

On-Farm Natural Capital and Market Readiness (NCRM)

FUNDING APPLICATION GUIDELINES

for

On-Farm Weed Management Incentive Program



Australian Government

This project is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program and delivered by NRM North, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.

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1. Program Overview

NRM North is offering northern Tasmanian farmers targeted funding support for on-farm weed management activities that address priority weed threats across agricultural production areas and on-farm natural assets.

Weeds pose a significant and growing risk to farm productivity, natural capital and long-term landscape resilience. Across grazing properties, invasive and undesirable weeds reduce pasture productivity and carrying capacity, degrade groundcover, compete with desirable species, and increase erosion and drought vulnerability. Beyond production areas, environmental weeds threaten native vegetation remnants, riparian zones, shelterbelts and sensitive habitats, reducing biodiversity values and landscape function.

This investment supports landholders to implement strategic, climate-smart weed management across their farms, recognising that effective weed control requires planned, staged intervention and long-term follow-up, rather than ad-hoc or reactive treatment. Where appropriate, the program encourages coordinated weed management across neighbouring properties or shared landscapes to reduce reinfestation risk and achieve more durable outcomes. Through this program, NRM North will work with landholders to reduce weed pressure in production areas, protect native vegetation through targeted weed control, and strengthen overall landscape resilience under variable climatic conditions.

2. About On-Farm Natural Capital and Market Readiness Project

The On-Farm Weed Management incentive program forms a component of the On-Farm Natural Capital and Market Readiness (NCRM) Project, funded by the Australian Government through the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program, and delivered by NRM North as part of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners network. The NCRM Project is designed to help northern Tasmanian farmers plan for the future by offering practical tools, targeted workshops and personalised support. With producers facing increasing seasonal variability and stronger expectations around sustainability performance, choosing the right path forward can be challenging.

Through the NCRM Project, farmers are supported to adopt practical approaches that enhance resilience, maintain productivity and make the most of opportunities linked to

improved natural asset management. The project will work alongside agricultural industries to establish on-farm demonstrations and develop extension materials that highlight actions that strengthen soil condition, improve landscape function, and support biodiversity, while aligning with market and industry sustainability requirements. Tailored, one-on-one assistance will also be available to help landholders implement agreed improvements on their properties.

3. Program Focus

The On-Farm Weed Management incentive program funding is targeted at:

- agricultural enterprises located within the NRM North region
- agricultural farming systems, including grazing land and associated on-farm natural assets
- on-farm weed issues, which include declared or high-risk weed species under Tasmanian legislation, and emerging weed species threats:
 - environmental weeds threatening native vegetation and bush remnants
 - declared or high-risk weed species under Tasmanian legislation.

4. Program Objectives

The objectives of the On-Farm Weed Management Incentive Program are to:

- reduce the extent and impact of weeds across priority natural assets on-farms in the NRM North region
- improve pasture condition and grazing productivity in areas where weed pressure is limiting pasture performance
- protect and enhance the condition of native vegetation and other natural assets by reducing weed threats
- support best-practice, climate-smart weed control that minimises reinfestation and reduces long-term management burden
- build landholder capability to plan, implement and maintain effective, long-term weed management

- strengthen farm-scale and landscape-scale resilience to climate variability through improved weed control outcomes.

5. What Support Is Available?

Landholders can apply for funding by completing and returning an application form.

5.1. Funding pool

- A total of \$80,000 is available under the On-Farm Weed Management Incentive Program for this funding round
- Funding is allocated competitively.

5.2. Funding support

- Funding of up to \$1,000 per hectare (excl. GST) is available for eligible on-farm weed management activities only
- Funding is provided on a 50:50 co-contribution basis, requiring landholders to match NRM North's contribution through cash and/or in-kind contributions
- In-kind contributions may include landholder labour, use of machinery or equipment, contractor costs, or other directly related weed management expenses
- All funded projects must be guided by a Farm Weed Management Plan.

6. Eligible Weed Management Activities

Funding will support on-farm weed control activities that clearly address priority weed threats and contribute to improved farm productivity and/or protection of native vegetation.

6.1. Eligible activities

Eligible activities for funding under the program include:

- control of pasture weeds and invasive grasses
- control of environmental weeds threatening native vegetation or waterways
- contractor or labour costs directly associated with weed management

- initial weed removal activities within the approved project area
- follow-up spot spraying or targeted control to suppress regrowth and new emergence
- follow-up weed control activities undertaken to manage regrowth following initial treatment.

6.2. Ineligible activities

The following **will not be funded**:

- revegetation or planting works
- purchase of capital items (e.g., vehicles, large equipment)
- activities already funded by another program
- retrospective works
- nutrient or soil amendment activities
- fencing or strategic paddock redesign
- works undertaken solely to meet general biosecurity obligations.

7. Weed Management Implementation Structure

All funded projects must follow a staged weed management approach to ensure effective control and durable, long-term outcomes. Weed management actions must be planned, timed appropriately for northern Tasmanian conditions, and supported by ongoing follow-up.

7.1 Stage 1 – Initial weed control (Autumn 2026)

Stage 1 focuses on the primary control of priority weed species and must be implemented as a planned, deliberate intervention.

Activities may include:

- planned removal or control of identified priority weed species
- use of appropriate, legally registered herbicides or approved control methods

- weed control actions undertaken for the purpose of reducing or eliminating weed presence
- activities where the target weed species and treatment objective are clearly defined.

This stage establishes the foundation for long-term weed suppression and must be completed before follow-up works commence.

7.2 Stage 2 – Follow-up weed control (ongoing)

Stage 2 focuses on preventing reinfestation and protecting the initial investment through targeted follow-up.

Activities may include:

- spot spraying or targeted treatment of regrowth and newly emerging weeds
- follow-up removal or control of target weed species in areas that have previously received initial treatment
- targeted application of legally registered herbicides and/or approved physical control methods to manage weed regrowth or newly emerging weeds
- weed control actions undertaken to maintain or improve the effectiveness of earlier weed removal efforts.

Follow-up weed control is essential and will be considered a core requirement of project success.

7.3. Long-term maintenance commitment

Landholders must commit to:

- maintaining weed management outcomes for a minimum period of five (5) years from project commencement
- undertaking ongoing follow-up weed control as required during this period
- preventing reinfestation and spread of priority weed species within treated areas.

This commitment recognises that effective weed management is a long-term process and is critical to achieving sustained benefits for farm productivity, native vegetation protection and landscape resilience.

8. Eligibility and Site Selection

8.1. Eligible sites

- Privately owned or leased agricultural properties located within the NRM North region.
- On-farm areas used for agricultural production or associated on-farm natural assets, where weeds threaten:
 - pasture productivity
 - native vegetation condition
 - landscape function or biosecurity outcomes.

Note: Public land, Crown land, reserves, road corridors and other non-agricultural properties are not eligible under this program.

8.2. Prioritisation

Priority will be given to projects that

- address declared, highly invasive or emerging weed species that pose a significant risk to farm productivity, biosecurity or natural assets
- demonstrate clear and measurable benefits to both agricultural production and environmental values
- are supported by a planned, whole-of-farm weed management approach that considers long-term control and prevention of reinfestation
- coordinate weed management across neighbouring properties or shared landscapes to address common weed threats and reduce reinfestation risk
- directly address weed threats to state or federally listed threatened vegetation communities, as mapped under TASVEG / LISTmap, located on agricultural land.

9. Contract requirements

Successful applicants will be notified in writing and required to enter into a Management Agreement with NRM North, covering the duration of project activities, and ongoing maintenance of funded works for five (5) years thereafter.

The Agreement will outline approved activities, timelines, reporting requirements and landholder obligations.

10. How Will You Be Paid?

The project must not commence until both the landholder and NRM North have signed the Management Agreement.

Successful applicants will need to provide NRM North with their direct credit details when returning the signed Agreement.

All payments for project works will be made:

- on completion of agreed works or key milestones,
- against evidenced expenses incurred (e.g. invoices, receipts), and
- following an inspection and/or verification by NRM North staff, where required.

Payment will be made by direct credit into the grantee's nominated bank account upon receipt of a valid tax invoice to NRM North at the completion of agreed milestones.

GST-registered grantees will be paid 10% GST on top of the approved incentive amount.

11. Monitoring and Reporting

All on-ground projects funded by NRM North through the On-Farm Weed Management Incentive Program will be required to undertake photo-point monitoring and basic outcome reporting.

NRM North staff can assist with:

- establishment of standard photo monitoring points
- guidance on simple record-keeping to demonstrate practice change and natural capital improvement.

A simple final report, including a signed statement on project outcomes and supporting photos, will be required to receive final payment.

12. Public Liability Insurance

All funded projects must maintain current Public Liability Insurance (\$20 million) for the duration of the Agreement.

A copy of the Certificate of Currency (or evidence that it will be in place prior to works commencing) should be provided with the project application or prior to contract signing.

13. Disclosure of Information

NRM North has reporting requirements with the Australian and Tasmanian Governments regarding funded works. NRM North will be required to:

- provide information on the location and type of activities funded under this program, and
- supply spatial data (e.g. maps or GIS layers) showing project locations.

Project locations may be represented publicly at a catchment or regional scale (for example as points or polygons on a map), but specific property addresses or personally identifiable information will not be publicly released.

NRM North aims to share information on program achievements to demonstrate the effective use of public funds.

14. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Consultation with Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) and an Aboriginal Heritage Desktop Assessment may be required if the project site contains known or suspected Aboriginal heritage values or relics.

All on-ground works in Tasmania should follow the procedure for the management of unanticipated discoveries of Aboriginal relics, as outlined in AHT's [Unanticipated Discovery Plan](#).

It is the responsibility of the applicant to:

- be aware of potential Aboriginal heritage values
- cease works and notify the appropriate authority if artefacts or relics are discovered during project implementation.

15. Workplace Health and Safety

Project applicants should undertake a Work Health and Safety (WHS) risk assessment for all proposed project works, in accordance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2012.

NRM North staff can assist with preparing a risk assessment and a Job Safety Analysis (JSA) for funded activities if required.

Landholders and contractors are responsible for ensuring:

- safe work practices
- appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- compliance with all relevant WHS legislation and guidelines.

16. Conflicts of Interest

NRM North has a Conflict of Interest Policy. Applicants should declare any perceived, actual or potential conflict of interest in their application. This may include:

- being a current or past NRM North staff member, Board member or committee member, or
- being related to, or in a close association with, an NRM North staff, Board or committee member.

A conflict of interest will not automatically exclude applications from funding. NRM North will follow its internal procedures to ensure any conflict of interest is identified, managed and documented appropriately.

17. Application Process & Key Dates

Applications for this round of the On-Farm Weed Management Incentive Program open 23 December 2025 and all applications must be received by **15 February 2026**.

The application form will be available via the NRM North website or by contacting the NRM North office.

Please send completed application forms to admin@nrmnorth.org.au or:

NRM North
Level 2, 63-65 Cameron Street
(PO Box 1224) Launceston TAS 7250

17.1. What happens after you apply?

Once your application is submitted, NRM North will acknowledge receipt and check that the application meets the basic eligibility requirements of the On-Farm Weed Management Incentive Program. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria or clearly fall outside the program objectives will be notified that their application has been unsuccessful at this initial stage.

Eligible applications will be assessed competitively against program objectives, available funding, and alignment with natural capital improvement outcomes. Applicants whose applications do not adequately meet these criteria will also be notified that they will not progress further.

17.2 Application review and verification

Applications that progress beyond the initial eligibility check will be reviewed through a desktop assessment process, which may include:

- review of the information provided in the application (weed issue, proposed methods, area, budget and co-contribution)
- assessment of mapped environmental values (e.g. LISTmap / TASVEG where relevant)
- review of any supporting evidence provided (maps, photos, quotes).

NRM North may request additional information or clarification to support assessment and verification, where required.

17.3 Funding offer and agreement preparation

Applicants that are ranked highly through the competitive assessment process may be invited to proceed to the funding stage. At this stage, NRM North will:

- confirm the approved weed management activities and eligible costs
- confirm the project area (ha), funding amount and co-contribution arrangements
- agree on milestones, evidence requirements and reporting expectations.

If approved, the landholder will enter into a formal Management Agreement with NRM North, which will outline:

- approved weed management activities
- timelines and milestones
- reporting and payment requirements
- the five (5) year maintenance commitment.

17.4 Application assessment criteria

Due to limited funding, all applications will be assessed competitively against the following criteria:

1. Eligibility and alignment with program objectives

The application clearly supports the program objectives by addressing priority on-farm weed issues that improve natural capital, sustainable land management, biodiversity outcomes and climate resilience.

2. Applicant's past performance in acquitting public funding

The applicant appropriately delivered and acquitted previous NRM North or other publicly funded projects, where applicable.

3. Expected natural capital and weed management outcomes

The proposed weed management activities deliver meaningful and measurable improvements to vegetation condition, pasture condition, or broader landscape resilience.

4. Value for money

The proposal demonstrates efficient and appropriate use of funds relative to the scale of the weed issue and the expected outcomes.

5. Public benefit

The project will deliver benefits beyond the individual property, such as reduced weed spread, protection of native vegetation, or alignment with regional weed management priorities.

6. Co-contribution

The applicant is providing a reasonable cash and/or in-kind contribution toward the project? *(In-kind labour is valued at \$47 per hour. A co-contribution ratio of 1:1 or greater will be viewed favourably).*

7. Integration into a farm weed management approach

The proposed weed management activity forms part of a planned, whole-of-farm approach to managing weed risks and preventing reinfestation over time.

18. Contact Us

For enquiries or assistance, contact:

NRM North – Sustainable Agriculture Team

(03) 6333 7777

admin@nrmnorth.org.au

Direct contacts:

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