



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

*We're working for
Western Australia.*

Horticultural Netting Infrastructure Program

Program Guidelines for Western Australia 2022

Current as at 30 June 2022

Contents

1. Program overview	4
2. Objective of the Program.....	5
3. Who is eligible to apply?	5
4. What qualifies for funding?	5
5. What does not qualify for funding?	6
6. How to apply	6
7. Notification of application decisions	7
8. Corrections	7
9. False and misleading information.....	7
10. Conflict of Interest	7
11. Personal information and disclosure of information in application.....	7
12. Program evaluation.....	8
13. Complaints handling process.....	8
14. Additional Information.....	8

Horticultural Netting Infrastructure Program Guidelines

Information current as at 30 June 2022
© Government of Western Australia 2022

All enquiries

All enquiries about the Horticultural Netting Infrastructure Program in WA may be made by:

Email to: hortnettingscheme@dpird.wa.gov.au

Web address: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/horticulture-netting-infrastructure-program>

Telephone: 0476 379 628

All submissions

Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted online at
<https://agric.smartygrants.com.au/hortnettingscheme>

Horticultural Netting Infrastructure Program at a glance

Key features of the Program are:

- Up to 50% of eligible costs associated with the purchase and installation of permanent horticultural netting, to a maximum of \$200,000 is available to eligible applicants.
- A total of \$2.6 million is available in Western Australia
- The Program will open on 1 July 2022 and will close on 30 June 2024. The Program will close earlier if funds are fully committed before the published closing date. Rebates are subject to the availability of funds.

Should you read on?

To help decide whether you are eligible to apply for funds under this Program, you should be able to answer yes to these questions:

- I am a primary producer in an eligible industry with an established horticultural business in Western Australia.
- I earn at least 50% of my income from primary production.
- I have all the necessary planning and building approvals required for the permanent netting I have had installed.

To receive a rebate under this Program you must:

- demonstrate that you meet the eligibility criteria (see page 5)
- submit an application online, ensuring all required supporting information and documents are uploaded and are legible.

Horticultural Netting Infrastructure Program

These guidelines relate solely to the *Horticultural Netting Infrastructure Program* in Western Australia.

1. Program overview

The purpose of the Horticultural Netting Infrastructure Program is to assist primary producers with commercial horticultural businesses to purchase and install new permanent netting over established commercial crops.

The Commonwealth Government has made a total of \$2.6 million available for commercial Western Australian growers. The Program will provide a rebate of up to 50% of eligible costs associated with the purchase and installation of permanent horticultural netting up to a maximum of \$200,000 (excluding GST). Funds are for eligible activities undertaken from 16 December 2019 for apple and pear growers and from 14 December 2021 for all other eligible horticultural crop growers.

The Program will open for applications on 1 July 2022 and will close at midnight on 30 June 2024. The Program will close earlier if funds are fully committed. Rebates are subject to the availability of funds.

Applications will be assessed in the order they are submitted.

Businesses are able to submit multiple applications, however a business may only receive up to \$200,000 in total (excluding GST). An eligible business must be registered with the Australian Tax Office as a primary production business, be registered for GST and have an Australian Business Number (ABN).

2. Objective of the Program

The objective of the Program is to deliver productivity benefits by protecting crops from extreme weather and predators, as well as increasing water use efficiency.

It is expected these benefits will result in more harvested fruit and vegetables meeting the high standards demanded by markets. The use of netting also helps ensure continuity of supply and increases the resilience of the industry to climate change impacts.

3. Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible to apply you will need to demonstrate you:

- Own, share farm or lease property in Western Australia that you use for commercial horticultural production;
- Conduct the majority of your primary production business in Western Australia;
- Operate as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company;
- Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and are registered for GST; and,
- Are a commercial primary production business (as defined in the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997).

4. What qualifies for funding?

- Funding will be provided for the costs for:
- Self-installing; to purchase new horticultural netting and associated support structures required for installation; or
- Installation by an independent commercial third-party provider whose regular business includes installation of agricultural netting ('Third Party Installation'): to supply and install new horticultural netting and associated support structures required for installation.
- The protective netting must be purchased and installed to increase horticultural productivity, such as to reduce the impact of adverse weather events or animal predation, and to help reduce water usage. Applicants are encouraged to utilise local contractors and suppliers and to ensure they have met all relevant planning and building approvals applicable in their Local Government Area.
- The permanent protective netting must be:
 - appropriate for adverse weather protection;
 - cover existing commercial cropping areas;

- Projects are to commence within six months of approval, with funds fully acquitted within 12 months from date of approval. Payment of funds will be made on proof of completion of project.

5. What does not qualify for funding?

The following activities and projects will not be eligible under the Program:

- Projects that have received funding under other State or Federal Government sources to achieve the same project outcomes.
- Projects where the new installation replaces damaged netting and/or associated support structures for which insurance has been claimed.
- Wine grape plantings are ineligible for this Program.
- Feasibility studies, business cases, reports and development plans.
- Costs associated with the preparation of this application.
- The applicant business' operational expenditure, including wages, utilities, fuel, self-installation, repairs and maintenance.

6. How to apply

Your application will need to be submitted online via the DPIRD SmartyGrants platform via the following link <https://agric.smartygrants.com.au/hortnettingscheme> Applications will be assessed in the order they are submitted.

If additional information is required to assess your application, the Department will contact you by email or phone to confirm/request what is required. Applicants will need to provide requested information within five (5) business days.

Failure to provide requested information within five (5) business days may result in the application being declined.

This Program requires you to have completed the purchase and installation of permanent netting, so your application can only relate to work completed and already paid for when you apply.

What do I need to apply?

The following information will need to be uploaded when you are completing your application:

- The original written quotes/estimates from commercial suppliers of materials and/or appropriate and experienced netting and/or installation businesses confirming total project specifications (including netting brand and type) and the location of where the netting was to be installed;
- Evidence you have fully paid for the purchase of materials and installation (this may include copies of receipts, statements/invoices from the suppliers, bank statements or bank payment receipts that verify you have paid all amounts due).
- Details of the number of hectares of established cropping areas where the permanent netting covers.

Please note that you can only be approved 50% of the eligible expenditure you have paid up to a maximum of \$200,000 and availability of Program funds.

You can apply more than once however you will only be able to receive \$200,000 (exclusive of GST) in total under this Program.

7. Notification of application decisions

You will be notified in writing via email of decisions as soon as practicable.

Successful applicants will be requested to provide the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development with a compliant tax invoice for the amount approved plus GST.

8. Corrections

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure their application is complete and correct. The Department will not accept responsibility for any misunderstanding arising from the failure by an applicant to comply with the guidelines, or arising from any discrepancies, ambiguities, inconsistencies or errors in an application.

The Department may request clarification information from an applicant and will allow them five business days to respond with information and/or documentary evidence to verify their claim. The Department's decision will be final and will be made at its absolute discretion.

9. False and misleading information

Applicants should be aware that the giving of false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth)*.

Approved applicants may be subject to audits in the future by the Department that may require you to provide additional information and/or permit an inspection of permanent netting subsidised under this Program.

10. Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest arises where a person makes a decision or exercises a power in a way that may be, or may be perceived to be, influenced by either material personal interest (financial or non-financial) or material personal associations.

All persons involved in the assessment and decisions of applications will be required to make a conflict of interest declaration which will ensure the appropriate identification and management of any conflicts of interest and comply with the Western Australian Public Service Code of Conduct.

11. Personal information and disclosure of information in application

The Department may collect personal information from applicants for the purposes of administration, evaluation and assessment of an application. If the relevant personal information is not provided by applicants, the Department will be unable to assess the application and it will be declined.

Personal information may be disclosed to other Western Australian Government agencies and may be published on the Department's website, provided disclosure is

consistent with relevant laws, including the *Privacy Act 1988*. Personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Privacy Principles.

The Department's Privacy Policy is available on the Department's website. Applicants may contact the Department about their personal information or to make a complaint.

12. Program evaluation

Successful applicants may be required to provide information to assist in the Program evaluation at a later date. This may include responding to telephone and/or online surveys.

13. Complaints handling process

If you are dissatisfied with the way your application has been handled by the Department, you can lodge a complaint by sending an email to hortnettingscheme@dpird.wa.gov.au

Please note that the Department will not reconsider application decisions as part of the complaints process. Your complaint will be considered internally within the Department by a departmental officer independent from the original process, who will provide you with a response to your complaint.

14. Additional Information

You are advised that rebates received may have taxation implications and that you should seek independent taxation and financial advice from a suitably qualified professional before submitting your application if you have any concerns.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure they have complied with all relevant planning and building approvals applicable to the Local Government Area in which the permanent netting infrastructure has been installed. Should an installation that has been subsidised under this Program be found to be non-compliant and is dismantled, the recipient of funds will be required to repay any monies received in relation to the non-compliant netting installation.