

Agricultural Landscape Rehabilitation Scheme

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING A NOMINATION



Nominations close: **31st March, 2017**

Assistance with completing your nomination, including accessing technical advice is available by contacting Agricultural Landscape Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) on: 1300 043 116

1 Background

The Tasmanian Government, in partnership with Tasmanian NRM regional bodies, has announced the Agricultural Landscape Rehabilitation Scheme to support recovery efforts following the June 2016 floods.

The intention of the scheme is to foster collaborative partnerships through encouraging group or individual proposals that work closely with industry, community, government, research and business partners to improve waterway resilience to floods.

Two million dollars has been allocated by the Tasmanian Government for this scheme.

The scheme assists flood-affected landowners and communities through funding projects aimed at rehabilitation of land and stream systems damaged as a result of the June 2016 floods. The focus of the program is to restore the capacity of the primary production sector and reduce impacts of future floods on agricultural land.

The scheme targets private property and adjacent areas that have suffered direct physical damage as a result the June 2016 floods or areas where future flooding may present a risk to primary production or public infrastructure.

Landowners or community groups may nominate to participate directly in two types of works:

- **River and stream resilience (larger-scale work)**, such as riparian revegetation, bank protection, stream alignment, and erosion management; and
- **Debris clean-up (smaller-scale works)** for landowners on productive land, such as timber and river cobble removal.

Participants will be assisted in preparing nominations for works, and will have access to advice in catchment and waterway management through group workshops and on-ground consultation. NRM regional bodies will provide support for developing, scoping and the costing of works proposals, and will provide access to technical assistance during the implementation of works.

2 What is the purpose of the Agricultural Landscape Rehabilitation Scheme?

The scheme provides works funding to community groups, local government and land owners to enable them to undertake works that will help to improve the resilience of flood affected waterways as well as restoring the capacity of agricultural land affected by the June 2016 floods.

3 When is the nomination period?

The nomination period will be open from **Monday, 19 December 2016** and will close on **Friday, 31 March 2017**. Nominations received after this date will not be considered.

4 Who can nominate works?

Nominees must be:

- Individual landowners or landowner groups; or
- Companies, Partnerships or Trusts who are landowners or partner investors in the project; or
- Local Government Authorities who are landowners or partner investors in the project.

Nominees do not need to be primary producers to be eligible.

Nominees who have received other financial assistance for flood recovery, such as Primary Producer Clean-Up Grants are not excluded from this scheme.

Nominated works can also include work that has already been undertaken to rehabilitate land and river systems damaged as a result of the June 2016 floods. Reimbursement of such works will be considered alongside all other nominated works.

The area of works must be within one or more of the following local government areas and have been impacted by the June 2016 flooding event:

- Break O'Day
- Burnie
- Central Coast
- Central Highlands
- Circular Head
- Derwent Valley
- Devonport
- Dorset
- George Town
- Glamorgan/Spring Bay
- Huon Valley
- Kentish
- Latrobe
- Launceston
- Meander Valley
- Northern Midlands
- Southern Midlands
- Waratah-Wynyard
- West Coast
- West Tamar

5 How much money is available for my project?

There is no specified cap on project proposals. The overall scheme has limited funds, and nominations will be assessed and prioritised competitively against the prioritisation criteria. Not every nomination that meets the eligibility criteria will necessarily receive funding.

The Department reserves the right to either fully or part fund proposals based on the prioritising criteria.

6 Technical Input

All nominees are advised to seek technical advice while drafting a nomination. Your NRM regional body will be available to help provide technical advice through workshops and individual or group one-on-one sessions.

It is the nominee's responsibility to seek quotes from contractors to estimate the costs of works proposed.

It is the nominee's responsibility to seek any regulatory approvals for works should their project be approved for funding. *The Working Near Waterways Guide: Understanding Your Legal Obligations* document can be found online at: <http://www.edotas.org.au/waterways/>

7 What can the funding be used for?

The intention of the scheme is to provide funding for projects to restore land impacted by the floods, and to protect and improve stream systems to minimise impacts to productive land from future flood events. The funding is for actual financial expenditure incurred for activities such as:

- purchase of fencing materials to protect riverine areas;
- engagement of contractors to undertake land rehabilitation works;
- purchase of plants and guards for revegetation activities in riverine areas;
- employment of labour to undertake land rehabilitation works;
- herbicides for treatment of weeds along the river banks and adjoining areas;
- purchase and placement of bank strengthening materials (e.g. rock or timber) to manage bank erosion;
- other materials or works that are necessary to restore agricultural potential of the damaged land;
- costs of obtaining necessary permits to undertake the rehabilitation or mitigation work;
- costs for additional or specialist technical advice or project design works;
- management or site plans (this can be included as an innovative activity if it is conducted as part of the in-kind contribution); and
- other works and activities may be considered based on project merit and subject to technical advice and approvals.

The following are NOT eligible for funding:

- The purchase or transport of livestock or feed;
- The purchase of machinery;
- Purchase of crop or pasture seed except where required for rehabilitation of damaged land;
- Replacement of infrastructure such as sheds, pipes, bridges, culverts and tracks;
- Replacement of damaged equipment such as pumps;
- Repair of dams and/or other off stream water storages;
- Projects that cannot be completed by 20th June 2018;
- Activities considered to have a purely commercial or private benefit or for fundraising;
- 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 landowner or group;
- General public liability costs for the organisation or individual landowner; and
- Projects or activities which are the individual or group's legal responsibility to maintain or which provide significant or purely private benefit.

This scheme is not intended to cover loss of income as a result of the June 2016 flooding or to replace the need for insurance. Funds are not intended to pay for a landholder's or community group's own labour on the project. Funds are not intended to pay for landowner group coordinators, group establishment or administration costs.

8 What are the Prioritising Criteria?

Priority will be given to nominated works proposals that demonstrate high value in the following criteria:

1. Promote long term benefits for agriculture on the land

Benefits for agriculture may include works that will restore the long term productivity of agricultural land such as removal of debris or cobble deposits, or that will restore commercial production to an area presently lost to production due to flood impacts.

2. Reduce future flooding impacts at both the local and district scale

Works that may reduce future flood impacts include rehabilitating areas of active bank or bed erosion, managing areas at risk of channel change, treating areas of dense instream vegetation and addressing areas of debris or cobble deposition. Activities to manage the potential risk should be clearly outlined in the nomination and include information on the effectiveness of the proposed works to reduce potential flooding impacts.

3. Promote flood resilience on the land and downstream

Flood resilience is the capacity of a stream to resist damage from flood waters, and the capacity for protection of important built assets from flood damage. Works that protect existing stream systems or which build on existing protection systems include riparian revegetation and recommended engineering solutions. Resilience relies on good planning and design of works.

4. Protect public assets downstream

Projects that can be shown to provide strategic protection of built public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, buildings, crossings, powerlines, etc. would be considered under this criterion.

5. Provide or protect environmental values of the watercourse

Environmental values of a watercourse include features that provide instream habitat, such as large woody debris, pools and riffles, and specific habitat requirements for native species of fauna including fish, crayfish and smaller creatures. Values of the riparian area are also important considerations under this criterion.

6. Include cash and or in-kind co-contributions

Cash or in-kind contributions to the proposal can be in the form of cash, materials or voluntary labour. A matching in-kind contribution of the funds requested is desirable however not a requirement for eligibility.

7. Are technically feasible and best practice

Nominations should describe the approach proposed for works under the scheme, and have sought appropriate advice from NRM staff, technical advisers or planners to identify best practice approaches. NRM Regions can assist nominees in the planning of their works proposal.

Proposals that encourage the sharing of knowledge and resources through the life of the project and thereafter (e.g. applicant demonstrates a willingness to promote the project in the community through holding field days, writing media articles, and showcasing the project) will be encouraged.

Successful projects may be showcased to promote best practice approaches to river resilience and flood recovery

9 How do I apply?

NRM staff can help you to determine if you are eligible to apply for this scheme and they can help you in preparing your project proposal.

A nomination form is available for download at: www.nrmnorth.org.au

To have the best chance of success, your project should be well planned. Steps in a planning process could include ensuring that:

- Your project and its components are eligible, practical and technically sound.
- Your project effectively addresses the prioritising criteria. (*Refer to Section 8*)
- Your project has considered or accessed the necessary technical advice (NRM can seek specialist advice for your project where required).
- You have carefully considered the extent of 'in-kind' you can contribute to the project.
- The budget has been reviewed so that your figures are reliable and demonstrate 'value for money'.
- Responsibilities can be assigned to manage the project, and that it will be completed within the required timeframe.
- You have consulted with relevant stakeholders, such as the relevant landowners and can demonstrate their support (letters of support). Proposals received from groups must have the support of the group membership.
- You have provided a reasonable estimate of costs from any contractors who will be engaged to do work on your project in support of your budget.
- You have considered working with other organisations to improve delivery of your project.
- All of the information needed to support your nomination has been collected.
- You have considered your legal responsibility when working in waterways as part of the nomination.

Complete the nomination form

Complete the Scheme nomination form, available for download on the NRM North website at www.nrmnorth.org.au or by contacting the office phone **1300 043 116** for copies of the nomination documents.

Please note that electronic nominations are preferred. Handwritten nominations will only be accepted if written clearly, legibly and in **BLOCK** letters using blue or black ink.

All nominations must be **signed** by all involved landholders, authorised person or Group Chair/President, if applicable.

Submit your nomination

An electronic copy and/or hard copy of the nomination form, including any supporting documents, signatures and quotations (if relevant) should be submitted by **Friday, 31st March 2017**, to:

Agricultural Landscape Rehabilitation Scheme
NRM North
Level 2, 63-65 Cameron St
(PO Box 1224)
Launceston
TAS 7250

Emailed nominations can be sent to: alrs@nrmnorth.org.au

9 What happens to my nomination once it is submitted?

- You will receive acknowledgement of receipt of the nomination.
- Nominations will be reviewed by a technical review panel to check for feasibility and regulatory compliance.
- Nominations will then be assessed by a Steering Committee according to how they satisfy the eligibility and prioritising criteria outlined above.
- Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing as soon as possible after assessment.
- Successful applicants will be sent two copies of a Management Agreement to sign and return one copy to NRM North. The Management Agreement is a contract between the landowner and NRM North, which stipulates the proposed works, budget and a timeframe for works to be completed.
- Further technical advice including a Design Report may be provided to some applicants where applicable.

Financial arrangements

The Management agreement will specify proposed works, indicative budget and timeframe for works to be completed. Landowners must provide suitable invoices for works completed in order to receive funds. Funds will be paid within four (4) weeks of receipt of tax invoice addressed to NRM North.

GST

The funds are classed as assessable income and must be declared.

The Australian Taxation Office considers nominated works projects to be a taxable supply under the GST Act.

It is recommended that applicants seek professional advice on your tax obligations or contact the Australian Taxation Office on 13 24 78 or via their website on www.ato.gov.au

Insurance

A *Certificate of Currency* will need to be provided by all successful nominees to demonstrate current public liability insurance before works start.

10 Who can help me?

For assistance directly relating to the nomination process, please contact the Agricultural Landscape Rehabilitation Scheme Project Officer on: 1300 043 116

For more information about the Agricultural Landscape Rehabilitation Scheme

Visit the NRM North website at www.nrmnorth.org.au

Or telephone the ALRS 1300 043 116

Or email alrs@nrmnorth.org.au

Or write to:

***Agricultural Landscape Rehabilitation Scheme
NRM North
PO Box 1224
Launceston
TAS 7250***

Supported by:

