



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Protect
Grow
Innovate

2025 FERAL CAT MANAGEMENT GRANTS

Guidelines for Applicants



Acknowledgement of Country

DPIRD acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country, the Aboriginal people of the many lands that we work on and their language groups throughout Western Australia and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waters.

We respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of our regions, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Sensitivity disclaimer

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that these guidelines may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs, or printed material.

Content disclaimer

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Image has been increased from original size.

Contact details:

Please contact the FCM Grants Coordinator via DPIRD's State NRM Program on (08) 6551 4428 or email snrmo@dpiird.wa.gov.au for assistance.

Feral Cat Management Grants at a glance

In Western Australia (WA), feral cat management is guided by the *Western Australian Feral Cat Strategy 2023-2028* which provides for a Statewide response using proven, effective, and humane management techniques. It recognises three objectives:

1. Increase effective feral cat management to improve conservation outcomes for native species, through a tenure-blind approach.
2. Continual improvement of methods and technologies for feral cat management through research and development.
3. Broaden social acceptability and awareness of feral cat management methods.

The Feral Cat Management (FCM) Grants are an initiative of the WA Government, delivered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) State Natural Resource Management Program in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

Key features of the 2025 FCM Grants are:

- Grants must address one or more of the objectives of Western Australian Feral Cat Strategy.
- Maximum grant request up to \$250,000, with a minimum request of \$10,000.
- Grant funded projects must have a duration of less than 36 months (3 years).
- Grants can be used to fund a wide range of community-based FCM activities that will achieve on-ground native fauna conservation outcomes directly, improve methods or technologies through research and development, or improve an organisation's capacity for FCM.
- Grants are not applicable to domestic cat management.
- Grant applications with lethal or baited activities will require relevant permits, authorities and/or indemnities.
- To provide support and guidance to applicants an online meeting must be arranged with the Program coordinators **prior** to submitting the application.
- All applications must be submitted by 12 noon AWST on **Monday 24 March 2025**.

To be eligible for assessment under these grants you must:

1. Complete and submit an application form online through SmartyGrants at [Home Page - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia \(smartygrants.com.au\)](https://www.smartygrants.com.au) ensuring all required supporting information and documents are clear and legible when uploaded.
2. Demonstrate that you meet the eligibility criteria and meet the assessment criteria.



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1. Feral Cat Management in Western Australia

Invasive feral cats (*Felis catus*) have a devastating impact on native wildlife, particularly small to medium sized mammals, and are considered the most destructive single species in Australia. They have been implicated in at least 27 of the 47 mammal species extinctions and directly threaten the survival of multiple mammal, bird, reptile and frog species. In Western Australia (WA), over 70 species are vulnerable to predation by feral cats. It is estimated that a single feral cat roaming the bush can kill more than 700 small animals every year.

Predation by feral cats is listed as a key threatening process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and feral cats are recognised by the Environment and Invasives Committee as an extreme threat category for Australia (IPAC 2015). In WA, feral cats are listed as declared pests under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (the BAM Act). While impact through direct predation poses the greatest threat to native species, competition and disease transmission to humans, livestock and other wildlife may also be substantial.



Effective control of feral cats has been shown to provide measurable benefits to native fauna, and WA is a leader in this area. Application of a variety of tools is required for effective and efficient control across landscape scales, and local contexts are critical to management outcomes. Refining and developing novel control methods and enhancing community understanding on the issue of feral cat management can greatly improve successful outcomes for native fauna.

For the purpose of these guidelines **Feral cat management** (FCM) refers to specific measures undertaken to reduce feral cat impact in priority areas to improve conservation outcomes for native fauna.

In WA, FCM is guided by the *Western Australian Feral Cat Strategy 2023-2028* (the Strategy) which provides for a Statewide response using proven, effective, and humane management techniques (available at <https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/management/threat-management>).

The Strategy aims to:

- improve conservation outcomes for native species
- improve methods and technologies through research and development
- broaden social acceptability and awareness of FCM.

Sitting alongside the Strategy and further refining legislation under the BAM Act and Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has developed the *Feral cat declared pest – minimise risk to domestic cats policy statement* (the DPIRD Policy) which can be downloaded under 'Further information' at <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pest-mammals/feral-cats>.

Community-based FCM is directed and driven by local, catchment or regional scale needs and priorities. It recognises the value of local knowledge, volunteer efforts and strong

partnerships. Through the direct involvement of local community groups in all project stages of design, planning and implementation, efficient and effective partnerships between government, industry and community can be fostered.

1.1. Definitions

Domestic, stray and feral cats are one species, *Felis catus*, and they all have capacity to impact native fauna to differing degrees. It is their interaction with humans, their behaviour and location that determines management. For the purposes of the Feral Cat Management Grants 2025, the definitions of the DPIRD Policy apply. Feral cats are declared pests in WA under the BAM Act and are defined as “cats that live and reproduce in the wild and survive by hunting or scavenging”.



2. Feral Cat Management Grants

The FCM Grants are an initiative of the WA Government, administered by DPIRD’s State Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). The grants are part of a larger program facilitated by DBCA to deliver the Western Australian Feral Cat Strategy across the State.

FCM Grants are available for landscape scale, community-based projects to support feral cat management with conservation outcomes for WA’s native fauna and maintain or build the capability of community groups implementing FCM across the State. Community-based FCM is directed and driven by local, catchment, or regional scale needs and priorities.

FCM Grants prioritise the direct involvement of local community groups in all project stages of design, planning and implementation, through which efficient and effective partnerships between government, industry, and community can be fostered.

The *Western Australian Feral Cat Strategy 2023-2028* (the Strategy) sets out the WA Government’s direction and recognises the value of working together in partnership to manage invasive feral cats (available at <https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/management/threat-management>).

The Strategy recognises three objectives and associated outcomes which are outlined at Section 2.1 below, with relevant targets and actions which may be considered for FCM Grant funding. FCM Grants must address one or more of the objectives of the Strategy.

FCM Grants may include on ground works, research and development, community capacity building, or a combination of these. FCM Grants 2025 are applicable only to the management and control of feral cats to improve conservation outcomes for native fauna and are not applicable to domestic cat management. Actions to mitigate impact of domestic cats may be eligible for funding under the State Natural Resource Management Program Community Stewardship Grants 2025.

2.1. Feral Cat Management Strategy Objectives

Objective 1: Increase effective feral cat management to improve conservation outcomes for native species, through a tenure-blind approach.

Outcome 1: Reduced predation on native species across a broad range of habitats in Western Australia.

Target	Actions which may be considered for funding
1.1 Priority cat-free areas remain free of feral cats, e.g., non-government wildlife sanctuaries.	<p>Monitor priority feral cat-free exclosures (safe havens) to identify possible incursions.</p> <p>Implement management actions to remove feral cats when incursions are identified.</p>
1.2 The area and effort for feral cat management are increased to maximise biodiversity conservation outcomes.	<p>Maintain feral cat exclosures to maximise threatened species survival.</p> <p>Where appropriate, integrate feral cat management into existing areas that are currently managed for other feral/pest animals, including foxes.</p> <p>Expand feral cat management into new areas subject to available resources and according to conservation priorities.</p> <p>Implement coordinated and integrated approaches to holistic land and feral cat management, such as integration of different land management activities across tenure over time, addressing non-native prey species management.</p>
1.3 Increased tenure-blind feral cat management delivered in and around areas of high conservation value.	<p>Co-design and implement collaborative projects between land managers, Traditional Owners, Aboriginal ranger groups, Recognised Biosecurity Groups, Natural Resource Management, and non-government organisations to expand the area over which feral cat management occurs.</p>

Objective 2: Continual improvement of methods and technologies for feral cat management through research and development.

Outcome 2: An improved and accessible toolkit for appropriate feral cat management.

Target	Actions which may be considered for funding
<p>2.1 Novel* methods and technologies are identified for feral cat management. (*Tools that are currently not approved for operational use)</p>	<p>Test appropriate technologies and approaches to determine their effectiveness at different scales, ecosystems, risk to non-target species, and capacity to enhance existing management tools.</p> <p>Undertake or contribute to population genetic and ecological research that improves understanding for the potential application of biocontrol technologies and understanding barriers to gene flow.</p>
<p>2.2 Baiting practices for feral cat management at a landscape-scale are improved.</p>	<p>Improve understanding of how feral cats use habitats in different ecosystems.</p> <p>Synthesise relevant available information on factors that affect the efficacy of baiting, including consistency in bait deployment.</p> <p>Develop models that can assist with improving baiting efficacy.</p> <p>Continue to conduct experimental trials to collect information on knowledge gaps identified from modelling.</p> <p>Use information gathered to refine and adapt baiting methodologies and assess effectiveness of changed practices.</p>
<p>2.3 Integrated pest management and control technologies identified, tested and implemented (such as integrated control of rabbits, foxes, and feral cats).</p>	<p>Document the role of integrated pest animal control across different habitats to inform improved feral cat management.</p> <p>Test and implement methods for integrated pest control as appropriate.</p> <p>Monitor success of integrated pest management and conservation outcomes achieved.</p>
<p>2.4 Improve knowledge of interactions between feral cats and other threatening processes</p>	<p>Improve understanding of the influence of different land management practices (such as fire regimes, grazing, land clearing) on feral cat movement and habitat utilisation and the consequences they have on vulnerable fauna across biomes.</p> <p>Understand the importance of habitat structure and complexity in how feral cats target prey.</p> <p>Investigate the role of habitat restoration in mitigating impacts from feral cat predation and trial the use of this technique in appropriate areas.</p>

<p>2.5 Improve monitoring techniques to reliably and accurately measure the efficacy of feral cat management.</p>	<p>Investigate use of existing and new monitoring techniques and technologies (such as artificial intelligence - AI) for different habitats, land tenures and for different purposes.</p>
<p>2.6 Improve and refine the use of prescribed operational tools (shooting, cage traps, exclusion fences) and integrate, where potentially useful, with other available methods.</p>	<p>Investigate and implement complementary tools for feral cat management.</p> <p>Understand when and where operational tools are most effectively applied.</p>

Objective 3: Broad social acceptability and awareness of feral cat management methods.

Outcome 3: An engaged community that supports the use of approved methods for feral cat management.

Target	Actions which may be considered for funding
<p>3.1 Publish information on available feral cat management tools.</p>	<p>Raise awareness of existing resources on feral cat management, including relevance to scale, habitat and climate.</p>
<p>3.2 Engage in the development of a decision support tool to guide best practice feral cat management.</p>	<p>Actively support development of a framework that describes the best feral cat management tool/s for different scenarios and make it available to all stakeholders to support decision making.</p>
<p>3.3 Promote best practice feral cat management techniques.</p>	<p>Engage and educate the broader community in best practice feral cat management through traditional and online platforms, information sessions and workshops.</p> <p>Promote integrated pest control, such as rabbits, to enhance successful feral cat management.</p> <p>Develop communication plan for landholder and community group engagement that provides information on ethical feral cat management and opportunities for collaboration.</p>
<p>3.4 Improved public awareness of the role feral cats play in the extinction of native species.</p>	<p>Make resources available online that clearly demonstrate the role feral cat management plays in protecting native species.</p> <p>Educate the broader community and stakeholders about why feral cats are a problem in certain areas (such as mine sites, waste management facilities).</p>

<p>3.5 Understand community concerns in relation to feral cat management.</p>	<p>Research/synthesise existing resources that provide an understanding of community views regarding feral cats specifically and cats more generally.</p> <p>Conduct field days and community workshops to understand community sentiment.</p> <p>Improve community engagement through coordination of programs and collaboration between stakeholders.</p> <p>Explore community emotions and sentiment concerning feral cat management to help identify any barriers to the full implementation of the strategy.</p>
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2.2 Available funding

There is a total of \$2,000,000 available over 4 years, with \$500,000 available for this round of the FCM Grants.

The maximum FCM grant request in 2025 is \$250,000, with a minimum request of \$10,000.

Grant funded projects must have a duration of less than 36 months (3 years).



3. Eligibility

3.1. Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply, applicants must be an incorporated not-for-profit organisation with an ABN.

Applicants from the following groups or organisations are encouraged to apply:

- Aboriginal community organisations including Prescribed Bodies Corporate (RNTBC)
- incorporated associations and not-for profit companies or trusts, including most community, landcare, NRM groups, Recognised Biosecurity Groups, and grower groups
- Land Conservation District Committees

- local government authorities (LGA).

The following groups are not eligible to apply:

- for profit organisations, partnerships or companies including sole traders
- individuals
- organisations that do not have a branch or base of operation in Western Australia
- primary and secondary schools
- tertiary education institutions
- unincorporated associations (there is no provision for sponsorship in this current grant round)
- Western Australian or Australian Government agencies.

3.2. Pre-submission meeting requirement

All Applicants must arrange and complete an online meeting with DPIRD's State NRM Feral Cat Grants Coordinator and DBCA's Feral Cat Strategy Coordinator before submitting their application. This is an important part of the application process and non-compliance will result in the application not being considered for assessment.

The aim of the meeting is to support applicants, providing guidance on the application proposal's alignment with the grant objectives and priorities, and assistance with application preparation and planning.

The pre-submission meeting should occur no later than Friday 31st January 2025. Meetings can be requested after this date under special circumstances, but applicants should be aware that a meeting after 31st January 2025 cannot be guaranteed. Please contact the State NRM Program on 6551 4428 or at snrmo@dpiird.wa.gov.au to arrange a meeting time.

3.3. How many grants can I apply for and how many could be successful?

There is no limit to the number of applications an organisation can submit to the current grant round (2025 Feral Cat Management Grants).

There is no restriction on how many 2025 Feral Cat Management Grant applications can be successful. The limited funding available for this grant round will restrict the number of successful applications.

3.4. Do I need to be up to date with State NRM Program reporting?

Applicants with current State NRM Program grants must be up to date with all reporting and contractual requirements by the closing date of this grant round to be eligible to apply for new funds through the FCM Grants administered by the State NRM Program.

This includes progress reports, variation requests, and final reports/financial acquittals. The status of these requirements can be checked through your State NRM Program (SmartyGrants) grants login (<https://dpiird.smartygrants.com.au/> then select Log in).

3.5. Does my project have to be in Western Australia?

Projects must be based within the state of Western Australia. Applications for project activities in Australian territories, for example, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands are ineligible.

3.6. What activities are eligible?

Grants can be used to fund a wide range of FCM activities that will achieve on-ground native fauna conservation outcomes directly, improve methods or technologies through research and development, improve an organisation's capacity to achieve on-ground FCM action or enhance community awareness and acceptance of FCM.

Activities must deliver outcomes that align with one or more of the objectives of the Western Australian Feral Cat Strategy described in Section 2.1 above.

FCM Grant funding may only be requested for activities or items which are in addition to business as usual.

FCM projects may include on ground works, research and development, community capacity building, or a combination of these.

Further details of eligible on-ground, research and development, and capability building activities are provided in **Appendix B**.

3.7. What activities and costs are ineligible?

The following activities and costs are ineligible for Feral Cat Management Grant funding, but may be included in the project as co-contributions:

- activities related to domestic cat management or awareness
- activities that are a statutory or regulatory responsibility of the landholder (such as boundary fencing)
- activities that cannot be directly linked to an FCM outcome
- alcohol, gift cards and fuel cards
- consultancy fees for work not directly related to approved activities
- contingencies and/or incidental expenses
- costs associated with ineligible project activities
- costs of preparing the grant application
- costs that are already funded or resourced, either through another grant or under business as usual, including coordination, supervision or officer 'time' (such as existing salaries or on-costs) and existing overheads and administration costs (such as HR, finance, and office space)
- costs for retroactive projects, activities, or events, including works, planning or site assessment completed prior to the grant being awarded
- purchase, lease, or acquisition of land
- purchase of equipment or materials that is ordinarily a landholder's responsibility as part of the day-to-day management of a property
- purchase of clothing, excluding items necessary for personal safety

- purchase of information available free of charge and/or development of data and information that is readily available
- purchase of motor vehicles (e.g. cars, utilities and 4WD vehicles) and machinery (e.g. tractors, trucks)
- removal of old infrastructure (including fences)
- salary or on-costs of Western Australian or Australian Government employees
- sitting, board or committee fees or reimbursements
- student salaries, on-costs, scholarships, stipends, or subsidies
- volunteer salaries, on-costs, stipends, or subsidies.



4. Assessment

4.1. Assessment criteria

The merit of each application is assessed against the following criteria:

- Clear methodology, activities and outcomes that address one or more of the objectives of the Western Australian Feral Cat Management Strategy (30%).
- Evidence of local community involvement in each phase of project lifecycle at design, planning and implementation, including consultation with Aboriginal people (30%).
- A reasonable and well justified funding request that demonstrates value for money (30%).
- Sound planning and ability to manage the project (10%).

4.2. Assessment process

The assessment is based on the information contained in the submitted application form and supporting documents provided. The assessment process will also consider the geographical distribution and capacity of applicants to ensure equity across the state.

The key stages in the assessment process are:

- Initial assessment: each assessment panel member individually reviews each application.

- Technical review: applications will be reviewed by DBCA's Feral Cat Technical Committee to review methodology and project planning including demonstrated understanding of required processes and approvals. Comments and suggested improvements will be provided to the assessment panel for consideration.
- Panel convenes: all projects are assessed and prioritised by the panel as a group, seeking additional technical advice as required, resulting in a shortlist of recommended applications which is presented to the Minister for the Environment.
- Western Australian NRM Ministerial approval: it is anticipated that successful applications will be announced in August 2025 by the Minister for Environment.
- Notification: all successful grants will be published on the **Feral Cat Management Grant web page** <https://www.wa.gov.au/service/community-services/grants-and-subsidies/apply-feral-cat-management-grant> with applicants notified by email on the outcome of their grant application.



5. Application

5.1. Application forms

Applications must be submitted using the online application form available at <https://dpiird.smartygrants.com.au/>. Applications will not be accepted in any other format. SmartyGrants is the online grants management tool used by DPIRD.

A Microsoft Word version of the application form is provided at <https://dpiird.smartygrants.com.au/d/files/dlm/40877fac8514bb49bafc7dcc539eae7fae12d>

(note Smartygrants needs to be open to download smartygrant documents).

This may assist applicants in drafting responses to the application questions prior to entering information into the online application form. Please note that formatting such as dot points will transfer into the online form as Plain Text, so may not appear as expected.

To download a PDF of the application, go to the 'Review and Submit' page in Form Navigation. You can do this at any time. Remember to save your progress as you go. You may re-enter the application using *My Submissions* at the top of the landing page once you have logged in.

Previous applicants have advised that the application process is quite time intensive, so please allow plenty of time to complete your submission.

Please contact the State NRM Program on 6551 4428 or at snrmo@dpiird.wa.gov.au for assistance with planning or preparing an application.

5.2. Application deadline

All applications, together with any supporting documentation, must be submitted by **12 noon AWST on Monday 24 March 2025**. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

5.3. Supporting documentation

Applicants should pay close attention to attachments and evidence that support the application.

Applications must include:

- the workplan: is an essential component of the application which acts as a detailed project plan. It must be completed in Microsoft Excel format using the 2025 workplan template (see Section 5.9)
- letters of commitment: a letter from each contributing organisation (cash or other resources or effort) which confirms what is being contributed, and the value of that co-contribution. The letter will be used to validate the information supplied in the project workplan (see Section 6.1)
- signed FCM Landholder Authority Agreement: for all lands where the project involves feral cat management activities*
- detailed maps of on-ground activity: which show the works planned and the landscape scale context, if relevant
- quotes for any services provided by a third party, such as contractors, consultants, speakers*
- indicative quotes for grant funded assets*
- plans, diagrams, or other evidence of the strategic intent of the project
- copies of any documents that you have referenced in the body of the application
- additional written information or imagery which can provide further context or detail to support the application.

*If not provided with the application, successful applicants will be required to provide these during the contracting process prior to funds being released.

Please ensure attachments are labelled meaningfully so it is clear what the file contains.

5.4. Conflict of interest

A conflict of interest is a situation arising from a conflict between the performance of duties or activities as a member of an applicant organisation, partner organisation, or contractor, and an individual's private or personal interests, including financial gain. These interests can also be indirect such as those involving family, friends, or associates.

Applicants must declare and describe any conflict of interest (actual, perceived or potential) in the appropriate section of the application form.

Declarations help to ensure conflict of interest can be managed openly and transparently. They do not rule out a project from consideration.

If you are unsure whether you have a conflict of interest, please call the FCM Grants Officer via the State NRM team on 6551 4428, and we can discuss your situation.

5.5. Acknowledgement of funding

All organisations receiving funding through a FCM Grant administered by the State NRM Program must correctly acknowledge the funding provided to the project by the Western Australian Government as a condition of funding. This also applies to recipients of devolved grant funding.

5.6. Continuing projects

Projects that are a continuation of previously funded grants under the State NRM Program and FCM Program may be considered for FCM Grant funding should a convincing case be provided in the application (such as why the continued project will significantly contribute to or improve the intended outcomes).

5.7. Devolved grants

FCM Grant funding can be used to run devolved grants.

In a devolved grant, a lump sum of money is awarded to the applicant organisation. The applicant then runs their own expression of interest or grant application and assessment process prior to awarding funds or materials to private landholders to deliver the proposed works.

Applications for devolved grant activities must include the following details:

- the purpose of the devolved grants
- why devolved grants are the most suitable approach
- the criteria that will be (or has been) used to guide the assessment/approval process; a draft version of the guidelines or assessment criteria is an essential attachment (this includes awarding funds to preselected participants)
- how the applicant will ensure a public benefit is achieved on private land
- confirmation that the applicant will provide a signed Landholder Agreement from each participating landholder prior to the release of any funds. The Landholder Agreement template is available at <https://dpird.smartygrants.com.au/d/files/dlm/2c5ab83161398454a1e4e8371210352f497>.

Devolved grants: expectations of private landholders undertaking exclusion fencing

Landholders that receive FCM Grant funding through a devolved grant must be made aware of, and are required to adhere to, the following conditions:

- landholders are responsible for the upkeep of fencing for a minimum of 10 years after installation.

5.8. Mapping

Applicants are required to provide detail on the location/s of their proposed project activities.

Mapping involves a two-step process:

1. The online application form requires applicants to enter the address of the project's primary location; this will automatically populate. The primary location could be:

- the place where the majority of project activities will take place
- a central point if the project activities are equally dispersed across a large area.

2. If the project involves on-ground activity, applicants are required to upload and submit a map for each project site. Each site map should clearly identify:

- the type of activity or activities that will be undertaken
- the extent or area of each activity, for example:
 - length of exclusion fencing
 - location of camera grids
 - area of feral cat control activity.

If there are multiple sites, an overarching project map that locates these sites in a regional landscape setting is also required.

Applicants must:

- provide each map in either Word, pdf, jpg or png format; shape files will not be accepted
- provide a short description of each map in the box provided in the application form.

5.9. The workplan

The workplan is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. The 2025 workplan template, including a worked example, is provided at <https://dpird.smartygrants.com.au/d/files/dlm/ac0b19b9696699678d93c9ee2f3c978b6d5f>

Without a completed workplan on the correct template, your application will not be considered. If you do not have access to Microsoft Excel, please contact the FCM Grants Coordinator at the State NRM Program on 6551 4428 or at snrmo@dpird.wa.gov.au for assistance.

All project costs, co-contributions, and calculations must be provided **excluding** GST.

The workplan is a valuable planning tool to set out what resources and budget will be required to undertake project activities, and who will be funding those resources.

It is also a critical component of the application that helps the assessment panel determine if the project is properly planned and costed and shows the project's overall value for money (see Section 7 for more detail).

5.10. Assets

Grant funding can be used to purchase a specific asset if it is essential to project delivery. The State NRM Program considers an asset to be any single item that is:

- of a transferrable physical nature (that is, it can be moved from one place to another)
- valued at \$2,500 or more.

Permanent infrastructure, and fencing are not considered assets.

Each asset must be listed in the workplan budget and, if the application is approved, up to three quotes may be required before making the purchase.

At the end of the project, the asset will remain with the grant recipient, however, it must continue to be used for the purpose for which it was originally approved or made available to the wider FCM community in that area.

Please contact the FCM Grants Coordinator for further information about items that should be considered as assets.

5.11. Intellectual property

Intellectual property (IP) refers to inventions or creations of the mind for which exclusive rights are recognised if they enable people to earn recognition or financial benefit from what they invent or create.

Should an application involving the creation of IP be successful, the IP created by a project is owned by DPIRD, on behalf of the WA Government. This also applies to IP created by a contracted third party and this should be recognised in any contract for services.

Examples of intellectual property you may produce as part of your project include:

- digital media creations, such as applications, software and audio/video clips that can be downloaded online
- publications, such as books and journal articles
- methodology, such as a new way to collect and store native seed
- data you have collected and produced during the course of the project.

5.12. Insurances

Applicants who are successful must have insurance coverage that is appropriate to the nature of the project, as part of the terms and conditions of funding. Grant recipients will be asked to provide details about the following insurances during contracting:

- public liability
- personal accident/workers compensation
- professional indemnity (where appropriate).

The costs of acquiring appropriate insurance (that is, the cost of insurance premiums) can be requested for State NRM Program funding as an item within 'administration and overhead expenses' (see Section 7.4. below).

5.13. Other grant applications

If the applicant organisation is successful in attracting other grant funding for a similar purpose, the applicant must notify the State NRM Office immediately. In such cases, the applicant may be required to provide evidence that the multiple funding sources are undertaking different, and additional activities, and/or working in different areas.



6. Stakeholder engagement

One of the key assessment criteria is evidence of local community involvement in each phase of the project lifecycle at design, planning and implementation, including consultation with Aboriginal people. Including evidence of stakeholder engagement shows the assessment panel that the project is well planned and supported by the community.

It is important that all stakeholders are engaged with or consulted during the project planning process. Stakeholders may be able to help you design a project which has better outcomes and more support.

Stakeholders include people or groups in the community that may influence or be affected by your project. They can include:

- Aboriginal people
- landholders and land managers in the project area
- local government authorities
- neighbouring groups and landholders
- Recognised Biosecurity Groups
- regional NRM groups
- relevant Western Australian government departments
- other organisations conducting similar or complementary work.

Projects which address issues at a landscape scale are encouraged, and it is important that consultation occurs with other groups in the area who may have an interest in the proposed activities.

Applicants should keep a record of consultations, including who, when and where the contact occurred and the result of the discussion.

PLEASE NOTE that the State NRM Office may contact stakeholders to verify information as part of due diligence during the assessment process.

6.1. Landholder permissions and agreements

Applicants must obtain written permission (such as a letter or email) from the landowner and/or manager of each site subject to project activities to include with the application.

Successful applicants will be required to provide a signed landholder agreement with each participating private landholder prior to the release of grant funds. Landholder agreements are used to clarify and formalise the roles and responsibilities of any private landholders participating in your project, including where and when any work will take place, and outlining expectations of the landholder after the work is complete.

The Landholder Agreement template is provided at <https://dpird.smartygrants.com.au/d/files/dlm/2c5ab83161398454a1e4e8371210352f497>.

6.2. Consultation with Aboriginal people

The FCM Grants acknowledge the value of Traditional Knowledge of Country - the developed and sustained knowledge acquired by Aboriginal people over thousands of years of managing the land and sea country of Western Australia.

FCM Grants are available across various land tenures as well as lands covered by Native Title, lands where Native Title has not been determined, and lands where Native Title has been extinguished.

Applicants are no longer required to contact representatives of the Aboriginal community relevant to the Country on which they are working as part of the application process unless there is a requirement under Native Title or Aboriginal Heritage legislation to do so.

Native Title is governed by the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Any land that is a site of an approved or pending Native Title Claim, is bound by that law. It is important that you find out if there is a Native Title determination or claim for all project locations. You will then need to contact the Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) (also known as a Prescribed Body Corporate) for that claim (there may be more than one) and receive their official support for the project to go ahead.

In the South West Native Title Settlement region, the Noongar people were recognised, through an Act of the WA Parliament, as the Traditional Owners of the south west region of Western Australia. Six Noongar Regional Corporations were appointed by the Noongar Boodja Trust to represent the six ILUA Agreement Groups, with SWALSC appointed as the supporting Central Services Corporation. For more information, please see <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/south-west-native-title-settlement>

To determine if native title exists in the area you wish to work, go to the website: <https://nntt.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c57f0e996a7c485480570c38c823398c>

The FCM Grants also recognises the importance of Western Australia's vast cultural heritage that is protected by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

For this reason, all applicants must:

- conduct a search of the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System (<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/search-aboriginal-sites-or-heritage-places-ahis>) to check if whether there are known heritage sites in or around the project area.
- For further information contact the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage at AboriginalHeritage@dplh.wa.gov.au or to launch the map viewer directly, go to <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS>
- reach out to Traditional Owners and/or Native Title holders/claimants to consult/engage with them about the project.

Engagement is based on the principles of free, prior, and informed consent. The outcome of free, prior and informed consent is providing the right and opportunity for Aboriginal people to say 'yes' or 'no' to the use of their land based on comprehensive, accurate, timely, and easy-to-understand information.

It is the responsibility of the Applicant to comply with Native Title and Aboriginal Heritage legislation. FCM grants acknowledges that Traditional Owner knowledge, expertise and time is valuable, and Applicants are encouraged to include Aboriginal engagement and consultation within their project implementation design, and to request funding to cover relevant costs, as appropriate.

Further information on Engaging with Aboriginal people is provided in **Appendix A**.

7. Value for money

Value for money is an important aspect of the grant assessment process. The following information is provided to assist applicants in developing their project plans, and to assist with demonstrating the value for money aspect of their project.

Your project budget will consist of two parts:

1. funds requested through the grant
2. co-contributions that the applicant organisation or partners are committing to the project.

7.1. Co-contributions (cash and in-kind)

Co-contributions are resources donated to the project or provided through other funding sources and usually take the form of either 'cash' (such as income or capital purchases) or 'in-kind' (such as labour, time, machinery hire, equipment use, consumables, or materials).

Applicants should clearly identify, accurately describe, and value all co-contributions in the application and workplan and must provide evidence from the contributing organisation (see Section 7.2 below).

Applications that demonstrate a greater value of co-contributions are preferred because they:

- indicate the project has good support from stakeholders
- demonstrate that considerable planning and effort that has already gone into the project
- illustrate the leveraging power of each dollar of State NRM grant investment.

The Volunteering WA calculator (<https://www.volunteeringwa.org.au/resources/volunteer-benefits-calculator>) for individuals and organisations is a useful tool to help determine the full value of volunteer effort.

7.2. Letters of commitment

Applicants must include a letter from each contributing organisation that provides confirmation of the value of the co-contribution offered and details the resources and/or services it will contribute directly to the project which are in addition to business as usual. Letters of commitment must be signed by a representative of the organisation with the authority to commit the cash or in-kind co-contributions will be required.

7.3. Project coordination expenses

Project coordination and other project roles are eligible activities for Feral Cat Management Grant funding, subject to the following conditions:

- the request for any grant funded base salary must not exceed \$101,000 per annum pro rata (excluding GST and on-costs) in the first year and must not exceed an annual increase of 3% per annum in future years.
- the total of all grant funded positions must not exceed 1.0 FTE (full time equivalent)
- salary on-costs (superannuation, leave expenses, payroll tax and workers compensation insurance) must not exceed 25% of the grant funded salary expenses

- applications must provide a sufficient level of detail on the work the grant funded positions will be doing to justify the request (this can be provided in the workplan or separately)
- salary and salary on-costs should be itemised separately in the workplan.

Basic monitoring activities (such as fixed-point photo monitoring, drone photography or photos and registrations) should be included in project coordination (officer time) expenses.

Project coordination and management expenses must be commensurate with the nature and scope of the project, as well as the work the positions will be doing, to be considered value for money. Grant requests that are not considered by the Assessment Panel to be commensurate with the activities and work proposed may be reduced.

7.4. Administration and overhead expenses

Applicants may seek administration funding to cover general project costs which are not already resourced/funded, such as:

- office expenses (phone, internet, printing)
- general communications
- general travel
- insurances (volunteer, public liability and personal accident/workers compensation)
- a single, end of project financial audit for projects valued at or over \$50,001 (for grants equal to or under \$50,000, this is not required, and a funding request will not be supported).

Applicants can request a maximum of 15% of the project’s total proposed grant funded budget for all other activities for administration and overhead expenses. Administration and overhead requests that are not considered to be commensurate with the activities proposed may be reduced.

Administration and overhead requests that are not commensurate with the activities proposed may be reduced. For example, if the full 15% for administration is requested, but the bulk of the activities are delivered by a consultant or contractor, then the panel may reduce the administration funding offered.

The following is an example of how to calculate the maximum administration grant request.

Example Budget

Grant activity:

Coordination and on-costs	\$10,000
Cage traps	\$15,000
Remote cameras	\$15,000
<u>Workshop</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>

Grant activity sub-total: \$45,000

Administration:

15% of grant activity sub-total \$6,750

Maximum administration \$6,750

Total project grant request: \$51,750

7.5. Project specific travel

The nature of some projects, particularly where large distances are involved, may require specific travel arrangements (such as to on-ground sites or events in a remote location).

Applicants may seek grant funding to cover the costs of travel that is specifically related to the delivery of a particular project activity. This must be itemised and described separately in the workplan. Project specific travel expenses should be shown in the workplan at the actual cost, up to a maximum of 88c per kilometre.

7.6. Purchase of materials

Quotes are not required for purchase of activity materials or consumables, however, providing quotes demonstrates value for money and good project planning.

7.7. Contractors and consultants

Consultants and contractors are people or organisations that you plan to engage to deliver part of the project on your behalf (as a service), such as an expert presenter, fencing installer, or feral animal control specialist. Suppliers are providers of materials only, such as a nursery.

Grant funding can be used to engage consultants and contractors, or purchase materials from a supplier, if it can be demonstrated that this is necessary for the project to achieve its FCM outcomes.

The panel will be looking to determine if the costs for engaging contractors or consultants are commensurate with the nature and scope of the project.

Services provided by consultants or contractors should have enough detail in the workplan for the Assessment Panel to determine value for money.

Applicants requesting funding should:

- itemise services provided by the consultant or contractor in the workplan (using separate lines)
- provide a description in the relevant section of the application form including:
 - why it is essential to the project to engage a contractor/consultant
 - the name and qualifications of the preferred service provider/s
 - what services are being provided.

Indicative quotes from service providers and suppliers demonstrate good planning and value for money. Quotes should specify the cost of the service and provide a detailed breakdown of what will be delivered.

If not supplied at application, successful applicants will be required to provide detailed written quotes as a condition of funding.

If an applicant's organisation, its members, or an affiliate intend to provide consulting or contracting services to the project, this should be noted in the 'conflict of interest' section of the application. In the 'contractors and consultant' section of the application, applicants must also justify why they should be considered the preferred provider of the service. This

can include evidence about the competitive rate or advantage that is offered over other providers (for example, location, or prior experience).

7.8. Aboriginal Rangers, Elders and Traditional Owners

State NRM Program funding can be used to support projects that contract Aboriginal Ranger groups to deliver project activities. Applicants planning to work with Aboriginal Rangers must:

- clearly outline how the services provided to the project consist of new or additional work outputs that are not funded through other means
- Aboriginal Ranger groups wishing to provide a service to use 1080 products *not* on Native Title lands, must be a Registered Pesticide Management Business.
- confirm whether or not the Aboriginal Ranger team has already secured funding to cover its employment costs:
 - if employment costs are already funded, these can be included as in-kind contributions to the project
 - if employment costs are not already funded, these can be included in the State NRM Program grant request.

Applicants are encouraged to refer to the *Rangers (National Parks) General Agreement 2020* available at <https://www.wairc.wa.gov.au/resources/agreements/?id=RAN016> which provides the award rates for Ranger employment.

FCM Grant funding can be used to support Aboriginal Elders and Traditional Owners to participate in events and work activities on Country that relate directly to an FCM outcome, however, their inclusion will need to be fully justified and excludes sitting fees for boards or committees.

More information on Engaging with Aboriginal People is provided in **Appendix A**.

7.9. State or Federal Government services

If you are requesting grant funds to purchase government services, then this must be fully justified. Expenses to cover salary or on-costs of Western Australian or Australian Government employees are ineligible for funding.



8. Grant reporting requirements

8.1 Monitoring, evaluation and evidence for reporting

Monitoring and evaluation activities are critical to being able to tell if your project's activities are addressing the goals of your project. The establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework is an important first step in planning for and verifying if the project has been successful.

Monitoring your project as it progresses also provides essential evidence that the activities of the project have been successfully undertaken and is a requirement of funding. Evidence of achievement is a requirement of reporting under the EHC Program.

There are many different ways of monitoring, however, the level of monitoring should be consistent with the size and scope of the project. Consider what changes you will need to monitor during your project to show that the activities have been successful, and how you will check that the project is progressing towards the expected change, such as:

- camera or video footage
- interviews
- mapping and imagery
- photo point (fixed-point) monitoring
- participant or volunteer registrations
- site assessments
- surveys or other assessments

Some important points to consider when preparing your application:

- basic monitoring activities (such as fixed-point photo monitoring, drone photography or photos and registrations) should be included in any project coordination expenses
- purchase of equipment for monitoring (such as cameras) may be considered for funding.

Please refer to the Photo Point Monitoring links below for more information on how to set up a fixed-point photo monitoring system.

Northern Agricultural Catchments Council: <https://www.nacc.com.au/photomon/>

NRM South, Tasmania: <http://www.nrmsouth.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Photo-Monitoring-Fact-Sheet-NRM-South.pdf>

8.2 Progress Reports

Grant recipients must provide regular progress report outlining:

- achievements and deliverables completed within the reporting period (against what was identified in the application)
- evidence demonstrating the completed project achievements against the deliverables identified in the project application, for example photograph point monitoring of on-ground works
- actual expenditure reported against the approved amount

- percentage/progress of activities completed
- project timeframes, milestones, start and finish dates
- any variances in activities, cost, or time.

8.3 Final Progress and Acquittal Report

Grant recipients must provide a final progress and financial acquittal report within three months of project completion (Final Progress and Acquittal Report).

A Final Progress and Acquittal Report must be certified by the grant recipient's Chief Executive Officer (or an equivalent delegate) and include:

- Final progress report including an outline of achievement and deliverables against what was identified in the project application
- A full financial acquittal of all funding received:
 - for grants equal to or less than \$50,000, the financial acquittal must be assessed and verified by an independent qualified bookkeeper or accountant; or
 - for grants of more than \$50,001, the financial acquittal must be assessed and verified by an independent qualified Auditor, and the Audit Report provided.
- Final progress and acquittal report audit and compliance costs are eligible for grant funding and may be considered a part of the operational expenses request.
- Evidence demonstrating the completed project achievements against the deliverables identified in the project application, such as photo point monitoring of on-ground works including fencing, revegetation and weed control.



9. Grant funding agreements

In order to receive funds, successful applicants must agree to a legally binding funding agreement with the State (represented by DPIRD) which sets out the requirements and conditions under which the funding is provided, including approved activities and measures, timeframes for completion/milestones, how funds can be spent, accountability and acquittal processes, funding schedule, reporting requirements and acknowledgement of government funding.

A payment schedule will be negotiated with recipients, and payments will be dependent on the successful completion of the reporting requirements.

Appendix A: Engaging with Aboriginal people

The purpose of consulting with Aboriginal people is to:

- acknowledge Traditional Knowledge and expertise
- confirm the importance of the area to Aboriginal people including cultural heritage values
- protect cultural heritage and heritage sites
- promote awareness of Traditional Knowledge in NRM and explore opportunities for Aboriginal people to inform land management practices or to be involved in the planning and design of projects
- ensure that free, prior and informed consent has been obtained from Aboriginal people
- ensure compliance with the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*
- ensure compliance with Western Australia's *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021*.

The approach that you take to engaging with Aboriginal people, and what you might ask of the Aboriginal people you engage with, will vary on a case-by-case basis.

Factors that influence your approach include the:

- nature and scope of your project;
- cultural heritage values of the areas in which you will be working; and
- Native Title status of the area.

Aboriginal governance processes are complex with extended family networks needing to be kept informed as part of the consultation process. It is important to recognise that meaningful engagement will take time, and sufficient time for proposals will be required for consideration by their community. It is also important to remember that Elders and spokespeople often have competing commitments and are usually engaged in multiple projects.

The Feral Cat Management Grants acknowledges that Traditional Owner knowledge, expertise and time is valuable, and Applicants are encouraged to include Aboriginal engagement and consultation within their project implementation, and to request funding to cover relevant costs, as appropriate.

Free, prior and informed consent means the consent is:

- **Free** from force, intimidation, manipulation, coercion or pressure
- Obtained **prior** to the project starting
- Obtained after Indigenous people are fully **informed** about the costs, benefits, and risks of the project, and provided the opportunity to seek independent advice.

What to do

If you are unsure of where to start your Aboriginal consultation, we recommend that you read Ask First

(<https://nrm.smartygrants.com.au/d/files/dlm/dafee4d7d4918032518d9163982357cce0fc55>) an easy-to-read guide containing practical information. Then:

1. Conduct a search of the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System (<https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/ahis>) to check if there are heritage sites relevant to your project location and to determine whether your project could impact a site. You will need to run the search for each project site (if your project has more than one).

If in doubt, contact the Aboriginal Heritage section of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage at AboriginalHeritage@dplh.wa.gov.au.

2. Make contact with representatives of the Aboriginal community relevant to the Country on which you are working. If you are unsure who to contact, some suggestions are provided below.

Native Title

Native Title is governed by the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Any land that is a site of an approved or pending Native Title Claim, is bound by that law.

To determine if Native Title exists in the area you wish to work, go to the website:

<https://nntt.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c57f0e996a7c485480570c38c823398c>

Click on the proposed project location and a box will come up. This box has lots of useful information including:

- the outcome of any Native Title claim
- the Registered Native Title Body Corporate (**RNTBC Name**) that you will need to contact when native title exists.

When Native Title exists in the area you wish to conduct your project, you will need to provide written evidence from the relevant Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) that you have permission to conduct activities on this land. Evidence is required that the correct people have been consulted. The correct evidence is a letter signed by the Chair or two board members.

Once you have the **RNTBC name** go to:

<https://nativetitle.org.au/learn/native-title-and-pbcs/native-title-act-and-pbc-regulations>

Click on the red Find button and select Western Australia from the drop-down menu.

Find the **RNTBC Name** in the list. Click on the RNTBC name and this will give you the contact details of the RNTBC so you can begin the consultation/engagement process. The RNTBC has the list of members and those who are able to speak for country. Your request will be referred to the correct people in that community.

If there is no Native Title in the area, then you should get into contact with the relevant land and sea council, and they can put you in contact with the right people. If you know an Aboriginal person who can speak for the Country where you wish to work, or have a relationship with local Traditional Owners, then please engage with them.

The following table sets out the requirements for letters of support from the Traditional Owners of the land the FCM Grants will operate on.

Status	Applicant	Letter of support
Native title has been determined and there is a Prescribed Body Corporate (or equivalent), or a settlement has been reached and there is a Regional Corporation in place	The application is from the Prescribed Body Corporate (or equivalent), or Regional Corporation.	Not required
Native title has been determined and there is a Prescribed Body Corporate (or equivalent), or a settlement has been reached and there is a Regional Corporation in place	The application is from any organisation other than the Prescribed Body Corporate (or equivalent), or Regional Corporation.	Required from the Prescribed Body Corporate (or equivalent), or Regional Corporation
There is no Prescribed Body Corporate or Regional Corporation in place	The application is from the Native Title claim group/s	Not required
There is no Prescribed Body Corporate or Regional Corporation in place	The application is from any organisation other than the Native Title claim group/s	Required from the Native Title claim group/s
There is no Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) or Regional Corporation (RC) in place, or a Native Title claim group	Application is from the Traditional Owners	Not required
There is no Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) or Regional Corporation (RC) in place, or a Native Title claim group	Application is from any other organisation other than the Traditional Owners	Required from the Traditional Owners

Aboriginal Land and Sea Councils

These organisations represent and support Aboriginal people in relation to Native Title matters but also on issues affecting their lands, seas and communities. They also run community, environmental and economic development projects and may be able to assist with engaging with Aboriginal people. A list of contacts can be found at <https://www.waitoc.com/culture/land-sea-councils>.

Respecting Traditional Knowledge

If Aboriginal people are involved in the planning, design, or implementation of projects, it is important their Traditional Knowledge is protected, and Intellectual Property arrangements are identified. For example, Aboriginal people remain the owners of any knowledge shared, and this knowledge is treated as confidential unless specified otherwise. Aboriginal people should also be able to access any information generated from the project in an accessible format. Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements and other contracts can be used to ensure any Intellectual Property arrangements are legally binding obligations.

Appendix B:

Eligible activities information: expectations and limitations

FCM Grant activities must align with one or more of the objectives of the Western Australian Feral Cat Management Strategy:

1. increase effective feral cat management to improve conservation outcomes for native species, through a tenure-blind approach
2. continual improvement of methods and technologies for feral cat management through research and development
3. broaden social acceptability and awareness of feral cat management methods.

On-ground activities

Traditional and novel methods and technologies for FCM on-ground activities will be considered. All activities must clearly demonstrate conservation outcomes for native fauna. Priority will be given to projects that deliver outcomes at landscape scale.

Good environmental hygiene

It is your responsibility and a contractual condition of your successful grant that your activities do not contribute to the spread of weeds, pest animals and disease (for example, *Phytophthora* spp. Dieback in south-west Western Australia).

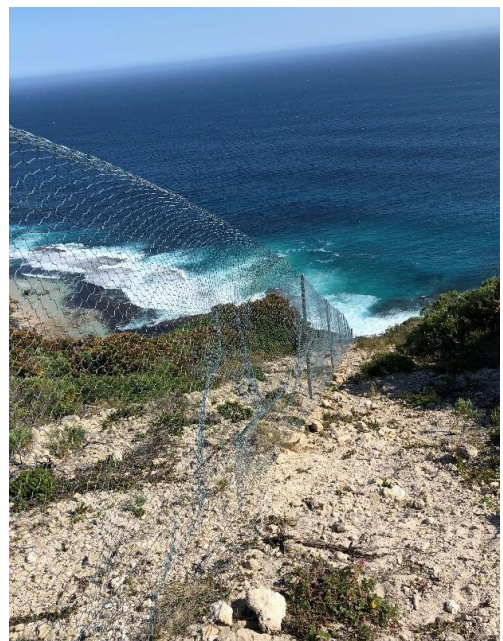
The Australian Government website, Arrive Clean Leave Clean, provides resources to enable best practice hygiene measures (<https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/invasive-species/publications/arrive-clean-leave-clean>).

The Dieback Working Group website provides information on *Phytophthora* Dieback disease and how your project can stop the spread (<https://www.dwg.org.au/>).

Exclusion Fencing

Native species may be protected through exclusion fencing to create safe havens. Activities to maintain and construct feral cat exclusion fencing may be supported in areas of conservation priority. To justify the fencing expense, details of the type of fencing, species' protected and outcomes monitoring design must be included in the application form. Within the workplan, please describe what kind of fence you are intending to install and provide quotes as part of your justification.

- Landholders must commit to providing ongoing maintenance of grant funded fencing for a minimum of 10 years
- In accordance with the *Dividing Fences Act 1961*, it is the responsibility of landholders to fence property boundaries including those bordering crown land. Therefore, grant funds



cannot be used to pay a landholder to construct boundary fences on their own property. If a boundary fence is constructed it may be considered an in-kind contribution towards the project. However, if you are moving a boundary fence inside your property for FCM purposes, this may be considered, but should be a realignment of at least 30m inside the original boundary fence line.

- Funds may be used to employ a contractor to construct fences. If a contractor is required, justification must be provided.
- Any fencing that occurs along a watercourse should have a minimum 30 m buffer from the high water mark.

Feral animal management

Things to consider in your application:

- Applications must demonstrate appropriate animal welfare consideration and evidence of understanding for what is required. This includes detailing methodology including specialist skills and tools proposed to ensure humane animal welfare requirements are met at all times.
- Applicants should be familiar with the Petsmart - Planning guide for feral cat management in Australia and Feralscan Glovebox guide for managing feral cats available at
<https://pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/06/Feral-Cat-planning-guide-final-for-web.pdf>
https://www.feralscan.org.au/feralcatscan/pagecontent.aspx?page=feralcat_gloveboxguide
- The *Animal Welfare Act 2002* and its accompanying regulations provide the legal framework for ensuring that all animals in Western Australia have appropriate standards of care, administered by DPIRD, with information available at <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/animalwelfare/animal-welfare-act-2002>
- Animal ethics approval is not required to use Felixer grooming traps in toxic mode when used for feral cat management purposes. Felixer's use 1080 poison, use of Felixer must be approved by DBCAs Feral Cat Technical Committee: more information on Felixer grooming traps for feral cat control is available at <https://wafcwg.org.au/information/felixer-grooming-traps/> .
- Use of Eradicat® must be approved by DBCAs Feral Cat Technical Committee; contact ecosystemhealth@dbca.wa.gov.au for more information and the application criteria; more information is available at <https://wafcwg.org.au/information/baiting/>
- Meeting required legislative and procedural requirements relating to FCM baiting control will require planning. For more information contact ecosystemhealth@dbca.wa.gov.au
- To ensure that funds requested through this program do not duplicate the work of Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs), evidence of the outcome of consultation with the relevant RBG must be included in the application at the relevant section, including information regarding priority species, and how the project will complement or extend the activities already being undertaken by the RBG.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- address landscape scale control

- protect threatened fauna species or threatened ecological communities
- include monitoring to demonstrate control outcomes on invasive species and threatened native fauna
- can produce the relevant licenses, approvals, permits, or other documents to show the proposed activities will be conducted in a way that complies with all required legislation and Codes of Practice
- have a long term, targeted strategy or management plan in place
- are looking to develop a long term, targeted strategy or management plan
- include integrated pest species management (e.g. cats, foxes, rabbits)
- increase community capacity to continue feral animal control past the life of the application
- demonstrate that there will not be adverse effects by implementing control. For example, by controlling feral cats/rabbit populations won't increase.
- provide data for the numbers of both predators and prey
- can describe why the chosen methodology of single species or integrated pest management will give the best value result.

Native animal management

Projects involving native wildlife will require consultation with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions as licences and permissions are required for the taking or release of fauna under the provisions of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Depending on the activities, separate licences may also be required from DPIRD.

It is not essential to provide a copy of the licence on application but a copy may be required as a condition of funding. Providing the licence at application is preferred.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure can be funded if it can demonstrate clear FCM benefits. Examples of eligible infrastructure include:

- signage for educational purposes
- infrastructure that secures restricted materials (such as baits)

Infrastructure considered to be the responsibility of a landholder will not be funded.

Capability building

Capability building activities must demonstrate that they will contribute directly to improved FCM outcomes.

Information sharing

The sharing of information is a widely accepted and effective means of developing capability. Community groups can apply for funds to access information through various means to build their own capability. They can also access funds to disseminate their experiences and learnings to other groups so they can benefit from that information.

These funds can be used to develop, improve and/or deliver the following activities:

- events such as seminars, workshops, field trips, citizen science
- information products such as booklets, brochures, websites, GIS systems, peer-to-peer learning systems
- skills development and training programs including Aboriginal Ranger Group training
- education programs that focus on school children’s environmental education.

Technical advice

There is an increasing amount of technical information available to volunteers and community-based groups in many different formats that may help them improve how they do their FCM work. This information is often not readily accessible, may not be easily understood and may possibly be conflicting.

Grant funding may be used to engage the services of advisers or consultants who can help volunteers and community groups access, interpret and better understand technical information.

Training and skills development

Grant funding may be used to build the capacity of an organisation through training and skills development. Applications that describe the training need, how it was identified, and how the training need or skills-gap will be addressed will be viewed favourably.

Research and assessment

Research and assessment activities must demonstrate that they will contribute directly to improved FCM outcomes.

Data collection

Activities that collect data should clearly show how it will be used to improve FCM and the outcomes for threatened native fauna, and how it will be stored, managed and shared.

Monitoring

A well-designed monitoring system can answer questions such as:

- Are the populations of individual species of animals declining or increasing?
- Has the management intervention had the intended impact?
- Have new understandings been gained?

Purchase of equipment for monitoring (such as remote sensing cameras) may be considered for funding.

Research

Research activities may be considered for funding under the following conditions:

- research into implementation of innovative best practice where it is relatively untested



- research into extensions of local knowledge developments, and
- other innovative research into FCM outcomes and activities.

All funding requests for research should demonstrate how it will assist the community and how the results will be shared more widely. All relevant current research should be formally acknowledged.

Using animals for scientific purposes is covered by a licence issued under the provisions of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*, which is administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. It is not essential to provide a copy of the licence on application but a copy may be required as a condition of funding. Further information is available at <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/animalwelfare/using-animals-scientific-purposes>

Before applying for a scientific use licence, applicants are required to obtain an agreement from an Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) for ethical oversight.

In February 2022, DPIRD established a Wildlife Animal Ethics Committee (WAEC), which allows institutions and environmental scientists to operate in accordance with the conditions of their Scientific Use Licence. Further information is available at <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/animal-welfare/wildlife-animal-ethics-committee-waec>

Approval from an AEC in accordance with the Scientific Use Code is not essential on application but a copy may be required as a condition of funding.

If the project involves native animals, licences will also be required from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Further information is available at <https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/fauna>

It is the responsibility of the applicant to investigate what is required for your project.

Resource condition assessment

The gathering and recording of data about FCM is recognised as an important foundational activity enabling sound project planning and strong project outcomes.

Resource condition assessments could include, for example:

- fauna surveys and mapping
- pest animal surveys and mapping for integrated pest management
- vegetation (habitat) surveys and mapping.

Projects that demonstrate a clear need for the proposed resource condition assessment, and the value of the activity in enabling improved long-term management, will be highly regarded. The funding request should also clearly identify how the assessment will be stored, managed and shared.

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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