



Community Water Supplies Partnerships program expansion

Frequently asked questions

The State Government has recently announced a \$1.5 million funding boost to expand the Community Water Supplies Partnership (CWSP) program to assist more regional communities to manage the impacts of drought conditions.

The expanded CWSP program will now apply to our regional communities in the South West and the Great Southern.

The CWSP program supports projects that will increase water availability for emergency farmland and firefighting needs, to better prepare our regional communities for periods of low rainfall. It can also be used to supply non-potable water to public amenities, reducing the reliance on potable supplies where appropriate. Non-potable water supplies are those that have not been treated to meet drinking water standards.

Funding can be sought for proposed projects that will take advantage of local non-potable water sources for emergency farmland or firefighting and community use – noting funding support will depend on the nature and intent of the work.

What type of infrastructure can be applied for?

Eligible water infrastructure works that can be considered under this scheme include:

- water tanks
- pumps, power sources, pipes and associated distribution systems
- dam and catchment construction and/or maintenance
- standpipe and swipe cards infrastructure
- drilling of new bores
- support for water carting equipment.

Please contact the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's Rural Water Planning team to discuss your project if you are unsure if it is eligible for funding. See contact details below.

Who can apply?

The expansion program is for Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in the South West and Great Southern regions which are not currently covered by the existing CWSP program.

Those eligible to apply include:

- LGAs
- community groups that are incorporated bodies.

All applications must have the support of the LGA, and the application form must be signed by the LGA Mayor or President and Chief Executive Officer.

Which LGA areas are included in the expanded CWSP?

South West region

- Augusta – Margaret River
- Bridgetown / Greenbushes
- Bunbury
- Busselton
- Capel
- Collie
- Dardanup
- Donnybrook – Balingup
- Harvey
- Manjimup
- Nannup

Great Southern region

- Denmark

What are the priority funding objectives?

For a project to be considered, it must provide clear benefits to the community. The priority funding objectives for the program are to provide non-potable water supplies to:

- establish or upgrade strategic emergency water supplies for firefighting and livestock
- reduce reliance on scheme water
- increase public amenities through the irrigation of open spaces, such as ovals, gardens and parks.

Applicants may apply for more than one grant and preference will be given to projects that fall on LGA-owned or managed tenure.

Is there a co-contribution required?

Applicants must contribute a minimum of 30 per cent of the total project cost. This contribution may include cash or in-kind funding.

Examples of in-kind contributions include the use and operation of specialised equipment (e.g. earthmoving equipment) and technical, professional and expert services (such as the use of LGA engineering staff and works crews).

How much funding is available?

The State Government has committed an additional \$1.5 million to the expansion of the CWSP program. Projects will be assessed as they are received. Up to \$100,000 is available for each project and all funds must be acquitted within two years of award.

When can I apply?

Applications open 13 May 2024 for a six-month period, closing 11 November 2024, or until funds are exhausted.

How do I apply?

Applications need to be submitted via SmartyGrants. Please contact the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's Rural Water Planning team on 1800 780 300 or by email at ruralwater@dwer.wa.gov.au for the link.

Further information and enquiries

For further queries on the CWSP program please contact:

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Web: [Community Water Supplies Partnership program](#)
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