



Sustainable Soils Program

Funding Guidelines & Application Form – Round 2

Closing Date for applications is 17th February 2012



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(Grants \$5,000 to \$25,000)

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A SWCC Sustainable Agriculture Project for farmers, grower groups and local landcare organisations to establish trials, demonstration sites and other learning activities with the aim of improving soil health. Farmers and groups within the SWCC broadacre agricultural zone are encouraged to apply.

For further information, please contact either:

Alana Shedley (Project Officer) on **9761 4184** OR
alana.shedley@swccnrm.org.au

Rebecca Walker (Program Manager) on **9881 0202** OR
rebecca.walker@agric.wa.gov.au

“This project is supported by the South West Catchments Council, through funding from the Australian Government’s Caring for our Country and the Government of Western Australia.”



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

south west catchments council

ABOUT THE SOUTH WEST CATCHMENTS COUNCIL

The South West Catchments Council (SWCC) is a community representative body that coordinates natural resource management (NRM) activities in the South West Region. As part of this role, we:

- Provide guidance on NRM issues within the region
- Support priority regional opportunities for NRM in partnership with other groups in the region
- Coordinate partnerships between the community and all levels of Government to share the responsibility for NRM
- Coordinate implementation of relevant State and Commonwealth NRM policies and programs

SWCC's mission is to promote and coordinate the effective conservation and sustainable use of land, water, biodiversity, coastal and marine natural resources in the South West through effective planning and management, research, monitoring and community development.

WHERE DOES SWCC FUNDING COME FROM?

The funding for SWCC's 2011-13 investment program is provided through the Australian Government's Caring for our Country (CfoC) Program. CfoC seeks an environment that is healthier, better protected, well managed, resilient and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate.

SWCC is committed to investing CfoC funding in areas considered to be of priority to the Australian Government. SWCC is unable to fund projects that do not adequately address these priorities.

The 2011-12 CfoC Business Plan identifies the broadacre area of the SWCC region as a priority area in which to reduce the risk of soil acidification, soil loss through wind and water erosion and/or increasing the carbon content of soils.

SWCC's SUSTAINABLE SOILS PROGRAM

Through Round 2 of SWCC's Sustainable Soils Program, grants of between \$5,000 and \$25,000 are available for farmers, grower groups and local landcare organisations to trial or demonstrate to their local farming community management practices that will protect the soil resource from wind and water erosion, acidification or a decline in soil carbon. New or innovative management practices will be considered. A central aim of all projects should be to increase landholder adoption of the practice by demonstrating locally-appropriate implementation and management to local farming communities.

WHO CAN APPLY & GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following general eligibility criteria apply to those submitting an application through the Sustainable Soils Program

- Applications can be submitted by any individual farmer, group of farmers, grower's group or landcare organization
- Applicants must have an ABN, or have their application sponsored by an organization that does have an ABN
- Successful applicants must have public liability insurance
- All proposed activity must be carried out in the future. SWCC will not provide funds activities that have already been undertaken
- Funding recipients are expected to make a contribution to the costs of the project via in-kind and/or financial contribution. As a general rule, the funding recipient contribution should be equal to the funding requested, but this may be negotiable depending on the nature of the project. If you have any questions about this aspect of the program, please contact us for further explanation.
- The location of trial / demonstration sites must be identified before the application is submitted.



EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PRACTICES FOR TRIAL OR DEMONSTRATION:

Examples of practices that will be considered include, but are not limited to:

Sustainable Cropping

Integrated weed management to reduce stubble burning; Increasing adoption of no-till using discs; Inter-row sowing through standing stubbles; Precision agriculture and variable rate technologies; Cover cropping.

Sustainable Pastures & Grazing Management

Trialing or demonstrating integration of perennial pastures, saltland pastures and fodder shrubs into farming systems; Companion sowing; Transition & undersowing crops; pasture cropping; Alternative grazing management systems (e.g. planned / rotational / cell grazing).

Incorporating Trees & Native Vegetation

Demonstrating the benefits of integrated tree cropping; Tree belts & block plantings to control wind and water erosion; Trialing practices to reduce tree belt – crop competition.

Sustainable Soils

Trialing or demonstrating biological soil ameliorants; Soil type, pH and nutrient mapping; Less acidic fertilizer options; Options for non-wetting soils.



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

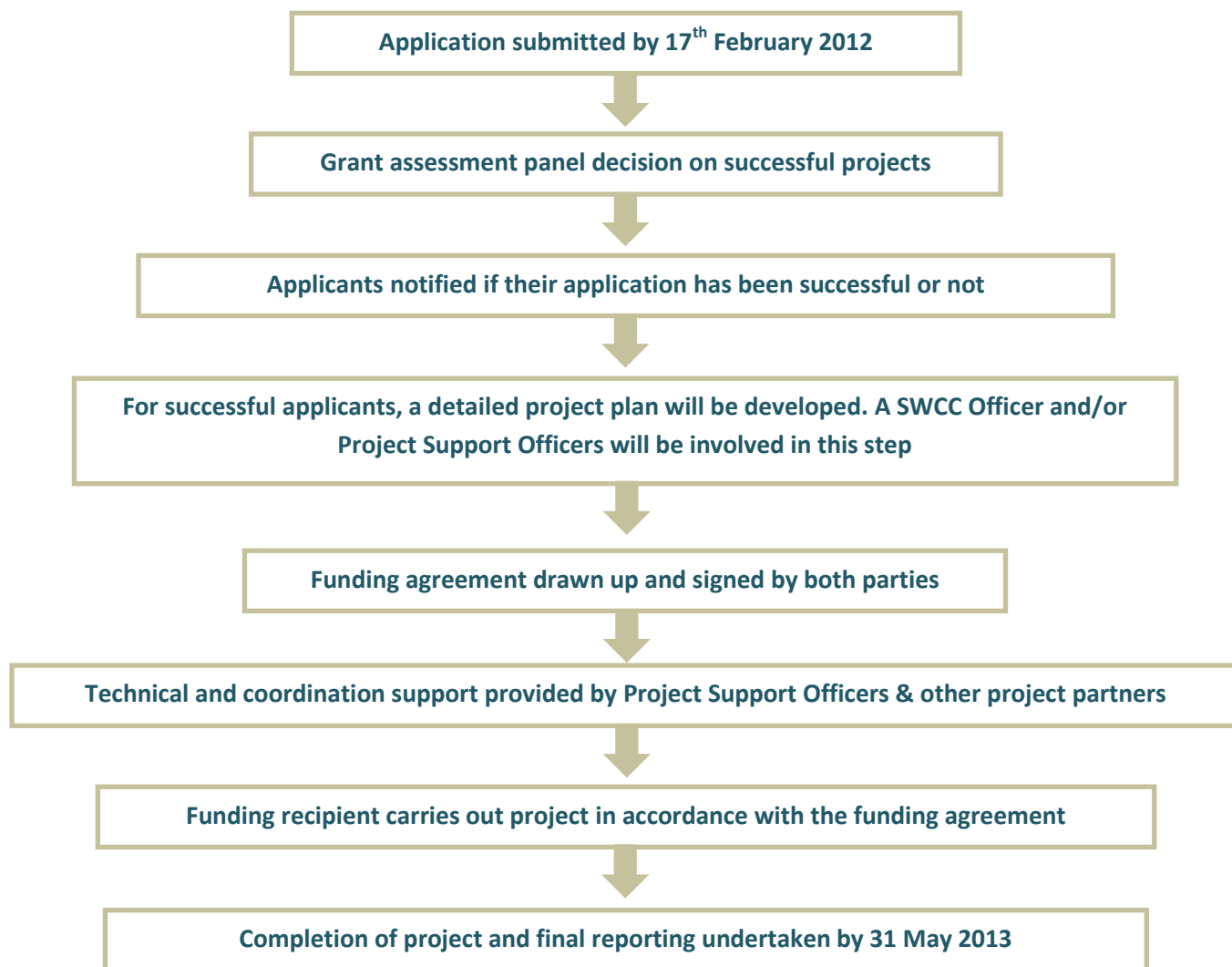
Applications will be competitively assessed on how well they provide sufficient evidence against the following criteria:

1. The need for and relevance of the project activity. All projects must address agricultural soil condition by either preventing erosion or acidification, or increasing soil carbon
2. A robust scientific design and monitoring program
3. Demonstration of the applicant's commitment to sharing their knowledge and skills about design, establishment and management of the farm practice with their local farming community
4. Activities are deliverable within the allocated timeframe and budget
5. Project presents good value for investment and costs are appropriately estimated. There is a limited amount of funding available in Round 2, so applications that meet these criteria will be highly regarded.
6. The applicant has completed acquittals for all past projects

N.B. Where on-ground works are a central part of the project, preference will be given to landholders who have not already received funding for similar works in the past.

---ALL PROJECT ACTIVITIES MUST BE COMPLETED BY 31st MAY 2013---

THE SUSTAINABLE SOILS PROGRAM PROCESS:



PROJECT SUPPORT OFFICERS:

In most instances a SWCC staff member or locally based Project Support Officer (PSO) will be nominated for successful projects. PSO's will be responsible for assisting in project development, coordination of on-ground and extension activities, reporting, record keeping and general communications.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR ASSISTANCE:

If you have questions about the *Sustainable Soils* program, including the application or funding process, please contact:

Alana Shedley
SWCC's Sustainable Agriculture Project Officer
P: (08) 9761 4184
M: 0427 806 193
E: alana.shedley@swccnrm.org.au

If you are a farmer or smaller grower group seeking assistance with your application or project idea, we encourage you to get in touch with your local landcare organisation or growers' group. If you do not have an active landcare organisation in your area, please contact Alana Shedley for assistance.

The contact details of local landcare groups within the SWCC broadacre region are listed below:

Area	Group	Name	Phone	Email
Dumbleyung	Dumbleyung LC	Cara Badger	9863 4225	dyglandcare@westnet.com.au
Katanning	Katanning LCDC	Marianne Perrie	9821 4327	landcarekat@westnet.com.au
Wagin-Woodanilling	Wagin-Woodanilling LC	Danielle Perrie	9861 2222	wwlandcare@westnet.com.au
West Arthur	West Arthur LC	Michelle Gooding	9736 2004	landcare@westarthur.wa.gov.au
Boyup Brook	Blackwood Basin Group	Felicity Willett	9765 1555	blackwoodbasingroup@westnet.com.au



APPLICATION FORM – ROUND 2

Closing date for Round Two applications is 5pm Friday 17th February 2012

Name:	
Group Name:	
Trading/Entity Name:	
ABN:	
Postal Address:	
Location of the project site:	
Phone:	Fax:
Mobile:	Email:

Project Title:

Please indicate if your projects is a:

Trial Demonstration

Which CfoC targets is your project addressing? Please tick all that apply

Wind erosion Water erosion Soil carbon Soil acidity

Please give a brief outline/overview of your project in 100 words or less:

What are the projects main aims and objectives, and how do these address the CfoC target/s identified above?



What are the planned on-ground activities required to set up the trial / demonstration? Please include an approximate timeline for undertaking these activities (*note all projects MUST be completed by the 31st May 2013*).

How many farmers will be directly involved in the trial / demonstration? Please list.

How you will extend and share knowledge within your local farming community? Outline the type and number of extension activities related to this project (e.g. workshops, field days, paddock walks, case studies, media articles and signage), who your target audience will be and expected number of participants.

Sharing of knowledge and skills with your local farming community to increase landholder adoption of the identified practice should be a central focus of all applications.

What are the planned monitoring methods for the trial / demonstration site? Please indicate type, timing and frequency of monitoring.

Why are the outcomes of this project important to your local farming community?



Please provide a broad indication of the budget (including the level of SWCC funding required and your in-kind contributions) for your project. A list of budget items will be needed to assess this application; however a detailed cost breakdown will be finalised at a later stage if your project is successful. Costs associated with project management will be covered under the appointment of a Project Support Officer, and so do not need to be listed below.

BUDGET:

	Planned Activity	SWCC funding requested	In-kind	Total
On-ground work				
Extension, capacity building and community engagement				
Monitoring & evaluation of the trial / demo site				
TOTAL		\$	\$	\$

Note: In most instances SWCC funding requested and In-Kind should be approximately equal.

Have you received assistance to develop this application? If so, by Whom?



Do you have any other comments not covered by this application form that you would like us to consider in assessing your application?

The information provided in this application form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that I have the authority to submit this form as a representative of the applicant organization.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:

DATE:

Please include a project site map with your application that shows the location of proposed on-ground works

Please submit all applications to SWCC by 5pm 17th February 2012:

Email: swcc@agric.wa.gov.au

Post: The South West Catchments Council, P.O. Box 5066 Bunbury DC, W.A. 6230

Fax: (08)9780 6198

Thank you for your application. We will send an email confirming our receipt of your application, and all Round Two applications will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application by Monday the 5th of March 2012.

