



Plastic Free Riverpark Program

Round 5 grant funding

Community Events

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) is calling for applications for grant funding from the Plastic Free Riverpark Program 2025-26.

Riverfront local governments or event organisers will be funded to help reduce single-use packaging, especially single-use plastic packaging, at community events. Events must occur within 1km of the [Swan Canning Riverpark](#).

A local government or event manager may apply for a grant ranging from \$1000 to \$10,000 (plus GST) for a project that meets the eligibility criteria.



Objectives of grant funding

The Plastic Free Riverpark (PFR) Program aims to reduce single-use packaging, especially single-use plastic packaging, in and around the [Swan Canning Riverpark](#).

The grant funding seeks to help riverfront local governments and event management organisations to reduce single-use packaging and products at community events, by preferencing the provision and/or encouragement of reusable options in line with the WA Local Government Association's [Waste and Recycling Management at Public Events Guide](#).

Successful applicants will be required to educate patrons and other event goers on the importance of taking care of our rivers through improved behaviour and the elimination of waste that ends up as litter.

The grant funding prioritises projects that align with the top of the waste hierarchy (avoid, reduce and reuse).

Eligibility criteria

The applicant

Must:

- Be a riverfront local government whose jurisdiction includes a section of [Swan Canning Riverpark](#) shoreline, or an event management organisation delivering an event within 1km of the [Swan Canning Riverpark](#).
- Agree to undertake a sustainable event consultation to review event policies and procedures.
- Supply an ABN and notice of GST registration.
- Agree to conduct a river cleanup activity during the grant-supported event, or at another time and place to be agreed upon with the PFR Program (for repeat applicants and grants over \$5000).
- Promote the event as a Plastic Free Riverpark event. Logos will be provided by DBCA.

Must not:

- Be a commercial operator, private landholder, or community group.

The project

Must:

- Be an event that is run, managed, or supported by the local government or event manager.
- Be located within 1km of the Swan Canning Riverpark.
- Introduce reusable alternatives to single-use packaging items, including, but not limited to, those items phased out in [Western Australia's Plan for Plastics](#).
- Align with the WA Local Government Association's [Waste and Recycling Management at Public Events Guide](#).
- Support one or more community events occurring on or before 30 June 2026.
- Include a reporting component to measure the success of the project. A template report will be provided by the PFR Program to successful recipients. This should review the single-use items avoided due to the grant funding, how and why the project was successful, where improvements will be made in future, and any key lessons discovered from the project's implementation.

Must not:

- Be for staff salaries or wages, or training courses.

The application

Must:

- Be made by completing and submitting an application form by the **closing date of Thursday 30 April 2026**. Applications are encouraged before this date and will be assessed and awarded on a first come, first served basis.
- Be signed by an organisation representative with the relevant level of authority.



Providing reusable serve-ware helps to eliminate packaging and waste at events.

How to apply

Applications must be made by submitting a completed application form to plasticfreeriverpark@dbca.wa.gov.au.

Applications are encouraged before the closing date of **Thursday 30 April 2026**.

A panel of two members will assess and select the applications that most effectively meet the following criteria. The provision of funds will be conditional upon signature of a grant agreement.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. The event will occur within 1km of the Swan Canning Riverpark.
2. The project will deliver ongoing positive environmental outcomes for the Swan Canning Riverpark.
The project will achieve this by:
 - a. eliminating the sale and supply of single-use packaging* by offering reusable serve-ware options to event patrons (*excludes Container Deposit Scheme containers);
 - b. prioritising actions that avoid, reduce and reuse; and
 - c. monitoring the amount and type of waste generated at the event.
3. The project includes community education initiatives and promotes positive behaviour change, empowering Swan Canning Catchment residents to reduce the waste they create at this event and future events run by the event organiser.
4. The project is promoted as a reusable-friendly event with a pre-event messaging strategy to amplify and remind people about BYO serve-ware and other sustainable behaviours.
5. The event organiser is willing to coordinate a litter cleanup activity at the event, or at a future event agreed upon with the PFR Program.
6. The project represents good value for money.

Emailed applications are preferred. Please contact the Plastic Free Riverpark Program Project Officer on 9278 0985 or 0467 538 518 if you are unable to email your entire application, including attachments.

Email to:

plasticfreeriverpark@dbca.wa.gov.au

Applications must be received by the Plastic Free Riverpark Program on or before:

Closing date: Thursday 30 April 2026.

Please note applications are encouraged before the closing date.

Acknowledgement of receipt of applications

You can expect acknowledgement of your application within one week of applying. If you do not receive acknowledgement within one week, please contact the Plastic Free Riverpark Program Project Officer on 9278 0985 or 0467 538 518.

Notification of funding decisions

Applicants will be advised of assessment outcomes within one month of applying. Successful projects will be notified of the conditional funding approved for their project. This funding will be subject to a letter with conditions being signed and notice of GST registration being provided.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing and will have the opportunity to receive feedback on their application by contacting the Plastic Free Riverpark Program Project Officer at plasticfreeriverpark@dbca.wa.gov.au.

Media protocol

It is a condition of funding that all media and communication activities relating to the Plastic Free Riverpark Program is developed in collaboration with DBCA. This includes, but is not limited to, presentations, publications, signage, articles, newsletters or other written or digital works relating to the project or its activities.

Who to contact if you need further help

Please contact the Plastic Free Riverpark Program Project Officer by email at plasticfreeriverpark@dbca.wa.gov.au, or by phone 9278 0985, or mobile 0467 538 518 if you require help with your application.