Department of **Planning, Lands and Heritage**

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Preserve, Promote and Protect our Aboriginal Sites 2026-27 Grants Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Preserve, Promote and Protect our Aboriginal Sites Grants Program?

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's 2026-27 Preserve, Promote and Protect our Aboriginal Sites (PPOAS) Grant Program offers funding to support Aboriginal corporations and Aboriginal not-for-profit organisations in protecting, preserving and promoting eligible Aboriginal heritage sites. Since 2014, the program has committed more than $5.5 million to assist Aboriginal communities in managing their cultural heritage across Western Australia.

How much funding is available in the 2026-27 program?

The 2026-27 program will provide up to $1.25 million in grants, with up to $50,000 available per project to help preserve Aboriginal sites across Western Australia.

What sites are eligible for the grants program?

Grants are available for projects associated with Registered Aboriginal Sites and Lodged places (see glossary for definitions) included in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System web page.

What can the grants be used for?

Grants should primarily fund physical works to protect or preserve Aboriginal sites, such as installing fences or signage, removing graffiti, and site clean-up and remediation.

Projects to develop site management plans or collect heritage information can be included but should not be the primary focus. Consultant fees should not exceed one-third of the project costs.

All projects should be discussed with your local Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage officer or the Department's Heritage Grants team prior to submitting your application. For more details, please see the Guidelines for Applicants.

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Can the grant be used for researching or surveying heritage sites?

Projects should be based on known heritage values, with physical works as the primary objective.

Projects for research or surveys should be proposed through the State Government's Aboriginal Heritage Survey Program. For more information, visit the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Knowledge Portal at https://achknowledge.dplh.wa.gov.au/

How are the grants assessed?

Grants submissions are assessed on:

- Sustainable long-term heritage benefits
- Public benefit and increased awareness of Aboriginal heritage
- Opportunities and benefits for Aboriginal people and organisations
- Sound project planning and value for money.

Who can apply?

Representatives of Aboriginal Corporations and incorporated not-for-profit Aboriginal organisations are eligible to apply. You will be asked to provide supporting information to confirm your status.

Joint submissions with other eligible organisations are permitted but a single eligible Aboriginal organisation must be the applicant. The other organisation(s) will be listed in the Project details section.

Does the organisation need to be registered for GST?

No. However, if you are not registered for GST your grant will not cover the GST amount of any products or supplies you purchase. You will be asked to confirm your GST status in the application form.

Do I need an ABN?

No. If you do not have an ABN you will be required to complete a 'Statement by Supplier' form to identify why you are exempt.

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How many grants can I apply for?

There is no limit to the number of grants an organisation can apply for but only one grant will be approved per project, which may cover one or more sites. Multiple grants to a single organisation may be limited for fairness and balance.

What details about the Aboriginal heritage site are needed for the application?

Applications should include the site name and identification number listed in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. If more than one site is to be covered, list all sites. If your site is not shown in the system, please contact the Department's Heritage Grants team.

Do I need support from the native title party and landowner if the organisation represents traditional custodians or knowledge holders?

An application from a native title party or Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) group does not need to provide a separate letter of support.

If your project is within an area where native title has been determined, the relevant native title party must provide an objection if they do not support the project. Objections not based on heritage grounds will not be considered.

Where native title has not been determined, the applicant should contact the Department's Heritage Grants team to discuss. Native title information is available through PlanWA using the 'Native Title' information layer.

How do I identify who the landowner is?

If you do not know the landowner, there may be some information available in PlanWA, particularly if the land is a pastoral lease. Use the 'Layers' filters to show 'Aboriginal Heritage' and 'DPLH-managed Lands'.

If you believe the site is on Crown land or otherwise managed by a State government agency, your Department contact should be able to confirm this and advise which agency is responsible.

For other sites, ownership information is held by the relevant local government and should be available through a review of the rates information. This may require a request form to be completed. It is also possible to purchase a copy of any certificate of title from Landgate.

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Do I need support from a government body if it is the landowner?

Yes, if a local government or State government body is the landowner or holds a management order, their support is necessary. If the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is responsible for the land, the grants team will coordinate a request for support. Please talk with your local contact or the Heritage Grants officer.

What details are needed about the proposed project?

You will need to provide a detailed description of the proposed project, including an itemised budget, schedule of works, and any relevant cost estimates or quotations from service providers. You should identify a start date that can be reasonably achieved and identify how long the project would take. Be realistic about the time needed to prepare for your project and to carry it out. Deadlines can be changed by written agreement with the Department, however, it is better if you are able to meet your original schedule.

What information is required about our organisation?

Include all requested organisation details, including contact and ~~ORI~~C registration details for Aboriginal corporations, or evidence that you are an Aboriginal organisation and not-for-profit status for an incorporated not-for-profit association.

What is expected if our organisation receives a grant?

Grant recipients must seek necessary approvals and execute the project as described.

Progress reports are required every six months and a final report with a financial statement must be submitted upon completion of the project. Any proposed project changes should be discussed with the Department's Heritage Grants team.

Other obligations are identified in the grant agreement, which should be reviewed before executing the agreement and returning it to the Department's Heritage Grants team.

Is our organisation still eligible if we have previously received a PPPOAS Grant?

Yes, if past grant requirements have been met. A previous grant can still be active but should be within agreed deadlines.

If you have questions about eligibility, please contact the Heritage Grants team before applying. For more details, see the Guidelines for Applicants.

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What happens after we apply for the grant?

Applications are assessed by a Department Grants Assessment Panel. Results will be expected to be announced in May 2027.

All applicants will be contacted. Successful applicants must be prepared to sign the grant agreement and will receive payment within four weeks of notification. You do not need to submit an invoice as the payment will be initiated by the Department. Unsuccessful applicants can ask for feedback to assist them in future grant programs.

What other approvals do I need?

Successful projects will be assessed to determine whether approvals are required under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and if so, an application will be made to the Registrar on the applicant's behalf . Grant offers will include any relevant approval from the Registrar.

Applicants should identify whether their works will require any further approval under other legislation. This may include development approval, a building permit or environmental approval. The relevant local government manages these applications and will be able to advise if approvals are needed.

How do I apply?

Applications can be submitted online through the SmartyGrants platform. A link will be located on the DPLH **wa.gov** web page.

Who do I contact for assistance with the application?

For assistance, contact the Department's Heritage Grants Team or the Heritage Officer for your region.

PPPOAS Grants Program Contacts:		
Heritage Grants Team:		
Ph: (08) 6551 7954		Email: HeritageGrants@dplh.wa.gov.au
Regional Officer – Perth/Metro & South-West:		
Susan Foster	Ph: (08) 6551 9168	Email: Susan.Foster@dplh.wa.gov.au
Regional Officer – Goldfields:		

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Emma Rigby	Ph: (08) 6552 4711	Email: Emma.Rigby@dplh.wa.gov.au
Regional Officer – Mid-West:		
Don Mallard	Ph: 0457 535 444	Email: Don.Mallard@dplh.wa.gov.au
Regional Officer – Pilbara:		
Ken Kelly	Ph: 0409 957 060	Email: Kenneth.Kelly@dplh.wa.gov.au
Regional Officer – Kimberley:		
Marani Greatorex	Ph: 0448 617 068	Email: Marani.Greatorex@dplh.wa.gov.au

Glossary of Terms

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In the context of PPPOAS documentation, the following definitions apply:	
Aboriginal Corporation	An organisation registered with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
Aboriginal cultural heritage	The values held by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal sites, objects or traditions
Aboriginal site	A defined area of land that meets the requirements of section 5 of the Act and is recorded in ACHIS as a Registered Aboriginal Site or a Lodged place
ACHIS	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System
Act	*Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*
Department	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
Grantee	Person or organisation awarded a grant
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement, being a voluntary agreement between native title parties and other bodies about the use and management of specified land
Lodged place	An Aboriginal site that is recorded in ACHIS but is not yet a Registered Aboriginal Site
Native title party	• If the land is subject to an ILUA, a regional corporation in relation to that land; • a registered native title body corporate where there is a registered claim; otherwise • Murujuga AC, Badimia Land AC, Central Desert Native Title Services Ltd, Native Title Services

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	Goldfields Ltd, Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation are specified for nominated areas provided that there is no other native title party.
Not-for-profit Aboriginal organisation	An incorporated association or other formally-convened group in which a majority of members are Aboriginal, and which is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission or whose rules do not allow distribution of profit to its members
PPPOAS	Preserve, Promote and Protect Our Aboriginal Sites
ORIC	Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
Register	Register of Places and Objects as defined in section 38 of the Act
Registered Aboriginal Site	An Aboriginal site included in the Register as identified through ACHIS
R.7 approval	Written consent from the Registrar under the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974* to bring equipment onto an Aboriginal site
R.10 approval	Written consent from the Registrar under the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974* to undertake nominated activities at an Aboriginal site
Registrar	Officer of the Department appointed as Registrar of Aboriginal Sites under section 37 Clause 1 of the Act
Registered Native Title Body Corporate	(also known as a Prescribed Body Corporate) A corporation established under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act) 2006* (CATSI Act) for prescribed functions under the *Native Title Act 1993* to: hold, protect and manage determined native title in accordance with the objectives of the native title holding group; and, ensure certainty for governments and other parties interested in accessing or regulating native title land and waters by providing a legal entity to manage and conduct the affairs of the native title holders.
SmartyGrants	Online portal for creating and submitting applications for PPPOAS grants