Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee

The Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee Program will provide up to $15.1 million of grant funding in 2022 to eligible groups and organisations for community-based tree planting events. This fact sheet provides information and resources for groups and organisations participating in the program about how to plant a tree.

Many different site preparation and tree planting methods are available. The best approach depends on the nature of the site, the tree species, local climate conditions, and the growth stage of the tree (e.g. seeds, seedling, cutting, tube stock, established tree).

For tree planting events, it is recommended to use tube stock or established trees. Larger scale planting using direct seeding alone, or in combination with tube stock planting, is permissible.

This fact sheet provides general guidance on planting tube stock or an established tree. For specific advice on planting the right tree in the right location for your region, you may wish to consult local experts or check resources available from the relevant state or territory department, regional natural resource management body, Catchment Management Authority, or local council.

Planning for tree planting

What legislation applies

- Comply with relevant Commonwealth, state and territory legislation and codes of practice. This may include: working with children and with vulnerable people; Work Health and Safety requirements; weed management; biosecurity; animal welfare and ethics; agricultural and veterinary chemicals use; and native vegetation and environment protection (e.g. the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999).

- Check for any additional permissions, licences, permits and/or planning, environmental, heritage or other regulatory approvals that may be required.

- Follow applicable Commonwealth, state and territory COVID-19 restrictions.

What resources are needed

- Personnel and tradespeople or other professional services to support:

  - planning, site preparation, planting, protecting and maintaining the tree(s)

  - organisation of the Queen's Jubilee commemorative event(s) to be conducted in association with the plantings

  - design and production of project and commemorative event communications (e.g. project/event promotion, website material)

  - photographic evidence of your commemorative event(s) and before, during and after tree planting (including a photo of the signage/plaque).

What resources are needed (continued)

- Machinery to clear and prepare the site, such as mowers/tractor with slasher, hole diggers, grader, backhoe, soil ripper, steam weeders, brush cutter, chainsaw, and hired waste removal bins.

- Materials, products and equipment to prepare the site and undertake planting, such as herbicides, knapsacks/weed sprayers, weeding tools, seed, tube stock, buckets, spades, mulch, compost, soil ameliorants/fertiliser, tree guards, weed matting, planting hardware, fencing materials or bollards. Consider if it is economical for required items to be purchased, leased or hired.

- Record keeping software, and if relevant, camera and access to geographic information system software or applications for mapping, surveys, monitoring and analysis activities.

- First aid and personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, masks, earmuffs, sunscreen, safety glasses) and any project related insurance.

- Appropriate signage/plaques to recognise the plantings are part of The Queen's Jubilee commemorations (see funding recognition guidelines) and materials/equipment for installation.

When to plant

- While tree planting activities must be completed by 30 November 2023, plan to complete your plantings as soon as practicably possible in case there are unforeseen delays and to allow time to monitor and maintain initial plantings and replace plant losses.

- Identify the best time of year for planting your species for your local area; this will depend on the local rainfall and temperature, as well as the tree species and its stage of growth.

- Have a plan in case there are delays due to seasonal and weather conditions, and other disruptions.

Where to plant

- Select one or more sites for tree planting within eligible locations, and in a long-term position to provide a commemorative legacy.

- Seek site owner approval for the tree planting, and where applicable, relevant authorities such as your local council. Purchase or acquisition of land or buildings are not eligible activities funded under the program.

- Consider the expected tree size and tree needs (soil, water, light and nutrients) as well as the existing site use, proximity to infrastructure and neighbouring properties.

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What to plant

- Select regionally appropriate Australian native or non native tree species with a potential height of at least 2 metres when mature.

- Consider environmental and community benefits, such as providing food and habitat for native fauna; improving and expanding natural habitats; reducing urban heat effects; beautifying the local environment; creating colour; creating local vegetation themes; and enhancing community well-being.

- Assess tree costs, establishment and maintenance needs, and fire, pest and disease risks.

What not to plant

- Do not plant tree species that are not regionally appropriate and trees without a potential height of at least 2 metres when mature.

- Do not plant known weed species or species with potential to become an agricultural or environmental weed (e.g. Athel pine, English Broom, European and African Olives; some species of Willow; the 32 Weeds of National Significance; National Environmental Alert List species; and Agricultural Sleeper Weed List species). Some species when planted out of region may have potential to become a weed. Such plants, and those that are declared noxious or pest plants in your state or territory, are not eligible under the program.

- Avoid species that may drop limbs in urban areas and those that may increase potential fire risks near infrastructure.

Planting and protecting the tree

How to prepare the site

- Remove any debris from the site and control existing weeds and pests. Consider how you may manage weed emergence from the existing soil seed bank, such as scraping away soil, use of weed matting, or thick compost.

- Seek professional advice and relevant approvals if removing willows. Broad scale clearing of native vegetation, including native grasslands, is not an eligible activity funded under the program.

- Prepare the soil for planting (e.g. ripping, scraping) as needed. Earthworks or landscaping unrelated to tree planting site preparation are not eligible activities funded under the program.

- Check Weeds Australia for guidance on weed control and identifying plants of concern and review Pest Smart guidance on pest control.

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How to plant the tree

- Install any required tree protection, such as fencing, bollards, temporary tree guards or protectors and/or permanent tree guards in urban areas. Use of products made from recyclable material is encouraged where possible. Note: fencing of property boundaries and/or major construction/capital works are not eligible activities.

- Install any required drip irrigation. Note: broader general water use efficiency, such as more efficient sprinklers for golf and bowls clubs, or grey water recycling, are not eligible activities.

How to maintain the tree for a least 12 months after planting

- Water the tree regularly; the amount of water and frequency of watering will depend on the species, local weather conditions and tree size.

- Remove any temporary tree guards as the tree grows and dispose of the materials responsibly or re-use.

- Monitor for weeds, pests, diseases and fire risk and conduct control activities or fire hazard reduction as needed.

- Assess the trees for damage following strong winds, heat waves or other extreme weather events when it is safe to do so and take appropriate actions to support them.

- Procure and have on hand some replacement trees prior to completion of your project to replace minor tree losses, as required.