

Station boundary fence cost and freight estimation tool

Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Program (SRRP) – Phase 3

Prepared by: Christophe d'Abbadie, Senior Agricultural Economist, Economic Research, Development and Extension Directorate, DPIRD

Date: July 2026

Purpose

Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Program (SRRP) Phase 3 participants can apply for a grant of up to \$75,000 to help implement their on-property revitalisation proposal. Boundary and paddock fencing is one of the most common infrastructure items proposed in these applications, but participants often have limited visibility of the delivered cost of fencing materials once freight to a remote station is included. This spreadsheet tool was developed and distributed to Phase 3 participants to give them a quick, transparent, editable way to build a defensible cost estimate for a boundary or paddock fence, to support the infrastructure costing section of their grant application.

Model structure

The tool is a single Excel workbook (Station_Fence_Cost_Model_1.xlsx) organised into four linked worksheets, each feeding into the next:

- Assumptions – all editable inputs: fence specification, wire and post weights, freight distance and rate bands, and hardware assumptions.
- Materials & BOM – a bill of materials calculating the wire, posts, droppers, strainer assemblies and hardware required, with unit prices, quantities and total weight.
- Freight – converts the total material weight from the BOM into an estimated freight cost from a supplier depot to the station, using distance and a tiered \$/tonne-km rate table.
- Summary – rolls the materials and freight costs into a single grand total, a cost-per-kilometre figure, and a list of assumptions the participant should confirm before relying on the estimate.

Key inputs and assumptions

Participants edit the blue input cells on the Assumptions tab to match their own project. The main inputs are:

- Fence specification – length to build (km), number of plain and barb wire strands, wire wastage/overlap allowance, steel post spacing, dropper spacing and strainer/extender spacing.
- Material weight assumptions – wire density, a barbed-wire strand factor, and typical unit weights for Y-posts, droppers and extenders, used to convert the bill of materials into a total freight weight.

- Freight assumptions – road distance from the supplier depot to the station, and a four-tier \$/tonne-km rate table (small consignment, part load, multi-pallet/part load and full truckload) reflecting typical regional WA road freight benchmarks.
- Hardware assumptions – wire joiners/strainers per strainer point and an estimated clip count per pack, used to cost the small fittings the fence requires.

The Materials & BOM tab lists a full supplier catalogue of wire and mesh options (plain, barbed and Ringlock™), with a Use? (Y/N) flag so a participant can switch between products without rebuilding the sheet. Only the items flagged "Y" are costed.

Illustrative example

The workbook is pre-populated with an illustrative 10 km boundary fence (1 plain + 2 barb wire strands, high-tensile plain wire and 7/90/30 heavy Ringlock™, steel Y-posts at 20 m spacing) delivered 930 km from a Perth-metro supplier depot. The resulting cost build-up is:

Cost item	Value
Fence length	10 km
Materials cost	\$40,294
Freight cost (supplier → station)	\$1,568
Grand total	\$41,862
Cost per km of fence	\$4,186 /km
Freight as a share of total cost	3.7%

Because every figure in the Summary tab is a live formula, changing the fence length, wire specification, post spacing or freight distance on the Assumptions tab automatically recalculates the full cost build-up, so a participant can quickly test several fencing options against their \$75,000 grant budget.

Limitations and items to confirm before lodging a grant application

The model is a planning-level estimate, not a supplier quote. The Summary tab lists the following items for participants to confirm before relying on the total in a funding application:

- Gates and their posts, hinges and latches are not costed — these should be added separately if the boundary needs vehicle or stock access points.
- The extender item weight/specification is unconfirmed and is held at the supplied placeholder price.
- The wire clip pack count (150 clips/pack) is an estimate, as packs are sold by weight rather than count.
- The strainer assembly weight (25 kg/unit) is assumed and should be checked against the supplier's specification sheet.
- Freight is costed against indicative regional WA road-freight rate bands, not an actual carrier quote; a real delivered-to-station quote from a rural carrier or merchandise

supplier (e.g. Elders, Nutrien, Landmark, AWM) may bundle freight into the unit price and can beat a standalone freight booking.

- Installation and labour (post-driving, wire strain-ing, assembly) are not costed — the model covers materials and freight only.

How Phase 3 participants can use this tool

- Enter the length and specification of the fence proposed in the revitalisation project.
- Enter the actual road distance from the intended supplier to the station.
- Confirm or update the unit prices and weights on the Materials & BOM tab against current supplier quotes.
- Use the Summary tab total, together with any labour and gate costs, as the fencing line item in the infrastructure development budget submitted with the SRRP Phase 3 application.

Further program information, eligibility and application guidance for the Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Program is available on the DPIRD website.

Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Copyright © State of Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) 2026