

Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund Fact Sheet - What can be funded?

Proponents in the Pilbara are required to pay to offset the environmental impacts to the environment that they cannot rehabilitate after mine closure. They pay into the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund. and government, in partnership with Traditional Owners and regional land managers, use the money to improve vegetation and habitat in other parts of the Pilbara.

To be eligible for offsets funding, projects must:

- Improve the condition of vegetation and/or habitat for Northern Quoll, Ghost Bat, Pilbara Leaf Nose Bat, Pilbara Olive Python and/or Night Parrot.
- Be cost effective and value for money
- Be additional to what is already required by mining companies and government to restore, conserve and protect the environment.

Ideally projects would also build on and/or connect existing programs and the outcomes of each project should exist for as long as possible (at least 20 years or more). Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of project outputs and outcomes will be included in the delivery of all projects.

An implementation advisory group (IAG) will oversee the set-up and delivery of these projects.

What projects can be funded?

Projects may have an 'on-ground' focus or a 'research' focus. 90% of funding will go towards on-ground projects, and 10% for research projects. Types of projects that can be funded include:

- Revegetation (re-establishment of native vegetation in degraded areas)
- Rehabilitation (repair of ecosystem processes and management of weeds, disease or feral animals), which may include (but not limited to):
 - Weed management,
 - Management of inappropriate fire regimes
 - Management of introduced species,
 - Management of total grazing pressure, including grazing by introduced herbivores like cows or goats
- Restoring species and their habitat (e.g. re-introduction of species, building habitat structures)
- Protecting high-value vegetation and habitat where it complements areas targeted for rehabilitation and revegetation
- Activities that are needed to design successful projects, such as mapping of vegetation and habitat
- Projects with a research focus may include:
 - Testing new approaches to manage threats and conserve biodiversity
 - Filling gaps in our understanding of the best strategies to address threats to the environment
 - Research that adds to the understanding of the environmental value being impacted
- Research projects that focus on how to improve on-ground management are preferred, rather than purely academic focus.

What projects cannot be funded?

Offsets that will not be implemented through the fund include:

- The development and writing of:

- Threatened species plans
 - Conservation estate management plans
 - Healthy country plans
- Research that does not have a direct link to an on-ground outcome that improves an environmental matter
- Trials, research and monitoring for best-practice rehabilitation as part of mine closure
- Stand-alone training or capability building (although it may be funded if it is linked with an on-ground project).
- Establishment of an organisation or group