Swan Canning Community Rivercare program grant applications?

**Answer**

I table the grant application guidelines for round 1 (see Tabled paper #). The guidelines for round 2 are also available from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) website at <https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/management/swan-canning-riverpark/ecosystem-health-and-management/505-call-out-to-community-groups>.

Supplementary B3

**Hon Dr Steve Thomas MLC asked:**

What consultation and input did the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions have into the review by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development of declared pests under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*?

**Answer**

During 2015 and 2016, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD [then Department of Agriculture and Food]) undertook a review of the declared pests of Western Australia (137 species) to reflect: the intent of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act), community, industry and landholder expectations and the capacity of regulatory bodies for delivering compliance.

DBCA provided feedback during this review focusing on species flagged for a change in declared pest status where that change had the potential to affect the protection of environmental assets (Table #).

DBCA requested that no native species be declared under the BAM Act, instead they be managed by DBCA under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and associated regulations, once in place. This request was agreed to DPIRD.

Supplementary B4

**Hon Dr Steve Thomas MLC asked:**

Could the current distribution of arum lily, blackberry, blue lupins and narrowleaf cotton bush on Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) managed land be provided, and whether the spread of these species is increasing or decreasing?

**Answer**

My office will arrange a briefing for Hon Steve Thomas MLC by DBCA on the matter. I also provide the following information on the distribution of arum lily, blackberry, blue lupins and narrowleaf cotton bush on DBCA-managed lands. This information is provided as a general overview, compiled for geographical areas where the weed species is most likely to occur or where the species has been identified through the regional prioritisation process.

DBCA undertakes weed management over 25 million hectares of *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* land and a further 89 million hectares of unallocated Crown lands and unmanaged reserves. To effectively use resources available for weed management, control work is prioritised on a regional basis.

DBCA recently developed standardised mapping of weed occurrence to assist with the treatment of weed infestations and to measure the change over time of these infestations, which will help to quantify the effectiveness of weed control work.

Reporting efficiently on weed occurrences across DBCA-managed lands is difficult until the current system is updated with weed occurrence and treatment. However, due to the number and extent of weed species present in the State, it is not intended to prioritise mapping of all weed species across DBCA-managed lands. Rather, a strategic approach to identify and map areas associated with the high conservation values impacted or potentially impacted by weed species is intended.

One of DBCA's key priorities is to prevent new weed species entering the natural environment in the first place (through biosecurity actions), because once established and widespread a weed is very difficult to remove.

It is unrealistic to expect that, through management actions, it is possible to turn the bush back to a pre-colonisation condition or that Government can prevent weeds entering adjoining private property in perpetuity. The Government will continue to set realistic goals and maintain pockets of highly valued bushland at low weed densities. The assistance and involvement of volunteer groups and the broader community continues to be vital to the success of these efforts.

### **Arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)**

#### Swan Region

Arum lily occurs in most reserves on the Swan Coastal Plain where there are low lying wet areas, creeks or streams, and private property adjacent to DBCA-managed lands. There are isolated populations in the Perth Hills and intensive control work over the last three years has been carried out in Lane Poole Reserve along the Murray River and regular treatment of an infestation in Serpentine National Park.

#### South West Region

Infestations occur in or around the Tuart Forest and Leeuwin Naturaliste national parks. Scattered infestations are as far south as Blackwood River National Park, to the east at Hester Conservation Park, and to the north at Yarloop Central East Nature Reserve, Waterloo Nature Reserve, Wellington National Park, Myalup State forest, Bengier Swamp Nature Reserve and Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park.

#### Warren Region

Arum lily is particularly prevalent across the southern half around the Quarram Nature Reserve and William Bay National Park. Control work has been carried out in these areas, but infestations along the South Coast Highway and from private property are not controlled and there is a likelihood of reinfestation.

#### South Coast Region

Arum lily occurs on a small number of DBCA-managed reserves in the south-western portion primarily invading from neighbouring private property. Historic populations on Breaksea and Eclipse Island nature reserves are now widespread. To date, arum lily has not been recorded on DBCA-managed lands east of Albany.

#### Other regions

While unlikely to be widespread in the Wheatbelt, isolated arum lily populations can occur around old settlements or rubbish dumps on or adjacent to nature reserves. Arum lily has historically been recorded in Dryandra Woodland. No known infestations have been identified on DBCA-managed lands in the

midwest. However, arum lily is prevalent on private property around Dandaragan and further south towards Moore River.

### **Blackberry (*Rubus* sp)**

#### Swan Region

Blackberry is mainly confined to the Perth Hills, where it is widespread. Infestations have been recorded in Neaves Road and Neerabup nature reserves. Control work is focused on John Forrest and Serpentine national parks, with extensive control work in Lane Poole Reserve.

#### South-West Region

Blackberry occurs mainly in State forest along the western side of the Darling Range and is recorded in Wellington National Park. In the south-west part of the region, infestations tend to follow the Blackwood River and the most western populations are recorded around Wooditjup National Park.

#### Warren Region

Blackberry occurs across the region, and is most prevalent on the interface with private property.

#### South Coast Region

Blackberry is distributed across a number of DBCA-managed reserves, primarily in areas of higher rainfall. Porongurup National Park has a relatively widespread distribution, but control attempts have helped to prevent extensive infestation. Other reserves with significant infestations are usually associated with largely inaccessible watercourses. Smaller isolated infestations are treated as resources allow. Control, is prioritised in areas previously uninfested. Within the Esperance area *R. laudatus* and *R. loganobaccus* have been recorded on private property adjacent to DBCA-managed lands.

### **Blue lupin (*Lupinus cosentinii*)**

#### Swan Region

Within the Perth Hills occurrences of blue lupin are minimal, with isolated infestations in Gooseberry Hill and John Forrest (along the railway line) national parks. On the Swan Coastal Plain, blue lupin occurs in most reserves bordering private property or farming land.

#### South West Region

There are occasional occurrences within Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park, Kulikup, Yarloop Central East and North Boyanup/Franklandia nature reserves.

#### South Coast Region

Blue lupin occurs primarily on firebreaks and disturbed areas around the edges of some reserves. It is treated when it is in proximity to priority areas or species or when spraying firebreaks.

#### Midwest Region

Blue lupin is widespread and common throughout the agricultural zone, particularly where reserves adjoin farmland or along firebreaks along with the other agricultural weeds.

#### Wheatbelt Region

Blue lupin is potentially widespread, but the exact extent is unknown. On DBCA-managed lands actively managed infestations are present in Kokerbin, Korrelocking and Overheu nature reserves and Strathern Road reserve.

**Narrowleaf cotton bush (*Gomphocarpus fruticosus*)**

Swan Region

Across the Perth Hills and in the southern part of the region, narrowleaf cotton bush is widespread with occurrences recorded in a number of reserves. Small pockets are treated in John Forrest National Park and in Lane Poole Reserve. In Serpentine National Park, the occurrence is extensive and treatment is focussed on recreational areas. A new, small infestation has been recorded in Clackline Nature Reserve.

South West Region

Narrowleaf cotton bush occurs in nature reserves, national parks and State forest along the western side of the Darling Range, and Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park and Tuart Forest National Park. To date, it has not been recorded in the south-west corner of the state, west and south of Busselton.

South Coast Region

There have been anecdotal reports of narrowleaf cotton bush occurrences on private property or roadsides. In 2012, an infestation was removed from Helms Forestry Reserve.

Other regions

A few isolated occurrences of narrowleaf cotton bush have been recorded in the Wheatbelt Region. An infestation from 2012 was actively managed on an old rail reserve within Culbin Nature Reserve, and no new plants have been sighted since 2016.

A handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'CGR', written in dark ink.

## COMMUNITY RIVERCARE PROGRAM GRANTS GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

### 1. BACKGROUND

The McGowan Labor Government has committed \$300,000 a year for three years to community volunteer groups undertaking restoration projects that improve the health of the Swan and Canning rivers. This program is administered by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

There is a well-developed network of community groups working in the Swan Canning Catchment with local knowledge, experience and the volunteer workforce to complete restoration projects that achieve multiple benefits for our waterways and the community. This funding is aimed at supporting community groups to deliver environmental projects that will improve their local waterways.

### 2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the program is to support community groups to improve habitat for native fauna, foreshore condition and water quality, and to prevent erosion along the waterways in the Swan Canning Catchment.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY

#### Eligible applicants:

- Community groups with a volunteer base.
- Not-for-profit Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups with a community volunteer base.

Community groups must be incorporated or sponsored (under an auspicing arrangement) by another group or organisation that will administer their grant funding (see section 13 for more information about sponsorship).

Government agencies, educational institutions, businesses, land managers or land owners may participate by forming partnerships with community groups and contributing to projects.

#### Eligible projects:

- Projects must be in the Swan Canning Catchment (map of Swan Canning Catchment), in waterways or riparian zones. For the purposes of the Community Rivercare Program, waterways include rivers, streams, brooks, creeks and open unlined drainage channels that flow to the Swan and Canning rivers. Riparian zones include the channel and the banks of the waterway extending laterally away from the bank and including the extent of the connected floodplain.
- Projects must address at least one of the following criteria:
  - Habitat improvement for birds and/or other species dependent on waterways;
  - Foreshore revegetation and weed control;
  - Bank stabilisation to repair or prevent foreshore erosion;
  - Water quality improvement, or
  - Native fish habitat improvement and native fish restocking (approval from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) will be required).
- Projects must be easily identified as distinct from previous projects or projects funded through other programs.

- Projects can be on public or private land in the Swan Canning Catchment. For projects on private land, a clear benefit to the public must be demonstrated.
- A letter of support for the project from each of the land owner(s)/manager(s) is required. The letter should include an ongoing commitment to protecting the project site from clearing or other significant disturbances, and may require a commitment to maintenance of the project. If there is a voluntary management agreement or conservation covenant covering the project site then please state this in the letter.

**Priority will be given to projects that:**

- Adequately address one or more of the criteria;
- Are feasible, technically sound, and achievable;
- Are primarily comprised of on-ground works;
- Demonstrate value for money; and
- Demonstrate financial or in-kind contributions (this includes volunteer time) to the project.

All applications will be assessed by a panel consisting of representatives with relevant expertise including foreshore restoration, fauna habitat and water quality.

#### **4. FUNDING AVAILABLE**

There is a total of \$900,000 available over three years for the Community Rivercare Program. Grants will be between \$3,000 and \$50,000 per financial year. All funding granted is inclusive of GST.

- Round 1 (2018-19) - you may apply for projects that run for up to 36 months.
- Round 2 (2019-20) - you may apply for projects that run for up to 24 months.
- Round 3 (2020-21) - you may apply for projects that can be completed in 12 months.

##### **Round 1 (2018-19)**

There is \$300,000 available in Round 1 (2018-19) for the Community Rivercare Program. Through negotiations with applicants, DBCA may commit Round 2 and Round 3 funding in advance up to a maximum of \$200,000 from each round. This will ensure there is a minimum of \$100,000 available for new projects each round.

Successful multiple-year projects will receive funds in two or three instalments; the second and third instalment is subject to completion of milestones and DBCA acceptance of annual progress reports. Single year projects will receive funds in one instalment and will be required to submit a report on finalisation of the project.

<b>Funding Range (includes GST)</b>	<b>Agreement Type to be entered with DBCA</b>
\$3,000 - \$10,000	Letter with conditions
\$10,001 - \$150,000	Collaborative Arrangement (negotiations and project development will be required between the applicant and DBCA before finalisation)

## 5. INSURANCE

The successful applicants will need to have their own insurances or be sponsored (under an auspicing arrangement) by an organisation or group that will provide insurance cover. Sufficient insurances must be maintained throughout the life of your project, including but not limited to workers' compensation insurance, personal accident insurance for volunteers and public liability insurance to cover potential liability in conducting activities funded in part or in full through this grant program.

Successful applicants will be required to submit copies of certificates of currency prior to receiving grant funds.

## 6. METHODOLOGY

Your methodology should include as a minimum:

- A brief description of the techniques you will be using (for example, if weed control is part of your project then nominate hand weeding, mechanical weeding, chemical control including type of chemical and rate of application proposed, or alternative weed management methods);
- An outline of who will be completing each of the proposed tasks and activities (for example, the group members or volunteers, volunteers from outside of the group in the case of community planting days, contractors, partner organisations, land owners or land managers, or others); and
- A timeline indicating when the tasks will be completed ([link to timeline template](#)).

For large or complex projects, a more detailed methodology may be required as part of negotiations and project development before finalisation.

For revegetation projects local native plant species must be used. Applicants should ensure that plants and plant material is sourced from a supplier with Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia (NIASA) accreditation.

For bank stabilisation projects, soft engineering is preferred, for example, coir logging, jute matting and planting.

## 7. PROJECT MAINTENANCE AND SITE PROTECTION

Your project site may require ongoing maintenance past the project's completion date to continue to meet project objectives. For example, follow up weed control or removal of seedling protection bags. Please state who will be responsible for site maintenance (for example, the land owner or manager, or the grant recipient).

To ensure the project site is not the subject of land clearing or other disturbances the land owner(s) or land manager(s) should include an ongoing commitment to site protection in their letter of support.

## 8. ALIGNMENT WITH OTHER STRATEGIES, PLANS, PROJECTS AND NATURAL ASSETS

Examples of the types of documents that your project may align with and you may refer to in your application where relevant:

- Water Quality Improvement Plans
- Management Plans

- Tributary Assessments
- Strategic Regional Plans
- Catchment Management Plans
- Biodiversity Strategies

## 9. PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**Expected monitoring and evaluation for projects receiving grants between \$3,000 and \$10,000:**

- Photos taken of the project site, and elements of the project, before and after the project is delivered.
- If the project involves revegetation, the number of seedlings planted, approximate survival rate and area (square metres) or length of waterway or riparian zone revegetated (metres or kilometres).
- If the project involves weed management, weed species and percent of area (square metres) or length of waterway or riparian zone successfully controlled (metres or kilometres).
- For projects aiming to create, restore or protect habitat for specific species, number of structures installed or area of habitat created (square or linear metres). Records of observations before and after the project may be appropriate.
- Evaluation of the project may be a simple statement outlining successes or failures of the project with the goal of sharing any lessons learnt.
- Any additional monitoring results that the group acquires through their own means is also welcomed but not essential for this grants process.

**Expected project monitoring for projects receiving grants between \$10,001 and \$50,000:**

In addition to the requirements listed above the monitoring and evaluation methods will be negotiated during the development of a Collaborative Arrangement and will be dependent on the type and scale of project proposed.

## 10. BUDGET ADVICE

- Clearly indicate figures as GST inclusive where GST applies.
- A maximum of 10 percent of the total grant may be used toward project administration and management costs. Funds for other staffing or salary will not be considered.
- Any fees (for example, to obtain approvals) are to be included in the 10 percent provided for project administration and management costs.
- Equipment may be purchased up to a maximum of \$200 which is to be included in the 10 percent provided for project administration and management costs.
- If any quoted operational or material costs appear to be substantially above commonly accepted current prices, please provide documents to support your claim. The assessment panel may contact you if the costings require further justification.
- For this application, in-kind time contribution valuations will be measured at a consistent rate of:
  - Adult volunteer time = \$30/hour
  - Under-eighteens volunteer time = \$15/hour
  - Paid officer in-kind time = \$50/hour
- Please use the budget template provided. ([link to budget template](#))



## 11. GRANT CONDITIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Successful applicants must abide by the grant conditions set out in the Letter with Conditions or Collaborative Arrangement, and agree to the following:

- The grant must only be used for the purposes specified in the application.
- A record of the financial administration (all income and expenditure against the grant) will be maintained.
- Any promotion of the project is to include acknowledgement of the funding source (Community Rivercare Program – Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions).
- For single year projects, completed reports will be submitted by the grant recipient at the end of the 12-month period (reporting templates will be supplied to the grant recipient).
- For projects delivered over two or three years, completed reports will be submitted by the grant recipient at the end of each 12-month period over the life of the project (reporting templates will be supplied to the grant recipient).
- The grant recipient shall notify DBCA of any significant delays in the project that could affect the end date, as soon as practicable.
- Unspent funds shall be returned to DBCA.

## 12. APPROVALS

Obtaining approvals for the project is the responsibility of the successful applicant. The following may need to be considered among others:

- Land manager requirements;
- Seed collection permits (administered by DBCA);
- Bed and Banks permits (administered by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation);
- Aboriginal Heritage approvals (administered by Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage);
- Native fish restocking approval (administered by DPIRD); and
- Permits issued under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007* (administered by DBCA).

## 13. SPONSORSHIP

**Unincorporated groups will need a sponsor (auspicer)**, such as the local NRM group, catchment group, local government or partner group/organisation, that will receive and administer grant funding on your behalf. Grants will not be issued to personal bank accounts.

Groups that are incorporated may choose to be sponsored by another group or organisation that will receive and administer the grant funds.

Applicants with a sponsor (auspicer) will need to provide the sponsoring organisation's details and evidence of their agreement to receive and administer the grant funding on your behalf.

If your incorporated group **does not have an ABN** you may still be eligible to receive the funding directly. A *Statement by Supplier* form ([Statement by a supplier ATO website](#)) may be completed and provided to DBCA with your application. Your group will be regarded as the 'supplier' providing DBCA with a service. Please check the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) website for details.

#### 14. GRANT TIMELINE FOR ROUND 1 (2018-19)

Event	Date
Grant round opens	16 October 2017
Applications close (no late applications will be accepted)	27 November 2017
Applicants notified of outcome	22 December 2017
Negotiations for Collaborative Arrangements commence (Grant between \$10,001 and \$50,000)	15 January 2018
Successful projects publicly announced	1 February 2018
Any additional or supporting information required for Collaborative Arrangements due	29 March 2018
Successful applicants receive funds (Projects running over two or three years receive first instalment)	From 1 July 2018
Round 1 (2018-19) reports due	20 July 2019

#### 15. HOW TO APPLY

Applicants may apply for more than one project. Separate applications are required for each project.

Applications will need to include as attachments:

- A letter of support for the project from the land owner(s) or land manager(s) including any maintenance commitments and any covenants on the project site. Note: we accept that this may not be available at the time of submission, however it is a mandatory requirement to provide prior to funding approval.
- Map(s) of the project site – clearly showing the location and extent of the project site.
- Timeline for your project – identify when major activities will occur. ([link to timeline template](#))
- Budget – clearly detail what the grant will pay for. Outline other contributions, both financial and in-kind (including volunteer time estimates) that will be invested in the project. ([link to budget template](#))

Required for some applications:

- Supporting evidence to justify budget estimates (if applicable).
- Applicants with a sponsor (auspicer) will need to provide the sponsoring organisation's details and evidence of their agreement to receive and administer the grant funding on your behalf.
- *ATO Statement by supplier* form (if applicable)

Online applications through DBCAs Community Rivercare Program format are preferred. ([link to online application](#))

Other grant application submission options include:

- Request copies of the documents from [rivers.systems@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:rivers.systems@dbca.wa.gov.au) - fill in the application form, save it and email it as an attachment along with all other supporting attachments to [rivers.systems@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:rivers.systems@dbca.wa.gov.au)

- Post printed application form and attachments to:  
Healthy Catchments Program  
Rivers and Estuaries Division  
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions  
Locked Bag 104  
Bentley Delivery Centre, Kensington, WA 6983
- Hand deliver printed application form and attachments to:  
Healthy Catchments Program  
Rivers and Estuaries Division  
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions  
17 Dick Perry Avenue  
Kensington WA 6151

## USEFUL REFERENCES AND LINKS

Habitat protection and foreshore management (DBCA):

<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/swan-canning-riverpark/ecosystem-health-and-management/habitat-protection-and-foreshore-management>

Best management practices for foreshore stabilisation: Direct shore stabilisation approaches (DBCA):

<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/conservation-management/riverpark/Management/Best%20management%20practices%20for%20foreshore%20stabilisation%20-%20Direct%20shore%20stabilisation%20approaches.pdf>

Best management practices for foreshore stabilisation: Erosion control matting (DBCA):

<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/conservation-management/riverpark/Management/Best%20management%20practices%20for%20foreshore%20stabilisation%20-%20Erosion%20control%20matting.pdf>

Further resources about weeds (DBCA):

<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/plants/weeds/158-policy-legislation-and-further-resources>

Policy on restocking and stock enhancement in Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development):

[http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Documents/management\\_papers/fmp261.pdf](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Documents/management_papers/fmp261.pdf)

Statement by a supplier not quoting an ABN (Australian Taxation Office):

<https://www.ato.gov.au/forms/statement-by-a-supplier-not-quoting-an-abn/>

## CONTACTS

For questions regarding the Community Rivercare Program contact:

Debbie Besch or Kim Sylva  
Rivers and Estuaries Division  
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions  
(08) 9278 0900  
Rivers.systems@dbca.wa.gov.au