

DIEBACK DETECTOR DOG GRANT GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

1. Background

The Saving Native Species Dieback Detector Dogs project being coordinated by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) aims to determine the efficacy of dieback detector dogs under a range of lab and field conditions and develop a national registration, auditing and policy framework to support commercialisation. This includes the training of two dieback detector dogs by TATE Animal Training Enterprises for transfer and deployment in Western Australia.

The purpose of the Dieback Detector Dog Grant program is to identify and award two suitable dog handlers with one of two conservation detector dogs trained to detect *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, the plant pathogen that causes Phytophthora dieback.

The grant program is being provided as a part of a Commonwealth Saving Native Species Grant (Threat Innovations or 'Game Changers' for threatened species grant) opportunity awarded to DBCA.

2. Objectives

The objective of the grant is to develop commercial dieback detector dog capacity in Western Australia and deliver on the Saving Native Species Dieback Detector Dog project activities committed to by DBCA.

Project activities for Grantees include ongoing dog and handler training, assessment and accreditation, planning and execution of at least two weeks of dog handling for Case studies in the Perth Metropolitan and South-West regions, and participation in workshopping, drafting and editing draft national standards.

Transfer of dog ownership from TATE Animal Training Enterprises to the successful grantees will be facilitated by DBCA. The conditions of this transfer of ownership will be agreed upon between the successful grantees and TATE Animal Training Enterprises.

Deployment of the dieback detector dogs can help prevent the spread of Phytophthora dieback across Western Australia and support recovery of threatened species and communities impacted by dieback, by supporting dieback mapping, detection and management, and reinvigorating industry and community engagement in stopping the spread of the disease.

3. Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Applicants

To be eligible to apply for the grant applicants must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN);
- be registered for the purposes of GST;
- be located in the south-west of Western Australia;

and be one of the following entity types:

- an incorporated company, association or trustee on behalf of a trust;
- a joint (consortia) application with a lead organisation;
- a [registered charity or] not-for-profit organisation;
- an individual;
- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*.

Applicants must request a copy of the draft Research Collaboration Agreement prior to submitting an application to ensure they are aware of the scope of activities and commitment

required to deliver on the Saving Native Species Dieback Detector Dog project activities committed to by DBCA.

Applicants must be able to supply the following information prior to entering into any agreement with DBCA:

- if the applicant is a group, organisation or consortia, identify the proposed legal owner(s) and handler(s) for the dog(s);
- if the applicant is a joint (consortia) application with a lead organisation, identify the lead organisation and have formal arrangement(s) in place with all parties;
- if the applicant is a trustee of a trust, a copy of the trust deed that outlines that the trustee has the power to make application and to sign the grant agreement with the Western Australian State Government;
- evidence of current insurance status (public liability and/or professional indemnity);
- evidence of dog handling experience and accreditation;
- physical and postal addresses.

Applicant contribution

Applicants should demonstrate an in-kind contribution of at least \$5,000.

4. Grant timeline

Event	Date
Applications open	11 March 2025
Applications close (no late applications will be accepted)	8 April 2025 (12pm AWST)
Applicants notified of outcome and negotiations for grant agreements commence	May 2025
Commence project Activities (at or before)	1 July 2025
Final report due	31 March 2026

5. How to apply for the grant

Only one application can be submitted by an eligible applicant. Applicants can apply for one or both dogs, provided they have at least two dog handler(s) identified in the application.

Eligible applicants can apply for the grant [online](#). Applications must be submitted by 12pm (midday) 8 April 2025. Applications received after this date and time will not be eligible for consideration.

Applications will need to include as attachments:

- Statement addressing selection criteria.
- CVs of the proposed project manager(s) and dog handler(s), including the details of two referees.

Please have all attachments ready to submit together at the end of the application.

Note documents cannot be uploaded and saved for later submission.

To enable potential applicants to assess the opportunity and provide a quality application, applicants **must** request a copy of the draft Research Collaboration Agreement with DBCA that outlines the activities and expected contribution to the Saving Native Species Dieback Detector Dogs project. This will be provided in confidence and on request.

To request this draft agreement, or to answer any further questions about the grant please contact Kylie Ireland, 0447 353 953, kylie.ireland@dbca.wa.gov.au.

6. Application and Assessment Criteria

Applicants must address all the following assessment criteria in the application. All criteria have equal weighting.

Applicants should address the following criteria in no more than four pages in total and provide current CVs of the proposed project manager(s) and dog handler(s), including the details of two referees.

Criterion 1

Demonstrated experience and/or knowledge in animal handling, training, and/or associated management and welfare of working dogs.

You must demonstrate this through identifying:

- Formal qualifications/training.
- Professional experience, including experience with training, assessment and independent accreditation.
- Understanding and demonstrated execution of obligations under relevant legislation, policies, and procedures, including the Western Australian *Animal Welfare Act 2002* and the *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes*.
- Details of at least one referee who can speak to your animal handling experience.

Criterion 2

Capacity to develop and maintain dieback detector dog capacity through a viable commercial business, including delivering on Saving Native Species Dieback Detector Dog project activities.

You must demonstrate this by describing you (individual) or your organisation's experience, resourcing and projected capacity for the life of the project.

Project activities include ongoing dog and handler training, assessment and accreditation, planning and execution of at least two weeks of dog handling for case studies in the Perth Metropolitan and South-West regions, and participation in workshopping, drafting and editing draft national standards.

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- Professional experience, including experience relevant to the marketing and deployment of conservation detector dogs.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience with business planning, risk assessment and management.
- Details of at least one referee who can speak to your business development experience.

Criterion 3

Value for money and understanding of the operating environment.

You must demonstrate this through identifying:

- Proposed dieback detector dog handling rates.
- Knowledge and understanding of the dieback management operating environment.
- Demonstrated effective stakeholder and partner engagement skills, including working with multi-disciplinary teams that include land managers and researchers.

7. How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed by a panel consisting of representatives with relevant expertise, including dog handling and conservation dog business development, and Phytophthora dieback mapping and management.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview and demonstrate their dog-handling capabilities in Perth within two weeks of the closing date.

8. Contract Arrangements

Successful applicants will be required to negotiate and enter into a Research Collaboration Agreement by 30 June 2025.

Applicants must request a copy of the draft Research Collaboration Agreement prior to submitting an application to be eligible to apply for the grant (see Section 3).

9. Tax information

Funding provided to recipients under the Commonwealth Saving Native Species Grant (Threat Innovations or 'Game Changers' for threatened species grant) (SNS Grant) opportunity is regarded as payment for a supply. GST- registered grant recipients will therefore be liable for GST in connection with this SNS Grant opportunity.

Applicants are encouraged to seek tax advice on the potential implications of obtaining the grant.

10. Grant application link

Grant applications are to be made through this form:

https://thedepartmentofbiodiversityconservationandattractions.formstack.com/forms/dieback_detector_dog_grant