

# TASMANIAN WEEDS ACTION FUND STAGE 2 TARGETED SMALL GRANTS

## **GRANT GUIDELINES**

January 2023



The Tasmanian Weeds Action Fund is a \$5 million Tasmanian Government initiative funded until June 2024. The funds provided by the Tasmanian Government will be invested with landholders, land managers, and other organisations to tackle weeds that are impacting valuable agricultural and environmental assets.

## Supported by







Opening date:	30 January 2023
Application closing time and date:	11 pm Sunday 5 March 2023
State entity:	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Administering entity	Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (trading as NRM North)
Enquiries:	waf@nrmnorth.org.au or 1300 109 676
Date guidelines released:	30 January 2023
Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive – small grants

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## 1. Application Process

## **Grant opportunity opens**

The grant guidelines are published on the NRM North website (30 January 2023)



## You prepare and submit a grant application (see sections 5, 6, 7, 8)

You submit a complete application in consultation with your Regional Weeds Action Fund project facilitator, with all supporting documentation to NRM North

## by 11 pm on 5/03/2023



## WAF Project Assessment Panel assess all grant applications (see section 9)

All eligible applications are assessed against the assessment criteria by the WAF Project Assessment Panel.

They are also compared to other applications.

Additional information may be requested from you, if required, to assess applications.



#### Grant decisions are made (see section 9)

The WAF Project Assessment Panel decides which applications are successful.



#### Successful applicants are advised (see section 10)

NRM North advises you of the outcome of your application. Unsuccessful applicants may not be advised until grants have been finalised with successful applicants.



#### **Grant agreement is finalised**

If you are successful, you will negotiate a grant agreement with NRM North. This may include amendments to your proposed project following Assessment Panel feedback. Following this, grant funds will be made available to successful applicants as milestone payments as shown in the grant agreement.



## **Delivery of grant**

You undertake the agreed purchases and activities as set out in the grant agreement.



## **Acquittal and evaluation**

You provide project reporting and financial acquittal documentation as required and as specified in your grant agreement.

NRM North evaluates the Targeted Small Grants based on the information you provide us and that we collect from various other sources.

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## 2. Introduction

In the 2018-19 State Budget, the Tasmanian Government announced the creation of a Weeds Action Fund (WAF) of \$5 million over five years commencing in 2018. The funds provided by the WAF Program will be invested with farmers, community organisations, land managers and other entities to tackle weeds that are impacting valuable agricultural and environmental assets.

A key principle underpinning the WAF Program is that of "shared responsibility". All the Tasmanian community has a role to play in preventing weeds from becoming a serious threat. Landowners, local government and the broader community are encouraged to be strategic and work together to identify, and where possible, eradicate priority weeds that impact their land.

The WAF Program is also designed to support and drive shared responsibility through co-investment (of cash or in-kind resources) through the life of the program and beyond to achieve high value for money and long-term, enduring outcomes.

The WAF Targeted Small Grants Program follows on from the earlier small and large multi-year grants rounds in 2018-19 (34 projects for a total of \$142,545), in 2020, 26 projects valued at \$200,000) and in 2021-24 (24 projects valued at \$2,406,169 over three years).

## 3. Grants Available

This round builds on previous efforts undertaken through the WAF and prioritises funding for previously established WAF priorities under the Targeted Large Grants program in 2021. These priorities are described in Table 1. Targeted Small Grants of up to \$50,000, will be available for projects that stop the spread or eradicate weeds as described in Table 1.

Grants are available for:

- New projects that demonstrate collaborative partnerships and cross tenure or landscape scale coordinated eradication activities, addressing priority weeds.
- Adding value to existing projects funded under Targeted or Facilitated Large Grants by broadening the impact or geographical range of activities. Successful projects in this category will expand existing project consortia through a variation to existing contractual arrangements.

Projects should build on existing or past activities and aim to eradicate outlier populations to protect high value agricultural and environmental assets.

Projects must demonstrate alignment with and contribute to outcomes for strategic broad landscape units, i.e., landscapes, municipalities, catchments, or regions. Cross-tenure collaborations engaging all key land managers in the defined area are sought. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a measurable contribution to land productivity or improved environmental condition. This is defined further in Assessment Criterion 3 below.

The number and duration of projects will be subject to the final determination of the devolved grants budget for 2023-24.

- Projects will need to demonstrate minimum co-contributions (cash or in-kind) of at least 50% of the total project value.
- The maximum grant amount is \$50,000.
- Funded project activities are to be completed by 30 May 2024.
- Grant recipients must commit to maintaining project outcomes for 10 years beyond the life of the project.

#### **Table 1 Priority Weeds**

## PRIORITY WEEDS - WEEDS ACTION FUND TARGETED SMALL GRANTS ROUND

Yellow burweed (Amsinckia spp.)

Heather (Calluna vulgaris)

Meadow parsley (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*)

New Zealand sedge (Carex flagellifera)

Bridal creeper (Asparagus asparagoides)

Besom heath (Erica scoparia)

Tree heath (Erica arborea)

Seeding willow (grey sallow) (Salix cinerea)

## Please note:

- Applications that primarily target weeds species not listed above may be considered for funding where eradication is feasible, the weed is an isolated population, and where actions have a significant benefit to agricultural or environmental assets.
- Support for managing highly invasive grasses previously funded under the WAF such as Chilean needle grass, serrated tussock, African feather grass, African Love grass and Paramatta grass can be accessed through the Tasmanian Highly Invasive Grasses Project lead by Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

<u>Tasmanian Highly Invasive Grasses Project | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (nre.tas.gov.au)</u>

## 4. WAF Program Objectives

The WAF Program aims to:

- provide a more strategic and targeted approach to tackling high priority weeds impacting valuable agricultural and environmental assets.
- improve the productive value of agricultural land and protect Tasmania's natural values through removing the harmful effects of serious weed threats.
- support and co-invest with landowners, local government, and the broader community to take sustainable, long-term, and effective actions to address high priority weeds with eradication as a key objective; and
- encourage the concept of "shared responsibility" for weed management and biosecurity in general.

## 5. Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a grant you must be an individual or an organisation capable of entering into a legally binding and enforceable agreement with NRM North. Eligible entities include the following:

- individuals;
- community groups;
- primary producers;
- businesses;
- schools;
- local government;
- state government and state government entities<sup>1</sup>;
- trustee on behalf of a trust<sup>2</sup>; or
- peak bodies.

## 5.1 Joint applications

We recognise that some organisations may want to form a consortium and submit a joint application to deliver a project. Applications from consortia or groups are eligible if they are submitted via one of the following options.

## 5.1.1 Lead applicant

The consortium appoints a 'lead applicant' who is solely accountable to NRM North for the delivery of grant activities and who is an eligible entity as per the list above. Only the lead applicant can

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Tasmanian Government entity – includes corporate and non-corporate state entities, statutory authorities, and statutory entities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> trusts are not legal entities in their own right – to be eligible, only the Trustee for the Trust can apply by providing the signed Trust Deed and any subsequent variations with the application form

submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with NRM North. The application must identify all other members of the proposed group.

Eligible organisations can form a consortium with ineligible organisations; however, the lead applicant must be an eligible entity.

All project partners must sign the application form to indicate their agreement to be part of the application. The lead applicant must have a formal arrangement in place with each project partner prior to execution of a grant agreement.

## 5.1.2 Sponsorship

If a group is not a legal entity able to contract with NRM North, (e.g., they are an unincorporated association), they can still participate in the Weeds Action Fund Stage 2, Round 2 targeted small grants through a sponsorship arrangement. This is where an eligible entity applies on the group's or entity's behalf.

This means that the sponsor will be legally responsible for meeting the contractual obligations of the grant.

## 5.1.3 Join an eligible entity

If a group is not a legal entity able to contract with NRM North, they may consider joining or becoming a member of an eligible entity (e.g., a local incorporated Landcare group). In this case, the eligible entity would then need to submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with NRM North.

## 5.2 Who is not eligible

You are not eligible to apply if you are one of the following entity types:

- unincorporated association or group of people.
- Commonwealth government entities (including government business enterprises); and
- political parties, political organisations, or lobbyists.

Ineligible applicants can participate as a project partner in a joint or consortium application but cannot apply as the lead applicant.

#### 5.3 All other eligibility requirements

To be eligible, applicants must:

- clearly demonstrate how the proposed activity and/or purchase will contribute to the WAF Program objectives.
- have the ability to complete the activities or purchases within the agreed timeframe of the approved grant.
- commit to reporting and providing a statutory declaration following the completion of agreed activities.
- provide a signature from the landowner(s) and land manager(s) for your activity, where you are not the landowner/manager.
- provide a signature from each of the project partners, in the case of joint applications.

- ensure that all permits, licences, or other authorisations are obtained and completed where applicable; and
- ensure that any contractors or individuals undertaking weed control activities have the required training, certificates, and licenses relevant to the weed management activities being carried out.

#### 5.3.1 Insurance

It is the responsibility of successful applicants to seek and ensure that they have appropriate and adequate insurance(s), including but not limited to Public Liability, Professional Indemnity and Workers Compensation, in place to undertake the agreed grant activities at the time of entering into a grant agreement with NRM North. Consult your insurance policy Product Disclosure Statement or contact your insurer to clarify if you have adequate and appropriate cover for the project. If your application is successful, you must provide a Certificate of Currency to prove your insurance cover with the signed grant deed.

It is also the responsibility of successful applicants to ensure that any subcontractors engaged by the applicant in relation to the agreement with NRM North, hold the appropriate insurances.

## 5.3.2 Workplace Health and Safety

Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) is a very high priority for the WAF Program. You must comply (and ensure that any of your subcontractors comply) with the provisions of all relevant statutes, regulations, by-laws and requirements of any Commonwealth, State, Territory, or local authority including those arising under WHS laws.

You will be responsible for identification and assessment of safety risks, identification, and implementation of mitigation strategies to address such risks, and for ensuring the safety of any participants in the project.

You will be required to implement high standards of WHS at all project sites to the maximum extent possible, including providing a safe work environment and appropriate safety equipment for all project participants and ensuring safe access to project work sites.

## 6. Eligible Expenditure

## **6.1 Eligible grant activities**

The type of activities eligible for funding through the WAF Program include:

- weed management activities such as physical removal of weeds, herbicide applications, mulching, and the like. This may include:
  - o restoration activities (e.g., revegetation with native species to reduce future weed reinfestation), only where this is part of a weed management strategy.
- development and implementation of education, extension, and support programs for local landowners and/or regions to support eradication and/or control of priority weeds; and
- development of a Weed Management Plan to underpin future effective management and control of a priority weed/s (see section 6.1.1).

#### 6.1.1 Weed Management Planning

Robust, evidence-based planning is a critical component of strategic weed management. Applicants who are interested in undertaking a larger, more complex, multi-year project through a future round under the WAF Program are encouraged to apply for funding through this Targeted Small Grants round to undertake the critical planning elements of the project. **All activities are to be completed by 30 May 2024**.

The types of activities eligible for funding as part of developing a Weed Management Plan include:

- surveying and mapping priority weed distribution, identifying, and engaging with key stakeholders and collaborators, preparing a plan with clear objectives, best practice weed management activities, and clear targets; and
- plans may include a single property or cover multiple properties and tenures and focus on a single weed or cover multiple weed species.

For further guidance on developing a Weed Management Plan as an eligible activity, see the *Guidance* for Developing a Weed Management Plan on the NRM North website: www.nrmnorth.org.au

## **6.2 Eligible expenditure**

The type of purchases eligible for funding through the WAF Program include:

- tools, equipment, and protective clothing to be used in proposed grant activities;
- weed suppressing materials and/or chemicals to be used in proposed grant activities (noting application of chemicals must be applied in accordance with all legal requirements); and/or
- purchases that support weed management programs (not the cost of items that would normally be purchased as part of existing agricultural or land management activities).

Not all expenditure on your proposed project may be eligible for grant funding. The Assessment Panel makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure. You must incur the expenditure on your project between the start date and the end or completion date for your grant agreement for it to be eligible.

## 6.3 What the grant money cannot be used for

The following activities are **NOT** eligible for funding:

- activities or purchases otherwise funded, e.g., through Commonwealth, State or local
  government programs (including activities previously funded under the WAF), or through
  private funding (activities that build on or are otherwise additional to existing funded activities
  are eligible, where the application clearly sets out the required details for the additional
  element for which funding is sought);
- purchases or expenses related to day-to-day operations of a business ('business as usual').
- the purchase or transport of livestock or feed.
- the purchase of machinery.
- construction, repairs, or modification of infrastructure such as sheds, bridges, culverts and tracks.

- hospitality (e.g., restaurant dinner with alcohol). You can include business catering as part of the grant (e.g., sandwiches/BBQ and drinks at an all-day working bee);
- research.
- projects that cannot be completed within the agreed timeframe.
- activities considered to have a purely commercial or private benefit, or for fundraising.
- grants from you to another entity.
- legal expenses.
- overseas travel.
- activities that have commenced before execution of the grant agreement.
- costs incurred in the preparation of your grant application or related documentation.
- any general operating expenses funding will not cover expenses such as electricity, lease/rent payments; telephone, uniforms etc. that are part of the ongoing expenses of the applicant/s.
- public liability costs for the applicant (including project partners or consortia); and/or
- projects or activities which are the applicant's legal responsibility to maintain, and for which the activities do not contribute to a broader local or regional priority outcome.

As per section 7, your application will be assessed against the eligibility criteria. Only eligible applications will move to the next assessment stage.

## 7. Assessment Criteria

You must address all four of the following assessment criteria in the application.

The application form includes text character limits. The application form will not accept characters beyond this limit. Please note spaces are included in the character limit.

The amount of information you provide in your application should be relative to your project's size, complexity, and the grant amount requested. In completing the application, you must assume that the assessor knows nothing about your project so ensure your responses to questions are clear and succinct to allow the assessor to score your application against the following criteria.

Table 2. Key principles for investment in Weeds Action Fund

Principle	Details	
Priority Weed Principles		
Containment and asset protection	For Targeted Small Grants, the focus is on (i) containment of spread by high priority weeds (see Table 1) to 'clean' areas, (ii) the management of weeds from the fringe of an infestation and working to the centre, and/or (iii) the protection of agricultural or environmental assets is a priority.	
Eradication	For applications for eradication at the state, region, municipality, catchment, or landscape is the preferred outcome.	
Project Design and Management Principles		
Outcome focus	The WAF is outcome focused, and seeks to remove the threat a weed may cause to a priority agricultural or environmental asset	
Planning	Investment is underpinned by planning informed by the best available scientific, technical, economic, and environmental information	
Value for money	Investment represents "value for money"	
Collaboration and lasting outcomes		
Co-investment	Co-investment by proponents (financial or in-kind) demonstrates short- and long-term commitment in and beyond the funding period	
Sustainable outcomes	Project outcomes should be maintained / sustained demonstrated through long term commitment by proponents beyond the life of the funding	
Public benefit	Investment demonstrates strong public benefit in sustainable, productive improvements to agricultural land and the protection of environmental assets.	
Project Partners and Communication Principles		
Collaboration	Investment is supported by a strong collaborative approach with tangible co- investment by partners and dissemination and sharing of information	

## **Criterion 1. Priority Weeds Species**

Targeted Small Grants will be available for weed projects that stop the spread of, or eradicate, priority weeds as described in Table 1. Applications must aim either to eradicate the selected species; or if this is not possible, the aim must be to remove all outlier populations working into the main infestation; also, to reduce further spread of weeds to protect high value agricultural and environmental assets.

Information on the distribution of the targeted weed species can be obtained using the WAF Mapping Application available on the NRE Tasmanian Weeds Action Fund (WAF) webpage (https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/tasmanian-weeds-action-fund). Please use the WAF Mapping Application to see the spatial map of the distribution of the weed of interest. This will be useful in developing project activities; showing the landscape unit the project covers for the control of the target weed(s); identifying the municipality and land tenures; and neighbouring land managers.

<u>ListMap</u> (https://maps.thelist.tas.gov.au/listmap/app/list/map) is another useful tool to investigate the spatial information currently available on the project area. The Property Identification Number (PID) for project properties can be found in ListMap, or on the Council rates notice for the property.

## Criterion 2. Contribution to the WAF objectives

All applications will be assessed to determine to what extent the proposed project objectives contribute to the objectives of the WAF Program (see section 4). As stated, the WAF Program is seeking projects that:

- focus on eradication of one of the target weeds at a state-wide, regional, municipal scale or catchment, or removing outliers and preventing spread if eradication is not possible.
- result in measurable improvements to agricultural productivity or environmental condition
- build and utilise partnerships to deliver effective outcomes.
- commit to shared responsibility; a minimum of 50% proponent co-contribution is required.
- show how outcomes will be **maintained** beyond the life of the funded project, i.e., for a minimum period of **10 years**.

The measurable, long-term improvements achieved after completion of the weed removal activities must be defined, for example, the area in hectares returned to pasture or cropping, the area in hectares in which weeds are eradicated, hectares of revegetation in riparian zones or other environments, or the number, or area, of important species or environmental assets protected.

Co-investment is the contribution by project collaborators to the delivery of project outcomes. Co-investment can be either a cash contribution or in-kind, in the form of hours of labour, use of applicant's resources (tools, equipment, machinery hours or materials etc.). For the Targeted Small Grants program, the **overall value of partner co-investment must be at least 50% of the project cost for the funded period**.

High levels of co-investment and commitment to maintaining outcomes beyond the life of the funding period, are encouraged.

#### Criterion 3. Project activities

Project activities must be:

- technically feasible, appropriate, demonstrate that they are built on best-practice advice, tasked appropriately, and maintained beyond the program,
- achievable within the project timeframes,
- strategically beneficial and logically planned, and involve the key stakeholders
- based on sound, proven technical advice.

The described project activities must be deemed effective in achieving the project outcomes. Applications must show sound reasoning on how the activities relate to improving agricultural productivity or protection of environmental assets, and the proponent must demonstrate the capacity to deliver (e.g., have delivered past projects, or have a track record of project implementation).

Applicants will be required to describe the proposed project activities in their applications for each year funding is sought.

The information that will be required includes:

- What are the proposed project activities (what will you do)?
- When will you carry out the proposed activities?
- Who will participate in each project activity and what is their contribution?
- How will the proposed activities contribute to achieving the project objective(s)?
- How will you measure the resulting improvements to the landscape?
- Who and how will the project outcomes be maintained after completion of the funding?

# Criterion 4. Planning and type of core activities (on-ground works, planning or education & awareness raising)

Project design must be informed by the best available scientific, technical, economic, and environmental information. Where possible the source of information must be identified.

All activities must be well planned and show linkages where possible. If weed management planning is a component of the project, this activity must be a priority action in an existing weed management strategy (state or regional) or align with existing strategic plans.

The application must identify the source of the best-practice advice, or other scientific, technical, economic, or environmental information used in the design of the project.

#### Criterion 5. Stakeholder engagement / collaboration

Investment through the WAF is supported by a strong collaborative approach with tangible co-investment by partners and dissemination and sharing of information.

Projects must involve the relevant stakeholders for the strategic delivery of landscape-scale outcomes. The level of co-investment or involvement by collaborators must be shown (e.g., labour, materials, machine, dollar co-investment) in the application (see application budget). Co-contribution during the funding period (delivery) must be commensurate with the level of commitment required to maintain project objectives in the long-term.

#### Criterion 6. On-going maintenance

The maintenance of project outcomes beyond the funding timeframe is an important factor in delivering enduring outcomes. Applicants and collaborators must clearly define how they will jointly maintain project sites beyond the duration of the WAF Program and what will be the long-term benefit to the agricultural/environmental landscape.

Note that the level of co-investment (in-kind or dollars) is an indication of the level of ongoing commitment to maintaining outcomes; consequently, the co-investment level may be more heavily weighted in the assessment phase.

#### Criterion 7. Co-investment and Value for Money

Co-investment is key to the WAF Program objectives (section 4). All applicants must show a commensurate level of co-investment (either financial or in-kind) to demonstrate their commitment to shared responsibility for weed management. Overall, the value of applicant and partner coinvestment for the funded period must be at least 50% of the total project cost. Projects that have higher levels of co-investment will be viewed favourably.

Applications will be assessed to determine if the project proposal represents value for money in this respect and is therefore suitable for public funding.

Projects must show value for money in the way they make improvements to agricultural productivity, or by protecting and enhancing biodiversity and habitat condition of environmental assets, and thus contribute to the public benefit for Tasmania.

To develop a proposal an applicant must:

- detail the proposed project budget, including the level of co-investment by the applicant and collaborators; this could be financial or in-kind<sup>3</sup> e. g. labour, expertise, equipment, for each year of project funding; as well as after the project.
- describe the public benefit resulting from the proposed project, i. e. what is the benefit to the community through achieving the project objectives?

## 8. How to Apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these guidelines, and the questions and answers page of the NRM North website.

You may submit more than one application. A separate application form must be submitted for each proposed project. If more than one application is submitted for the same project proposal, the latest accepted application form will be assessed by the panel.

If you need more help with the application process and submitting an application online or have any technical difficulties or find an error in your application (after submission but before the closing date and time) you should contact NRM North immediately via email: WAF@nrmnorth.org.au.

To apply, applicants must:

- read and understand the guidelines.
- complete the application form in full.
- include any necessary attachments; and

## **Important**

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide all necessary information at the time of submission. The grant administrators cannot guarantee that they will be able to seek clarification from applicants if something is missing or unclear.

submit the form and supporting information to reach NRM North by 11:00 pm AEDT on 5 March 2023, either by email, in person or post to address below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In-kind rate to use in the application budget: volunteer labour, \$30/h; landholder's labour, \$40/h

NRM North does not have to accept any late applications or additional information or requests from you to correct your application after the closing time.

If we find an error or something missing, we may ask you for clarification or additional information. This will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your application after the closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

You will receive notification acknowledging the receipt of your application.

Applications must be submitted to:

Email: waf@nrmnorth.org.au

**Post:** WAF Coordinator In person: WAF Coordinator

NRM North Level 2, 63-65 Cameron Street

PO Box 1224 Launceston TAS 7250

Launceston TAS 7250

## 8.1 Attachments to the application

All the following documents (if relevant) **must be attached** to your application for it to proceed to assessment:

- trust Deed and any subsequent variations, if applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust.
- consent from landowner(s) or land manager(s) of the land which is the subject of the proposal (if you are not the landholder or land manager);
- consent from project collaborators listed as collaborators in the application.
- map of the project site(s) showing both the context in the broader landscape and separately, the individual parcels where treatment will occur with weed cover classes<sup>4</sup>.
- specific technical advice; and
- contractor/consultant quotes.

You must attach supporting documentation according to the instructions provided within the application form. You should only attach requested documents. Do not attach any other documents to your application form, as we will not consider information in attachments we have not asked for.

Please note: There is a 10 MB limit for the size of emails with attachments; please compress documents and image files so your submission is with in this limit.

## 8.2 Late applications

We will not accept late applications unless an applicant has experienced exceptional circumstances that prevent the submission of the application. Broadly, exceptional circumstances are events characterised by one or more of the following:

- reasonably unforeseeable.
- beyond the applicant's control; and
- unable to be managed or resolved within the application period.

Exceptional circumstances will be considered on their merits and in accordance with probity principles.

## 9. Assessment Process

Applications will be assessed by the WAF Project Assessment Panel. The panel will consist of members with a knowledge of strategic weed management, project governance, natural resource management and weed management in agricultural and natural landscapes.

The panel will be responsible for reviewing and approving project proposals. Panel members will assess applications against the WAF Program objectives and assessment criteria (section 7) and will

 $<sup>^4</sup>$  Weed cover classes can be described using **low**, < 5%; **medium**, 6 – 75% or **high**, 76 – 100% and best capture the general distribution of the weed.

compare them to other eligible applications. The panel may seek further information from the proponent. The panel may also approve a project in part and/or recommend changes to the project.

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide all necessary information at the time of submission. The grant administrators cannot guarantee that they will be able to seek clarification from applicants if something is missing or unclear.

Panel members will be required to notify the panel of the existence of a conflict of interest or the possibility of a perceived conflict of interest.

## 10. Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be notified via phone or in writing; if the applicant accepts the offer, they will be required to enter into a legal grant agreement (Management Agreement) with NRM North. The Agreement contains details of the WAF grant amount, contracted project activities, milestone payment schedule and indicative payment inspection schedule.

Following receipt of the signed Agreement from the Applicant and its final execution, and receipt on an invoice within 28 days of the date in the letter of notification, NRM North will make the initiation payment (Payment 1) to the successful applicant for the commencement of the agreed activities and purchases. Further payment will be made in advance, as described in the Payment Schedule in the Agreement. The final payment will be made as outlined in the Payment Schedule. Note all payments are exclusive GST.

The Agreement will state the maximum funding to be provided and the yearly breakdown of milestone payments based on the applicant's original budget. If additional costs are incurred these must be met by the applicant.

## 11. Taxation and Financial Implications of Grant Funding

Grants under the WAF Program attract GST. Payment amounts will be increased to include the amount of GST payable, where the applicant is registered for GST.

The receipt of funding from this program may be treated as income by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). While grants are typically treated as assessable income for taxation purposes, how they are treated will depend on the grantee's particular circumstances.

It is recommended that applicants consider seeking independent advice about the possible tax implications for receiving a grant under the WAF Program from a tax advisor, financial advisor and/or the ATO, prior to applying.

## 12. Publicity of grant assistance

As the funding provider disbursing public funds, the Tasmanian Government is accountable for the distribution of those funds. As part of the accountability process the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (the Department) may publicise the level of financial assistance, the identity of the recipient, the purpose of the financial assistance, and any other details considered by the department to be appropriate.

## 13. Right to information

Information provided to the Department and NRM North may be subject to disclosure in accordance with the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

## 14. Personal information protection

Personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act* 2004. This information may be accessed by the individual to whom it relates on request to the Department Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania or NRM North.

## 15.Intellectual property

The Department and NRM North recognise that the applicants' proposed activities through the WAF program may include the collection of spatial weed data. Where spatial weed data is collected, the applicant agrees the spatial weed data:

- will be made available to the Natural Values Atlas (NVA) through the processes defined by NVA in the funding agreement.
- will be collected by them and must be provided before the completion of the project, and prior to submitting an invoice, to receive the final milestone payment.

Applicants acknowledge that resources and other materials developed using grant funds may be used or distributed for promotional and educational purposes by mutual agreement of all parties.

## 16. Enquiries and Contact Details

Any enquiries on the WAF Program, and requests for further information on the grants and application process, should be directed to NRM North:

Email: waf@nrmnorth.org.au

Phone: 1300 109 676

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