

Local Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Management Project

Funding Guidelines



natural resource
management program



This Project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Nyoongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present. WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.

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Introduction

Local Government has an important role in managing biodiversity due to their role as decision makers and land managers. WALGA applied for, and received funding, from the State Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program, for the Local Government Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Management Project (the Project).

The Project seeks to increase the capacity of selected Local Governments to conserve biodiversity, by facilitating access to better information about native vegetation values on Local Government managed lands and supporting the development of local biodiversity strategies and/or policies, proven mechanisms for effective consideration of biodiversity in decision making.

Focus is on Local Government with limited resources to undertake strategic biodiversity management planning in the Southwest Ecoregion, internationally recognized as hotspot for biodiversity conservation. The hotspot status not only recognizes the uniqueness of biodiversity but also recognizes the high level of threat.

Local Governments are encouraged to adopt proven methods for initial natural area assessments and local biodiversity conservation planning, built on the experience of long running projects such as WALGA's local biodiversity projects (2001-2014) and the Roadside Conservation Committee's roadside vegetation value assessments. These techniques are effective because they use approaches endorsed by key State Government agencies, provide for consistent data and facilitate local community participation.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding, Local Government will need to meet **all** these criteria to be considered for funding under this grant:

- Located in the **Southwest Ecoregion** of Western Australia (Figure 1 and Appendix 1)
- Provide at least a **50% contribution (cash and/or in kind)** towards the delivery of their selected projects, in the 2023-24 and/or 2024-25 financial year
- Complete the project by **29 November 2024**.

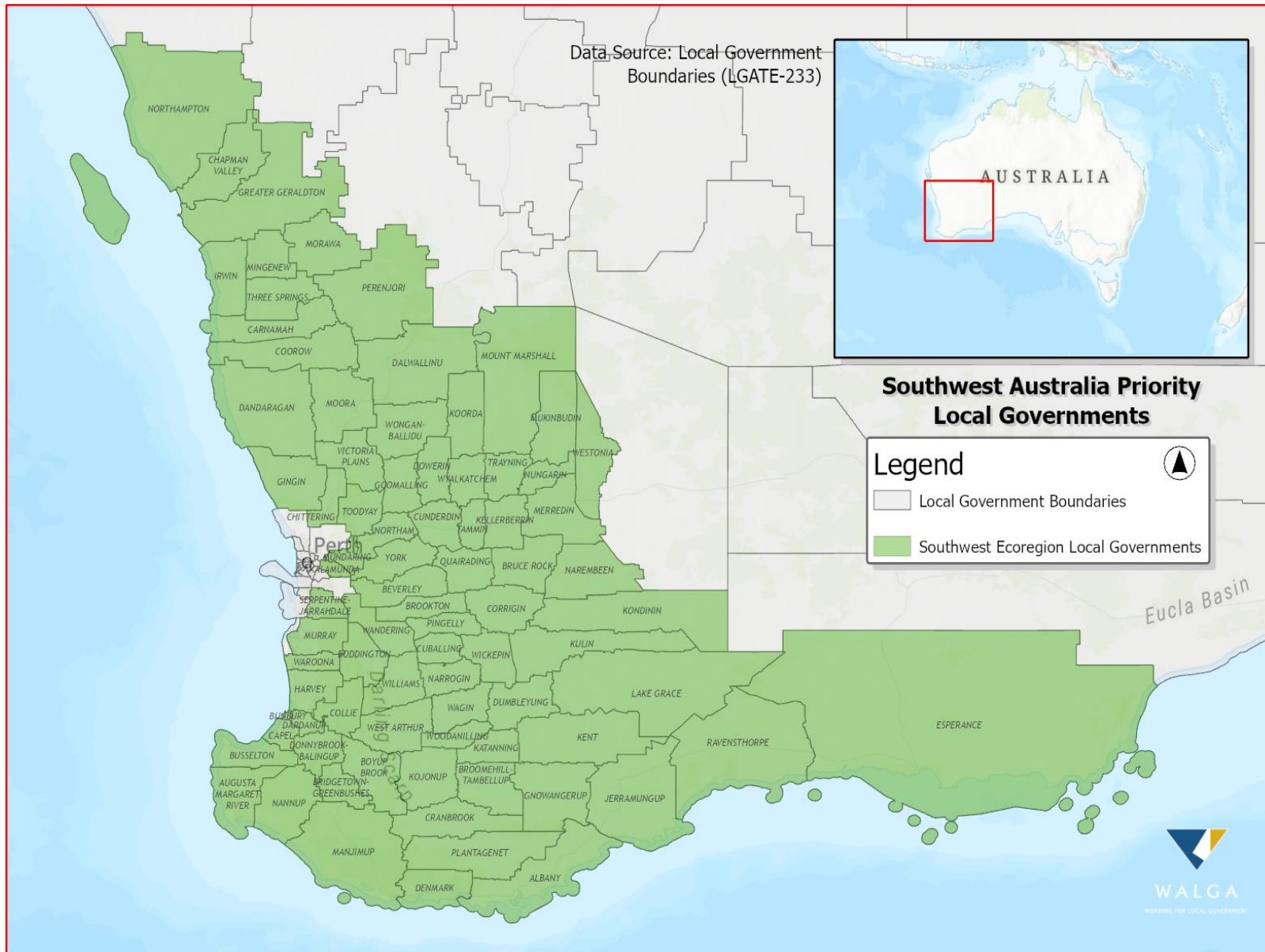
Eligible activities

Local Governments can apply for one or two of the following eligible activities:

- A. Ecological assessments of Local Government managed lands, up to \$10,000
- B. Development of a Local Biodiversity Strategy, up to \$20,000
- C. Development and adoption of local planning policy on native vegetation and biodiversity, up to \$10,000.

There is \$300,000 available, with negotiable caps as listed per eligible type of activities. The following section outlines the expected deliverables for each of the eligible activities.

Figure 1: Local Governments eligible to apply for funding via the Local Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Management Project



How to Apply

Local Governments can participate in the Local Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Management Project by completing the [Application Form](#), including the Budget table and Project Plan and submitting them to environment@walga.asn.au.

Applications close at **5.00 pm on Friday 21 July 2023**.

WALGA's Environment Team are available to provide information for applicants on interpretation of these guidelines and the assessment process, and feedback on the assessment outcome.

For more information, please email [Renata Zelinova](mailto:Renata.Zelinova@walga.asn.au), WALGA Project Officer, Local Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Management, or call (08) 9213 2521 (Mondays and Tuesdays) or Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Environment on 9213 2063.

Key dates for Local Government

Application Period and Grant Assessments		
Applications open	Local Governments notified	Wednesday, 17 May 2023
Information session	Eligible Local Governments invited to join an on-line information session	Tuesday, 23 May 2023
Applications close		Friday, 21 July 2023
Successful applicants notified	Local Governments advised on outcome of application	Monday, 14 August 2023
Agreements signed	Grant agreements signed and returned	Monday, 4 September 2023
Project implementation		
First payment made	First instalment paid upon invoice	Monday, 18 September 2023
Activities commence		September 2023
Progress reports	Local Governments to provide progress update, as per grant agreement	Monday, 27 November 2023
Final payment made	Subject to progress milestone completions	Monday, 12 February 2024
Final report due	Local Governments submit final report on project outcomes and expenditure	Friday, 29 November 2024

Criteria for Applications

A. Ecological assessments on Local Government managed lands

Having a good understanding of biodiversity on lands managed by Local Government is critical to strategic decision making, whether they are decisions on designing infrastructure projects or allocating funds towards managing threats to biodiversity on these lands.

In Western Australia, two types of tools were extensively used to assess the ecological values of lands managed by Local Government in a consistent manner:

- Natural Area Initial Assessment (NAIA) Templates developed by the Perth Biodiversity Project and extended to the South West Biodiversity Project area
- Roadside conservation value classification developed via the Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC).

These types of assessments are not a full vegetation survey. Instead, these assessments allow establishing an inventory of natural area assets managed by Local Government, identifying areas which will require further detailed vegetation, flora and/or fauna habitat assessments and inform the prioritization of areas for conservation and management.

To support the continued use of consistent data collection facilitated by the NAIA Templates, these Templates were simplified and updated to enable their use outside the Perth Metropolitan Region and the South West Biodiversity Project study area.

Deliverables

Reserve assessments:

- Completion of ecological assessments of nominated Local Government managed natural areas using the updated NAIA Templates (at least Desktop and Field Assessment A)
- Preparation of the Prioritisation Assessment Summary using the updated NAIA Template
- Shape file of mapped plant communities and condition assessments
- Preparation of a summary report to inform the preparation of a strategic management plan for natural areas assessed through the application of the NAIA Templates.

Roadside vegetation assessments:

- Shape files of roadside conservation values
- Roadside conservation values report.

To meet the deliverables, the grant request can be for the following activities:

- Employment of Local Government Officer to collect data, undertake assessments and generate the agreed products
- Reimbursement of travel and other direct costs of volunteers undertaking the assessments or costs of volunteer engagement (insurance).



In line with the purpose of this grant, the assessment criteria are weighted to focus on areas that will maximise strategic approaches to natural area management. To assist Local Governments with meeting these criteria, WALGA will provide training and access to data (see WALGA support).

Assessment Criteria

Demonstrated need and strategic benefits – 35%

When selecting areas for assessments, it is recommended that the following considerations are made:

- Prioritise areas where desktop assessment indicates presence of rare flora, fauna, wetlands or threatened ecological communities (mapping available via WALGA)
- Proximity to protected areas of native vegetation e.g. within 1000m of protected areas
- Previous ecological assessments were completed more than 10 years ago
- Assessments will result in at least 80% of Local Government natural area reserves or roadsides having baseline ecological data to support strategic management planning.

To meet this criteria, Local Governments need to specify:

- Reserves or roadside proposed to be considered for assessment and why
- That the proposed assessments will use the recommended consistent methodology to allow for long-term monitoring of changes in condition and enable strategic management. Use of the NAIA Template format is not compulsory but collected information needs to facilitate prioritisation as per the NAIA Template summary.

Increase skills and capacity of Local Government – 20%

One of the aims of the project is to increase the capacity of Local Governments to undertake and use ecological assessments in decisions. To address this, include what activities will be incorporated into the project to:

- Increase skills and capacity of staff within the Local Government
- Increase awareness of Elected Members.

For example, the skills and capacity of staff can be increased by participating in the free WALGA training on the use of NAIA Templates and/or roadside vegetation assessment templates for ecological assessments, through managing the project, reviewing outputs, or working with volunteers undertaking the assessments. Other considerations include, delivering briefings to staff that undertake works affecting native vegetation on Local Government managed lands.

To raise the Elected Members' understanding on the benefits of early consideration of biodiversity in decision making, a briefing on the results of the ecological assessments and how will they be considered in future recommendations to Council on project and resource allocation planning.

Community and Aboriginal engagement Strategy – 15%

Community engagement has several potential elements. To address this, Local Governments should consider the following:

- Engagement with community volunteers with knowledge of the local natural areas to undertake or assist with undertaking the ecological assessments
- Seeking input from/tapping into knowledge of community on ecological, cultural and social values to inform the prioritization of areas for the inventory.

To check for known Aboriginal heritage sites, conduct a search of the [Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System](#). See guidance on the engagement with Aboriginal people on page 13 of this document. If direct involvement of community volunteers to undertake ecological assessments is not feasible, a

process for capturing the cultural and social values should be identified and incorporated into the project plan.

Innovative approaches – 20%

The recommended templates are designed to ensure consistency in data collections and provide a checklist of key information needed to support decisions. With emerging technologies, opportunities more efficient data collection might be explored. Increased efficiency can reduce costs and provide for more systematic monitoring of changes in values. For example, use of drones to survey road conditions is an emerging practice among Local Governments, with drone footage covering the roadside vegetation. Piloting the use of drone imagery to map roadside vegetation values might be explored.

An innovative delivery approach could be the engagement and training of people, groups or organisations which usually would not be engaged with vegetation assessments on Local Government lands.

Demonstrated feasibility and value for money – 10%

This will be assessed on the dollar per hectare cost to the grant of undertaking the ecological assessments and will be used to inform the comparative analysis with other applicants. WALGA does not have a predetermined dollar per hectare cost anticipated. Factors such as distance between assessed sites and remoteness will be recognized in costs considerations.

To demonstrate feasibility, the submitted project plan must show how natural area size was considered in timing of activities, scheduling to ensure assessments are undertaken in winter/spring and completion of all aspects of the project by 30 November 2024.

WALGA support

Local Governments considering developing an application for funding through this program will be eligible to seek assistance from WALGA:

- in identifying lands vested in Local Government meeting the above criteria, including baseline desktop information on vegetation type and other biodiversity values on Local Government managed lands;
- in identifying any past assessments of Local Government lands using the NAIA Templates or RCC roadside conservation values

Successful applicants will be eligible for free training on the use of the recommended templates and support during project delivery.

Read the General Funding Conditions applicable to all activities under this grant program on page 14.



B. Development of a Local Biodiversity Strategy

A local biodiversity strategy provides for the identification and prioritisation of locally significant natural areas, for the assessment of local opportunities and constraints to protection of natural areas and for the identification of ways to achieve local biodiversity conservation objectives and targets.

Key features of an effective local biodiversity strategy are:

- Focus on 'Local Natural Areas' including biodiversity on public and private lands
- Objectives and targets are based on spatial analysis, consistent endorsed criteria and considered in the regional context
- Include a bushland protection map and/or local conservation priorities maps
- An action plan that integrates biodiversity consideration into all areas of Local Government business and decision-making.

Local Governments are encouraged to refer to the Local Biodiversity Planning Guidelines for Local Governments in the South West Ecoregion (WALGA, 2023) that will be available via WALGA's [website](#).

To assist with project planning, see the typical scope of works for the development of a local biodiversity strategy included in [Appendix 2](#) of this Guide.

Deliverables

A draft Local Biodiversity Strategy presented to the Council for endorsement, including the following:

- Objectives and targets based on spatial analysis
- Local natural area prioritisation considered in the regional context and consistent with the Local Biodiversity Planning Guidelines (WALGA, 2023)
- Include a bushland protection map and/or local conservation priorities maps
- Action Plan with recommendations on integrating biodiversity considerations into all areas of Local Government business and decision-making.

To meet the deliverables, the grant request can be for the following activities:

- Employment of an Officer/Consultant to prepare the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy
- Employment of an Officer/Consultant to deliver specific aspects of the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy e.g. spatial analysis, advice on integrating biodiversity conservation into local land use planning
- Stakeholder consultation.

Local Governments will need to address **all** the following Assessment Criteria to be considered for funding under this grant.

Assessment Criteria

Demonstrated needs and strategic nature of the proposal – 30%

Planning for biodiversity is important for all Local Governments, but Local Biodiversity Strategies will benefit particularly those with:

- significant local natural areas, including vegetation types restricted to a Local Government area
- high rates of development and other pressures that result in native vegetation clearing
- those preparing a Local Planning Strategy
- and those with demonstrated Council support for a Local Biodiversity Strategy.

To demonstrate the strategic need for the proposal, applicants should provide links to relevant strategic documents such as a Local Government Strategic Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan or minutes of a Council Meeting.

Opportunities to increase skills and capacity of Local Government - 30%

To increase the capacity of Local Government staff in considering biodiversity when delivering its services, it is critical that staff will be able to implement the Local Biodiversity Strategy recommendations and actions. To address this criteria include how these elements will be incorporated into the delivery of your project:

- Increasing skills and capacity of staff within the Local Government
- Increasing awareness of Elected Members.

Examples of effective staff and Elected Member engagement include:

- Forming a Steering Committee and a Working Group to oversee and actively deliver components of the Local Biodiversity Strategy development (see Local Biodiversity Planning Guidelines (WALGA, 2023))
- Integrating Local Biodiversity Strategy mapping with internal mapping and data management systems
- Scheduling briefings and/or training to staff and Elected Members not involved via the Steering Committee
- Assigning staff member/s with responsibility for managing the project, reviewing outputs and facilitating internal engagement.

Community and Aboriginal engagement Strategy – 25%

Community engagement has several potential elements. To address this, Local Governments should consider the following:

- Engagement with community volunteers with understanding of local environmental issues as members of the Steering Committee
- Seeking input from/tapping into knowledge of community and local businesses on ecological, cultural and social values of local natural area to inform the prioritisation and the identification of ways to increase biodiversity conservation across Local Government, especially on private lands
- Engagement or partnerships with local landcare networks or regional natural resource management organisations.

See guidance on the engagement with Aboriginal people on page 14 of this document.

Demonstrated feasibility and value for money – 15%

To demonstrate feasibility, the submitted project plan must provide adequate time for effective community engagement and consultation and to deliver all aspects of the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy as identified in the Scope of Works (Appendix 2). If engaging Consultants, inclusion of copies of quotations with timeframes for delivery is recommended.

WALGA support

Local Governments considering developing an application for funding through this program will be eligible to seek assistance from WALGA:

- in identifying existing mapping data to support the local biodiversity conservation planning, including mapping of Local Natural Areas
- assistance with the prioritisation criteria
- assistance with the establishment of the Steering Committee (e.g. drafting Terms of Reference).

Successful applicants and Consultants engaged by Local Government to prepare the draft Local Biodiversity Strategy will be eligible for free training on the local biodiversity conservation planning process. See also the Local Biodiversity Planning Guidelines for Local Governments in the South West Ecoregion (WALGA, 2023) available via WALGA's [website](#).

Read the General Funding Conditions applicable to all activities under this grant program on page 14.

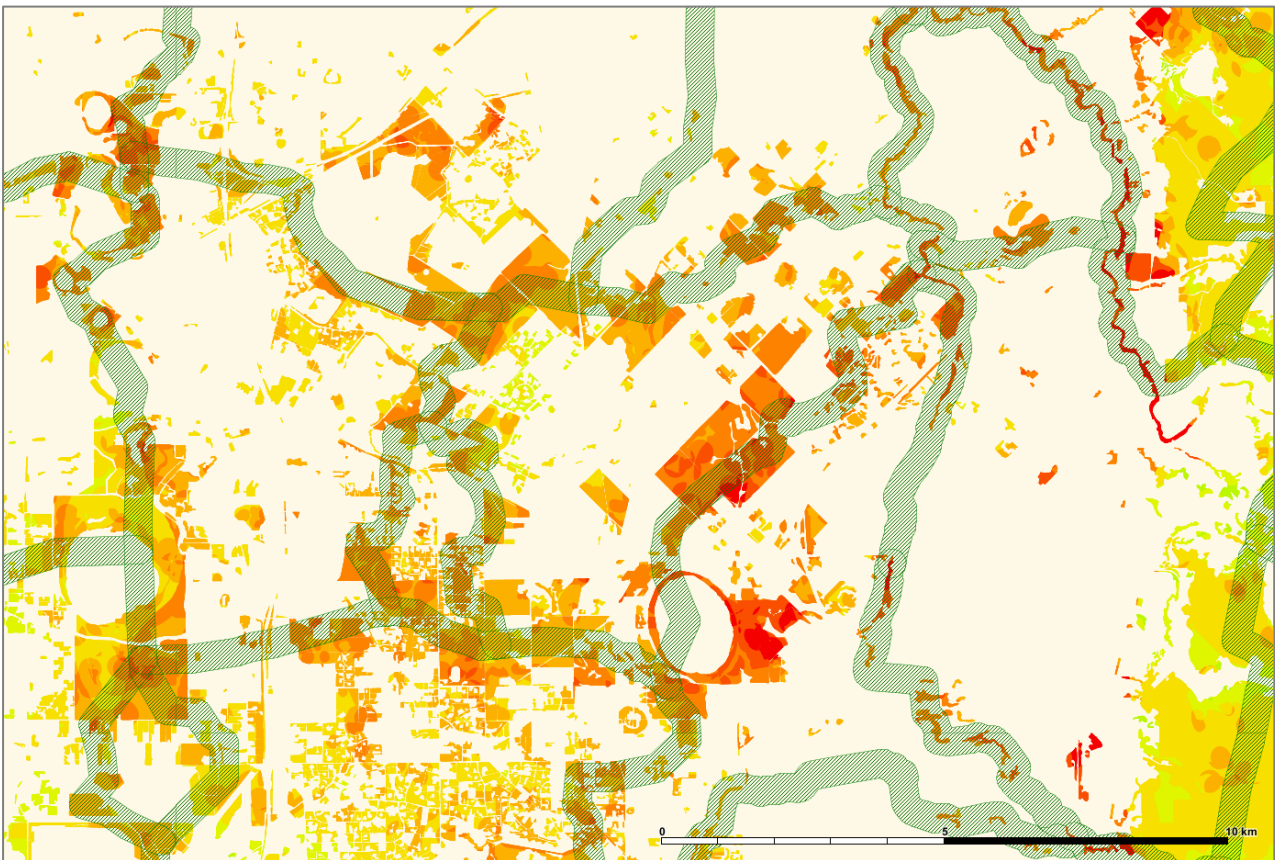


Figure 2: An example of natural area prioritisation with an overlay of regional ecological linkages (WALGA 2021)

C. Development and adoption of a local planning policy on native vegetation and biodiversity

There are two types of policies Local Governments use to consider biodiversity in decision making. Local planning policies are an important planning instrument. They help with setting clear expectations on how Local Governments are likely to use discretion in decision making and outline acceptable development standards. Local planning policies can be prepared on any matter within the local planning scheme, including requirements to consider native vegetation or biodiversity. Development of a Local Planning Policy is a common action in Local Biodiversity Strategies.

The second type of policies are Council Policies or Codes of Conduct that set standards for internal processes such as project planning for works affecting native vegetation, including management of contractors. These can include checklists to ensure regulatory requirements for Local Government projects are met in timely way and directions to staff on how to consider biodiversity, avoid and minimize impacts of proposals.

Local Governments are encouraged to refer to the Local Biodiversity Planning Guidelines for Local Governments in the South West Ecoregion (WALGA, 2023) available via WALGA's [website](#).

Deliverables:

- A Council endorsed Local Planning Policy developed in accordance with the Standard Procedure and provide guidance on biodiversity or native vegetation matters within the local planning scheme, and / or
- A Council Policy or Code of Conduct for environmental impact assessments for Local Government projects affecting native vegetation.

To meet the deliverables, the grant request can be for the following:

- Employment of an Officer/Consultant to prepare the Local Planning Policy or Council Policy.

Local Governments will need to address **all** the following Assessment Criteria to be considered for funding under this grant.

Assessment Criteria

Demonstrated need and strategic nature of the proposal – 40%

To demonstrate the strategic need for the proposal, applicants should provide links to relevant documents such as a Local Biodiversity Strategy, Corporate Business Plan, minutes of a Council Meeting or Local Planning Strategy. Identify the specific provisions in the Local Planning Scheme linked to the matter to be addressed in the proposed policy.

Opportunities to increase skills and capacity of Local Government - 40%

To increase the capacity of Local Government staff in considering biodiversity when delivering its services, it is critical that staff will be able to interpret and use the Local Planning Policy or the

Council Policy. To address this criteria include how these elements will be incorporated into the delivery of your project:

- Increasing skills and capacity of staff within the Local Government
- Increasing awareness of Elected Members.

Examples of effective staff and Elected Member engagement include:

- Scheduling briefings and/or training to staff and Elected Members
- Assigning staff member/s with responsibility for managing the project, reviewing outputs and facilitating internal engagement
- Updating the induction procedures for new staff to include the new Council Policy.

Community and Aboriginal engagement Strategy – 10%

Public consultation is a required standard procedure for Local Planning Policies. To address this, outline the consultation process to maximise community awareness and how community feedback will be considered.

See guidance on the engagement with Aboriginal people on page14 of this document.

Demonstrated feasibility and value for money – 10%

To demonstrate feasibility, the submitted project plan must provide adequate time for effective community consultation. If engaging Consultants, inclusion of copies of quotations with timeframes for delivery is recommended.

WALGA support

Local Biodiversity Planning Guidelines for Local Governments in the South West Ecoregion (WALGA, 2023) include information on best practice integration of biodiversity considerations into land use planning and Local Government activities (see WALGA [website](#)).

Read the General Funding Conditions applicable to all activities under this grant program on page 14.



Ineligible Activities

- Activities that fulfil a statutory responsibility
- Substitution of resources that are normally committed by Local Governments for biodiversity planning; e.g. if funds are sought to fund employment of a Local Government Officer, this has to be in addition to the existing arrangements
- Labour supplied directly by your Local Government (must be an in-kind contribution to the project).

Consultation with Aboriginal People

WALGA supports Local Government engagement with Aboriginal people via a range of initiatives, including its support for the WA Local Government Reconciliation Network Google Group. This Group brings together WA Local Government Officers working in reconciliation and Aboriginal projects, including experienced Aboriginal Community Development Officers who can provide advice and guidance on Aboriginal engagement. Membership of the Google Group is open to all Local Government staff, employees of State, Commonwealth and not-for-profit departments, and organisations with shared interests upon receipt of approval from the secretariat of the WA Local Government Reconciliation Network. To join, visit the [Google Group](#) and send a join request.

Early engagement with Aboriginal people is essential to provide the right and opportunity for their representatives to say 'yes' or 'no' to the use of their land, regardless of land tenure.

While the activities supported via this funding program will not result in any on-ground works, early recognition of the Aboriginal cultural heritage and lands covered by Native Title in Local Government strategic plans for natural area management will facilitate timely identification of opportunities for meaningful engagement with local Aboriginal communities.

All applicants must reach out to Traditional Owners and/or Native Title holders/claimants to consult/engage with them about the proposed project.

General Funding Conditions

The project budget needs to consist of two parts:

- Funds requested through the grant
- Co-contributions that the Local Government or partners are committing to the project.

Co-contributions can be in the form of cash and/or in-kind. Applicants must demonstrate 50% of the total cost of proposed project delivery will be covered by Local Government and partners. Applications that attract a greater value of co-contributions are preferred.

Applicants must declare funding received from other sources for the same project and cannot use this funding as a cash or in-kind contribution to other non-Local Government funded projects.

To determine the value of contributions by volunteers, the applicants can refer to an online calculator developed by Volunteering WA ([Volunteer benefits calculator - Volunteering WA](#)). Reimbursement of travel expenses for volunteers can be up to a maximum of 72c per kilometer.

Funding will be paid in two installments subject to meeting agreed project milestones.

Important Information for Applicants

Acknowledgement

All funded projects must acknowledge the funding provided by the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program, delivered via WALGA.

Intellectual property

Intellectual property (IP) created by a project is owned by the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development, on behalf of the WA Government. This also applies to IP created by a contracted third party and should be recognized in any contract for services.

Assessment Process

Each application will be assessed by a panel, comprised of representatives from WALGA and the State NRM Office. The assessment will be based on the information contained in the submitted application form and supporting documents.

Each project will be assessed against the Assessment criteria outlined in these guidelines:

Value	Assessment criteria
A. Ecological assessments of Local Government managed lands	
35%	Strategic benefits
20%	Increase skills and capacity of Local Government
15%	Community involvement
20%	Innovative approaches
10%	Demonstrated feasibility and value for money
B. Development of a Local Biodiversity Strategy	
30%	Demonstrated needs and strategic nature of the proposal
30%	Increase skills and capacity of Local Government
25%	Community and Aboriginal engagement Strategy
15%	Demonstrated feasibility and value for money
C. Development and adoption of local planning policy on native vegetation and biodiversity	
40%	Demonstrated needs and strategic nature of the proposal
40%	Increase skills and capacity of Local Government
10%	Community and Aboriginal engagement Strategy
10%	Demonstrated feasibility and value for money

APPENDIX 1: Local Governments within the Southwest Ecoregion that are eligible to participate on the Local Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Management Project:

City of Albany	Shire of Koorda
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River	Shire of Kulin
Shire of Beverley	Shire of Lake Grace
Shire of Boddington	Shire of Manjimup
Shire of Boyup Brook	Shire of Merredin
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	Shire of Mignenew
Shire of Brookton	Shire of Moora
Shire of Broomhill-Tambellup	Shire of Morawa
Shire of Bruce Rock	Shire of Mt Marshall
Shire of Bunbury	Shire of Mukinbudin
City Busselton	Shire of Mundaring
Shire of Capel	Shire of Murray
Shire of Carnamah	Shire of Nannup
Shire of Chapman Valley	Shire of Narembeen
Shire of Chittering	Shire of Narrogin
Shire of Collie	Shire of Northam
Shire of Coorow	Shire of Northampton
Shire of Corrigin	Shire of Nungarin
Shire of Cranbrook	Shire of Perenjori
Shire of Cuballing	Shire of Pingelly
Shire of Cunderdin	Shire of Plantagenet
Shire of Dalwallinu	Shire of Quairading
Shire of Dandaragan	Shire of Ravensthorpe
Shire of Dardanup	Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
Shire of Denmark	Shire of Tambellup
Shire of Donnybrook-Ballingup	Shire of Tammin
Shire of Dowerin	Shire of Three Springs
Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Toodyay
Shire of Esperance	Shire of Trayning
City of Greater Geraldton	Shire of Victoria Plains
Shire of Gingin	Shire of Wagin
Shire of Gnowangerup	Shire of Wandering
Shire of Goomalling	Shire of Waroona
Shire of Harvey	Shire of West Arthur
Shire of Irwin	Shire of Westonia
Shire of Jerramungup	Shire of Wickpin
City of Kalamunda	Shire of Williams
Shire of Katanning	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Shire of Kellerberrin	Shire of Woodanilling
Shire of Kent	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Shire of Kojonup	Shire of York
Shire of Kondinin	

APPENDIX 2: Typical scope of works – development of a Local Biodiversity Strategy

Project Phases	Key activities/deliverables	Comments
Establishment of a Working Group & a Steering Committee	First meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree on terms of reference/responsibilities • Outline and agree on methodology and communication strategy • Clarify any data gaps 	Technical Working Group consisting of Local Government staff from Planning and asset management directorates Steering Group – includes community representatives and Councillors
Assessment of biodiversity values	Collation of spatial datasets and reports on biodiversity assets in the Local Government Area, including the mapping of Local Natural Areas.	WALGA can assist with the identification of datasets relevant to a Local Government Any internal mapping e.g.. vegetation condition, habitat, restoration sites
	Scope out criteria for prioritisation of local natural areas/review past prioritisation where applicable	Refer to WALGA's Local Government Guidelines
Assessment of opportunities and constraints to biodiversity conservation	Overview of the legislative and policy framework for local biodiversity conservation	Refer to WALGA's Local Government Guidelines
	Review of the local planning framework, assessment of opportunities and constraints for biodiversity conservation provided by the local land use planning provisions	
	Inventory of lands vested in Local Governments (Crown reserves by vesting, road reserves by conservation values)	
Stakeholder Reference Group Meetings	First stakeholder meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree on terms of reference/responsibilities • Discuss initial findings; • Determine local conservation objectives; • Agree on prioritisation criteria for local natural areas. 	Facilitated by Local Government with Consultant presenting Utilising of existing Local Government Advisory Groups is recommended where available
	At least one or two follow up meetings scheduled to seek feedback on draft prior release for public consultation	
Identification of Indicative High Conservation Value Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of ecological linkages • Application of the local natural area prioritisation criteria and opportunities and constraints 	
	Identification of Indicative High Conservation Value Local Natural Areas,	

Project Phases	Key activities/deliverables	Comments
	considering connectivity (spatially)	
	Identification of potential implementation mechanisms to meet the conservation objectives, including a spatial plan (bushland protection plan) and the Action Plan (5-10 years)	Bushland protection plan identifies spatially where identified implementation mechanisms will apply to meet the conservation objectives (e.g. areas to be formally protected to increase representation of locally significant vegetation types and/or known threatened species and communities)
	Presentation to the Working Group	
	Review of all outputs based on feedback from the Working Group	
Preparation of the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy	Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy finalised and distributed to the Working Group and the Steering Committee	
	Working Group meeting (if deemed necessary)	
	Stakeholder meeting to discuss the draft before being finalised to be presented to the Council	
	Final version of the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy and spatial data shape files provided to Local Government	
Community consultation	Seek Council approval to release the draft Local Biodiversity Strategy for public comment	Public consultation should be consistent with consultation required for Local Planning Scheme amendments
Finalisation of the Local Biodiversity Strategy	Compile comments from public consultation/provide response and advise members of the Steering Committee about the outcomes of consultation	
	Prepare final Local Biodiversity Strategy (including any changes following public consultation)	
	Seek Council endorsement of the final Local Biodiversity Strategy	