

# Funding Guidelines



**SOUTHCOAST**  
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC.

*connecting the south coast*

Southern  
Incentives

## **Southern Soils**

*'Improved and protected land resources through  
sustainable land use matched to land capacity'  
(Southern Prospects 2011-2016)*

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Australian Government

This project is supported by  
South Coast NRM, through funding  
from the Australian Government

## **Southern Incentives – Southern Soils 2014-15**

South Coast NRM leads partnership arrangements for targeted public investment in protecting or improving the condition of natural resources within the South Coast NRM Region of Western Australia. South Coast NRM's vision is one of resilient communities.

Grants up to \$40 000

Closing Date for applications is the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

***ALL WORKS MUST BE COMPLETED BY 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015***

South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. invites applications for farmers, grower groups and local landcare organisations to establish trials, demonstration sites and other learning activities with the aim of improving soil health. Farmers and groups within the South Coast NRM region are encouraged to apply.

### **Southern Soils Objectives**

Southern Soils will facilitate demonstration field trials in targeted locations across the south coast regions in the key soil health areas of soil biology, soil acidity, soil erosion, water repellence and nutrient matching. Associated workshops, field days, forums and communication activities will engage farming communities in innovative practices to increase skills and knowledge and adopt new behaviours. Applicants are encouraged to develop projects that aim to encourage the adoption of innovative practices associated with the key soil health areas listed above.

## **Funding Priorities**

The main funding priority that the Southern Incentives - Southern Soils project addresses is:

**“Increase the percentage and area of farming entities that have trialled innovative practices for improved soil health and natural resource management” (Australian Government – Caring for our Country Sustainable Agriculture Stream Investment Priorities).**

Specific strategies to achieve this outcome include support for:

- Improving soil health through better soil biology, better nutrient matching and management of soil structure where it can be demonstrated that this will lead to increased productivity, provision of ecosystem services and reduced nutrient loss
- Maintaining groundcover levels above regional groundcover targets to reduce soil and nutrient loss, through wind and water erosion, and improve air and water quality
- Managing soil acidification to improve productivity and avoid future loss of productive land through subsoil acidification
- Managing nutrient addition to soils to improve productivity, reduce losses into waterways and slow rates of soil acidification
- Providing information on new technologies to help land resource managers make better decisions about sustainable practices for improved soil health

## **Who Can Apply**

The following general eligibility criteria apply to those submitting an application through the Southern Incentives - Southern Soils program.

- Applications can be submitted by an individual farmer, production group, landcare organisation, industry group or other community group within the South Coast NRM region. Groups and organisations are welcome to submit more than one application.
- Applications can be related to all forms of production, including, but not limited to, cropping, grazing, horticulture, viticulture, dairy, and farm forestry.
- Applicants must have an ABN and, unless applying as an individual, WA State or Federal Government Agency, show evidence of Incorporation under the Associations Incorporation Act 1987 (WA).

## General Conditions and Eligibility Criteria

- Eligible innovations must be underpinned by scientific research and evidence and have demonstrated “proof of concept”.
- All proposed activities must be carried out in the future. South Coast NRM will not provide funds for retrospective activities.
- Any budget allocation to cover costs associated with MERI, GIS mapping, photo point monitoring, farmer surveys, reporting and administrative activities, including the preparation of and Audited Financial Report on the completion of the project (if applicable) must be not more than 10% of the budget, at a maximum. This 10% is not to include the cost of detailed trial monitoring and data collection or data analysis.
- In order to be provided with MERI funding, the applicant must be able to provide a minimum of:
  - Fully attributed GIS data and mapping in digital format
  - Thorough photo monitoring in digital format
  - Reports for all extension activities undertaken through the project
  - Brief pre- and post-project social surveys of the farmers involved in the trials as part of the final report
  - A full financial acquittal is required with copies of project-related receipts provided to South Coast NRM as evidence of expenditure
- Funding recipients are expected to make a significant contribution to the costs of the project via in-kind and/or financial contribution, depending on the level of private benefit that may be derived from the project activities. If you have any questions about this aspect of the program, please contact us for further clarification.
- All proposed activities must be carried out in the South Coast NRM region and within the timeframe specified in the Agreement. Funding not utilized for the agreed work is to be refunded to South Coast NRM.
- All necessary licenses, approvals, permits etc will need to be arranged by successful funding recipients. This includes Animal Ethics Committee approval for trials involving live vertebrate animals (ie livestock). It will be a requirement of successful applicants that proof of licenses, approvals, permits etc. will be submitted to South Coast NRM prior to any payment of funding.
- All activities requiring a permit or involving works on land registered as Indigenous Heritage sites will need to provide evidence of consultation on this matter. South Coast NRM wishes to protect sites of significance to Indigenous People. If a Department of Indigenous Affairs site enquiry has indicated that there may be sites of significance within 1km of the proposed works, South Coast NRM staff may need to undertake a survey of the site (with your permission) to ensure that works will have no negative impact on the site and to recommend any alterations of the project design if needed.
- All media articles must acknowledge funding providers. Liaise in the first instance with South Coast NRM.
- Landowners/managers will be required to apply occupational health and safety and visitor risk safety standards to all works.

- Land owners/managers must ensure that appropriate standards of human resource management based on the Principals of Natural Justice that encourage merit, equity and probity are implemented. The Western Australian Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management should be considered as minimum standard required where an award does not exist.
- The laws applicable to any Agreement shall be those in force in Western Australia and, where relevant, the laws of the Commonwealth of Australia.
- Applicants must maintain sufficient insurances to cover their liability in conducting activities funded in part or in full through the project and its obligation to indemnify the Australian Government, South Coast NRM, their officers, employees and agents. Insurances would include, but may not be limited to, worker's compensation and/or personal accident insurance, public liability insurance and appropriate vehicle insurance whilst conducting activities funded through South Coast NRM
- Successful applicants must maintain accurate records relating to approved funding including but not limited to financial details such as receipts and expenditure, for seven years.
- Fencing – any fencing of Demonstration Site/s must be carried out using new materials. South Coast NRM will not fund second hand or pre-used materials.
- Ongoing site maintenance: landholders must agree to the ongoing maintenance of the Demonstration Site for a period of no less than 5 years from conclusion of the funding.

### **What will not be funded**

The following activities will not be funded:

- Activities outside the South Coast NRM region
- Activities undertaken prior to commencement of the project
- Activities with the potential to adversely impact on any matter of national environmental significance as identified under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Infrastructure construction, apart from fencing of Demonstration site/s for management purposes.
- Activities or materials that are normally part of a landholder's responsibility for the management of their property, including boundary fencing, weed and pest control, purchase of equipment, fertilizer, lime etc
- Activities that are considered part of standard district practice for management of a farming enterprise, e.g. liming.

## **General Reporting Requirements**

Reporting templates will be supplied to successful applicants for all South Coast NRM reporting requirements as outlined below:

- Projects over \$20,001 will require reporting to be provided in line with Australian Government reporting requirements. This will include progress and financial reports to 30 June and 31 December annually, a Contract Closure Report and Audited Financial Statement as well as a Final Project Report.
- Projects \$20,000 and under require a Final Project Report to be completed for approval.
- In both instances all reporting is to be completed and accepted prior to final payments being made.

## **Assessment Criteria**

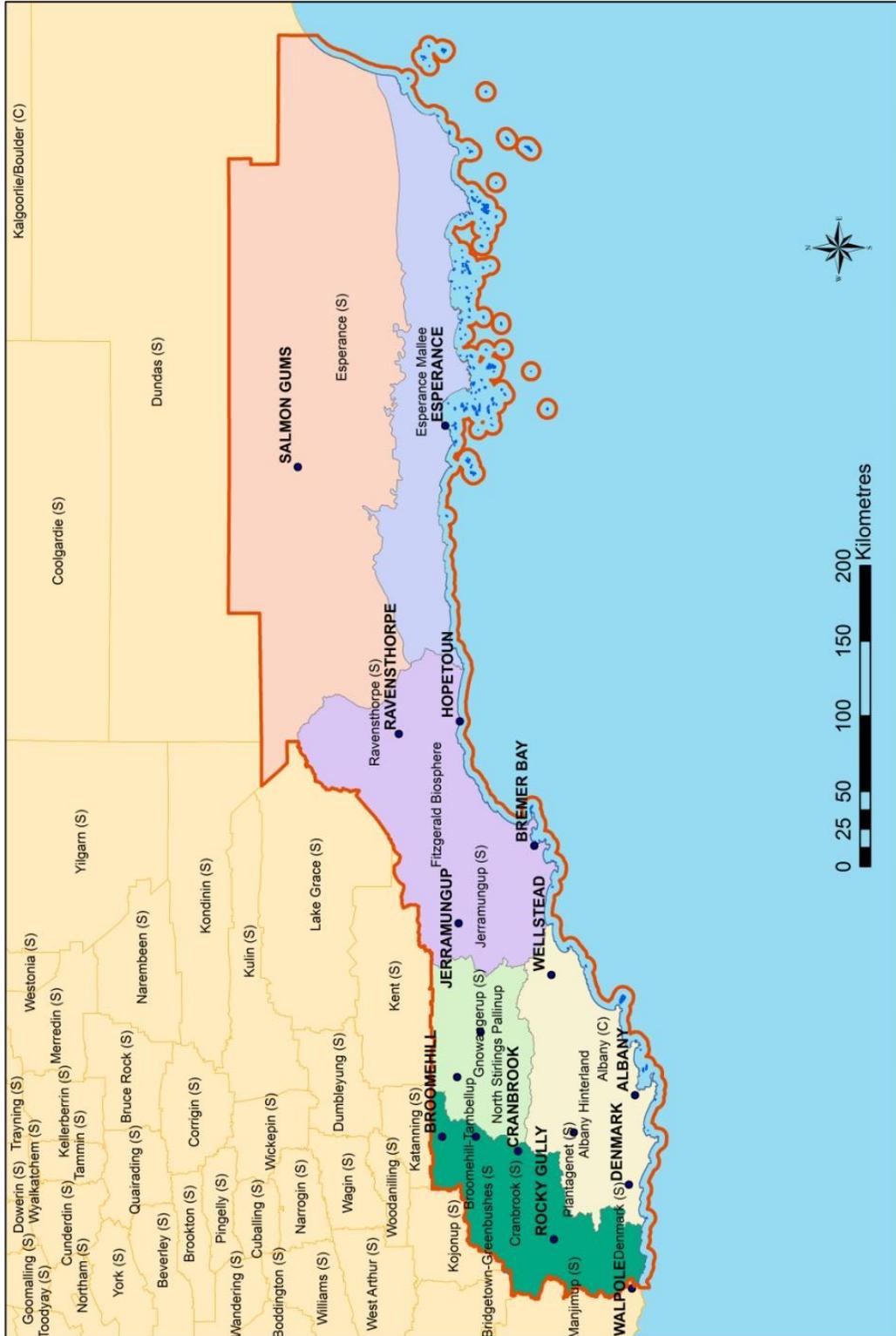
Applications will be competitively assessed on how well they provide sufficient evidence against the following criteria:

1. Projects must align with the Australian Government 2013 – 18 funding priorities (see “Funding Priorities” above).
2. Degree of innovation of the practice to be trialed/demonstrated in relation to the funding projects/themes of soil health (soil biology/soil acidification/water repellence/soil erosion/managing nutrient additions)
3. The need for and relevance of the project activity
4. Ability of the trial/demonstration to promote the practice within the farming community (robust project design and monitoring/results measured and reported/site accessibility and visibility)
5. Demonstration of the applicant’s commitment to sharing their knowledge and skills about the management practice with their local farming community with the aim of increasing wider adoption
6. Activities are deliverable within the allocated timeframe and budget
7. Project presents good value for investment and costs are appropriately estimated
8. The applicant has completed acquittals for any past projects on time and in a satisfactory manner

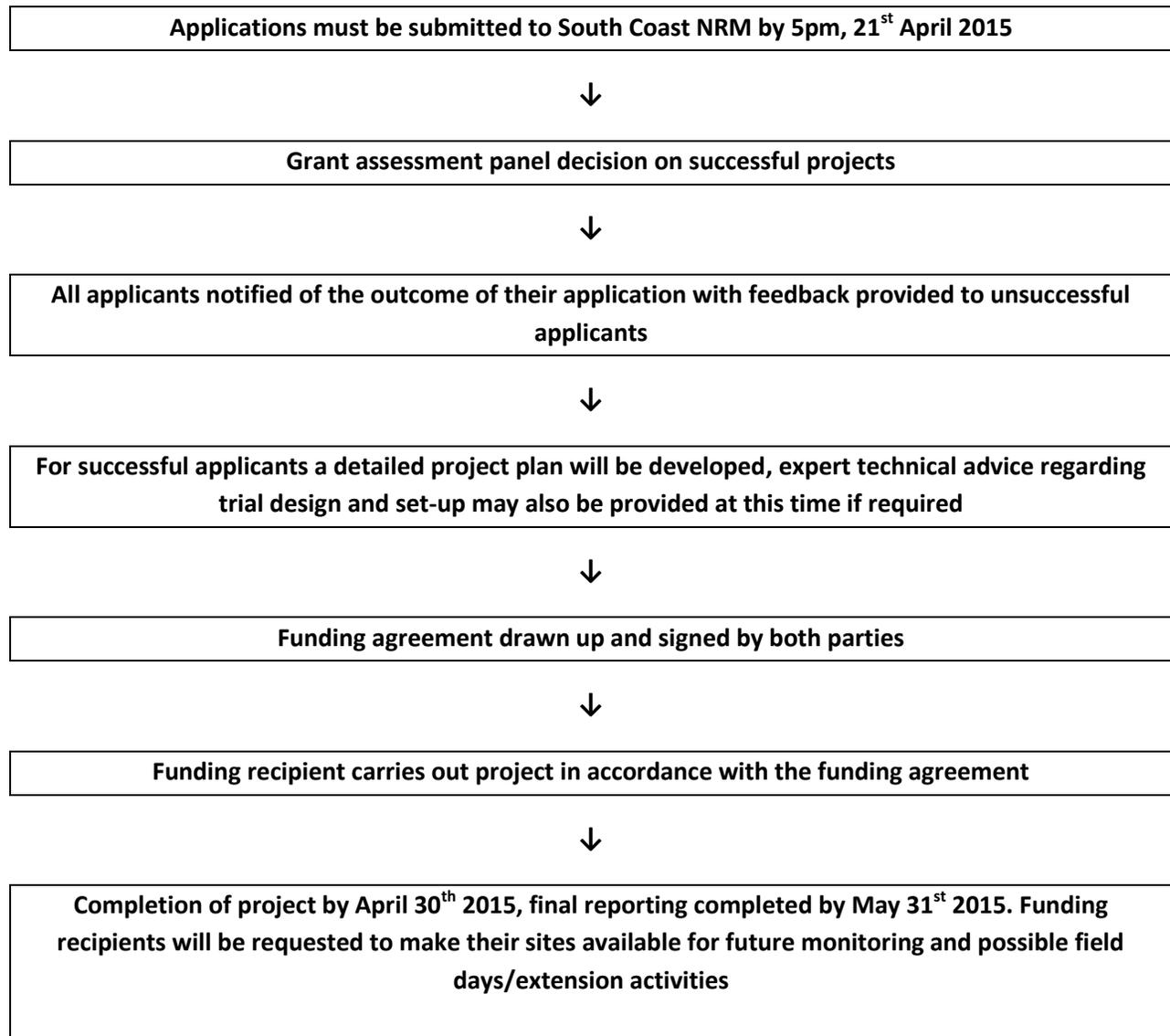
There is a limited amount of funding available in the Southern Incentives – Southern Soils project, so applications that meet these criteria will be highly regarded. Submission of an application does not guarantee that a project will be funded.

NOTE: The Southern Soils project aims to reach industry and community groups across the region, and target different types of management practices from a range of primary industries. The assessment panel will take this in to consideration when prioritising applications.

# Map of South Coast NRM Region



## Application Process



*For further information, please contact either:*

Kathi McDonald (Project Officer) on 0408 418 531 or [kathim@southcoastnrm.com.au](mailto:kathim@southcoastnrm.com.au)

Penni Hewett (Program Leader) on 9845 8507 or [pennih@southcoastnrm.com.au](mailto:pennih@southcoastnrm.com.au)

If you are a farmer or smaller grower group seeking assistance with your application or project idea, we encourage you to get in touch with your local landcare organisation, production group or your industry representative body. If you are unsure who to approach for assistance, please contact Kathi McDonald or Penni Hewett and they will point you in the right direction.