



Department of Water

Department of Regional Development

watering WA

Information for applicants

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Pastoral

Water Grants Scheme
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What is the aim of the Pastoral Water Grants Scheme?

The Pastoral Water Grants Scheme (PWGS) assists pastoralists in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne / Murchison, Goldfields and Nullarbor regions. The intention of the PWGS is to overcome the problems associated with water supply deficiencies, grazing pressures around existing water supplies and poor household water quality and quantity.

The PWGS is designed to encourage pastoralists to invest in and improve water infrastructure. The planning and installation of improved water supplies will lead to improved reliability of homestead and livestock supplies. The overall outcome will contribute to pastoral properties increasing their water self-sufficiencies and reducing grazing pressure on the rangelands.

Eligibility criteria

Commercial pastoralists whose properties are located in the pastoral regions of Western Australia are eligible.

For the purpose of the PWGS, a “commercial pastoralist” is defined as one who:

- has a current pastoral leasehold over the property
- has the funds to cover operating costs, the replacement of plant and equipment, a significant proportion of an average family’s living costs and a reasonable return on capital given normal seasonal conditions and commodity prices
- has an active ABN and is registered for GST.

The applicant must demonstrate the need for improved water supplies on the property. The need for additional water will relate to the quantity, quality and distribution of water required to service the normal demand for livestock and domestic purposes for the current level of development. Water supply improvements may be required to improve the management of the rangeland resource, without developing land for additional livestock.

Priority will be given to stations demonstrating the greatest water deficiency and/or anticipated benefit to the rangeland resulting from the proposed improvements.

The parent / holding company is the entity that is considered for eligibility regardless of which subsidiary of the parent company makes an application (ie if one of the subsidiaries of the parent/holding company applies for assistance, it will be considered as part of the parent company in total and not as a separate entity).

What can be claimed through the grant?

The grant provides financial assistance for a range of approved water supply infrastructure to overcome demonstrated water supply deficiencies. The grants are provided to develop new water sources for homesteads, to enable better management of livestock and the rangeland resource.

The grant is not a property development grant.

Eligible works

The grant is available for:

- construction and enlargement of dams and the construction and improvement of catchments
- drilling, screening, casing, developing and pump testing of production bores or wells (the grant will only be paid on bores / wells where the quality and quantity is fit for intended use)
- reticulation of water for livestock and domestic use from any on-property water source, and any off-property water source to which access is guaranteed for at least five years
- pumping equipment, piping, storage tanks and drinking troughs for domestic and livestock use
- water treatment equipment, eg filter and desalination equipment; and
- refurbishment of major water supply systems (eg bores, wells, dams, catchments and tanks), to restore a reliable water supply system.

Ineligible works

Grants are **not** available for:

- dams with inadequate catchment provision
- exploration drilling for water supplies
- fencing of dams, surface water supplies or catchments
- minor or general maintenance of water resources and equipment
- irrigation water supplies and associated distribution systems
- household water supplies for communities or commercial developments such as farm-stay accommodation
- water supplies for aquaculture

- works of a developmental nature for new enterprises, or which expand an existing enterprise; or
- water supplies for livestock feedlots.

What is the rate of financial assistance?

The PWGS provides financial assistance for the development of reliable water supplies on pastoral stations.

The minimum grant available is \$1 000 (ex GST) and the maximum grant is \$20 000 (ex GST). The maximum grant available will be reduced by the amount of any financial assistance that has been provided to the applicant for pastoral water supply improvements in the previous 10 years as part of any State or Federal Government assistance.

The Minister for Water will approve grants where it can be demonstrated that it will assist to improve the sustainable management and productivity of the pastoral resource.

Assistance will not be available beyond the \$20 000 limit to companies with multiple business entities having one or more common beneficiaries.

Grants at the rate of 50 per cent of approved expenditure for the upgrade of household and livestock water supplies will be available to commercial pastoralists in pastoral regions of Western Australia.

The Minister for Water has absolute discretion on the extent of assistance received by any applicant.

How are applications reviewed?

Applications can be sent in anytime throughout the year.

Applications will be assessed and ranked according to the demonstrated severity of water deficiency. Those applications having the greatest level of water deficiency will be given the highest priority for a grant up to the limit of the funds available for each grant round.

What are the grant conditions?

Grants are made to applicants on the following conditions:

- all risk associated with any works is borne solely by the applicant
- applicants are responsible for any taxation liabilities which may arise as a result of accepting a grant
- that the grant shall be payable only:
 1. for proposed works which are in accordance with the application approved

by the Minister for Water

2. on variations for proposed works, which are supported by and approved in writing by the Department of Water
- 3. for costs incurred after the date the grant is approved by the Minister for Water**
4. provided the approved works have been implemented and the grant is claimed no more than 24 months from the date of the Minister's approval of the grant, or any extension of that time approved in writing by the Department of Water.

Please note that approval of a PWG is conditional upon the applicant agreeing to allow officers of the Department of Water or their nominees the ability to access and inspect works completed on the pastoral lease subject to providing one week's notice in writing.

What information is required?

The total water supply and demand situation for the livestock management unit to be upgraded on the pastoral lease to demonstrate how the management of the rangeland resource can be protected through the provision of improved water supplies.

An A3 size map showing that part of the station to be upgraded. The map needs to identify water supply locations, the type and quality of the supply, livestock numbers and proposed new supplies. The grant application should clearly identify how the new works will improve management of the rangeland resource.

The application should identify if improvements to domestic supplies are required and provide information on numbers of occupants, household demand, and the nature of improvements provided.

Diagrams showing roof areas and any existing and proposed rain water tanks must also be provided.

How are grants paid?

1. All grants are paid by electronic funds transfer direct to the successful applicant's nominated bank account. The initial 50% is paid after approval from the Minister of Water.
2. To claim the final payment, the statutory declaration will need to be completed in full, completed schedule of works and original paid receipts / invoices are required to be sent into the Department of Water.

Registration for GST

An applicant not registered for GST and unable to provide a valid ABN (Australian Business Number) is ineligible for a PWG.

Tax Invoices

The Department of Water will provide the applicant with a copy of the recipient created tax invoice showing the amount of GST payable to the Australian Taxation Office. The applicant – not the Department of Water - is responsible for remitting the amount of GST shown on the recipient created tax invoice to the Australian Tax Office via their Business Activity Statement.

NB. The Department of Water does not provide taxation or legal advice. You should not rely on any GST information contained in this booklet. If you have not already done so, we recommend that you seek expert advice on tax invoice requirements, the GST registration process and the general application of the GST to your business.

How do I apply?

To apply for the Pastoral Water Grant (PWG) you must:

1. meet the PWGS eligibility criteria
2. complete relevant sections of the application form in full and all works to be undertaken with the grant money is eligible
3. provide a copy of the pastoral lease
4. include an A3 size map showing the area of the station where water infrastructure exists and where it is proposed. The map should include water supply locations, type and supplies. The grant application should indicate the anticipated contribution of the new works to improve management of the rangeland resource
5. complete Part D with itemised costings for each item including quotes
6. complete and post the *PWGS application* form to the Department of Water along with original signatories.

Note: Incomplete or unsigned applications will not be accepted and will be returned to the applicant/s.

When do I find out if my application has been successful?

Applicants will be advised within two months whether they have been successful in obtaining a grant.

May I commence the work before I am advised of the success of my application?

No. Materials purchased or work undertaken prior to approval of a grant will not be eligible for assistance.

How can I get further information?

If you require further information please contact the Rural Water Planning office.

Contact

Rural Water Planning

C/- Department of Water

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