

Regional Estuaries Initiative

Soil Testing Program

Enquiries are sought to get involved in the Regional Estuaries Initiative soil testing program.

The program supports informed fertiliser decisions to reduce nutrient loss off farms. If eligible, you will receive whole farm soil testing, pasture tissue testing, nutrient maps and access to personalised agronomic advice to ensure fertiliser and profits stay on the farm and out of waterways and estuaries.

The testing includes

- soil sampling of all paddocks on the farm,
- analysis of samples for each paddock for phosphorus (P), potassium (K), phosphorus buffering index (PBI) and pH.

The soil test data is assessed against critical values, and colour coded maps for P, K, PBI, pH, sulphur status and fertility indices are then prepared for each property to assist in fertiliser decision making.

The official EOI period for the 2017/18 season is currently closed but the 2018-19 season will open in July 2018. The soil sampling component will commence in mid-November 2018 and conclude in February 2019, prior to the commencement of the 2019/2020 soil sampling season.

To register your interest visit the Regional Estuaries Initiative website at <https://rei.dwer.wa.gov.au/>
For more information on this and other REI programs contact the Leschenault Catchment Council.

Please see overleaf for eligibility criteria.



Eligibility Criteria:

The criteria below will be used to determine eligibility. Farms must be:

- A **grazing enterprise** such as beef, sheep, dairy or mixed and;
- **At least 40 cleared and arable hectares** in size and;
- **A single farm consisting of adjacent blocks of paddocks that are** joined by fencelines, creeks, or directly across a road and;
- **Have more than half of the cleared arable area of the farm located within the** coastal component of the Leschenault catchment
- **Be in a zone where the annual rainfall is greater than 600mm**



Farmers that qualify based on the above criteria, but have been involved in a similar program before are eligible. Differing subsidy criteria will apply depending on previous involvement. See subsidy criteria section below.

Priority in the 2018/19 season will be given to farmers not previously involved in a similar activity, although farmers that have previously been involved may be allocated if insufficient applications are received from those without previous involvement.

In the event that the project is oversubscribed, eligibility will be based on the timeliness of application. Eligible applications may be held over to subsequent years in the event of oversubscription.

Subsidy Criteria

A grower could expect to pay \$2,500-\$3,500 for this service for a typical 17 paddock farm if conducted by a commercial provider.

For the 2018/19 sampling season farmers who have not been involved in a previous whole farm nutrient mapping program will be asked to make a flat rate contribution of \$300 for the farm.

Farmers who have had previous involvement in a similar program will be asked to contribute \$25 per paddock.