

WONDERFUL EVENTS

WHERE

DREAM

EVENTS

HAPPEN

REGIONAL EVENTS SCHEME
2026-27 GUIDELINES

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

WALKING ON A DREAM



KARIJINI EXPERIENCE
♀ KARIJINI

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Tourism Western Australia acknowledges Aboriginal peoples as the traditional Custodians of Western Australia and we pay our respects to Elders past and present. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal West Australian and honour their continuing connection to Country, culture and community. We recognise and appreciate the invaluable contributions made by First Nations peoples across many generations in shaping Western Australia as a premier destination.

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For more information, or to request an accessible version of this document, please contact:

Regional Events Team

Tourism Western Australia

Level 10, 1 William Street, PERTH WA 6000

T: (08) 9262 1700

E: regionalevents@westernaustralia.com

westernaustralia.com

tourism.wa.gov.au

The Regional Events Scheme 2026–27

Guidelines are available for viewing and download from the Tourism WA website:

tourism.wa.gov.au/res

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T: 13 14 50

tisnational.gov.au

WHAT IS THE REGIONAL EVENTS SCHEME (RES)?

THE REGIONAL EVENTS SCHEME (RES) FUNDING IS PROVIDED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT THROUGH TOURISM WA AND THE ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS PROGRAM.

RES is an annual funding round providing funding to small-scale or developing regional events across Western Australia.

The scheme is administered by Tourism Western Australia (Tourism WA) with an annual competitive application process which allocates between \$5,000 to \$40,000 (ex. GST) to successful events per event, per financial year.

RES aims to support the development of events that take place in and drive visitation to regional areas within Western Australia.

The objectives of RES are:

- **VISITATION** – Bring additional visitation and expenditure to regions, including during off-peak and shoulder seasons.
- **ECONOMIC** – Support economic growth in the region, including through local job creation, career and capability development.
- **MEDIA** – Raise the profile of the region through event promotion and media coverage.
- **SOCIAL** – Promote inclusive and sustainable event practices and improve the vibrancy, social amenity and wellbeing in regional Western Australia.

RES also encapsulates the Regional Aboriginal Events Scheme (RAES).

RAES aims to support the development of events that showcase engaging Aboriginal activities and experiences to position Western Australia as a recognised cultural events destination.

The total funding amount available in the 2026-27 RES is up to \$1,000,000. This is inclusive of a quarantined pool of funding up to \$150,000 for RAES.



REGIONAL EVENT SCHEME FUNDING 2026-27

TOTAL \$1 MILLION

REGIONAL EVENTS
SCHEME (RES)
\$850,000

REGIONAL ABORIGINAL
EVENTS SCHEME (RAES)
\$150,000

BUSSELTON JETTY SWIM
♀ BUSSELTON JETTY | UNDALUP

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

For events to be eligible for funding:

- The Event must take place between the dates 1 July 2026 and 30 June 2027 (the 'funding period'). *
- * If applying for multi-year funding, the first Event must take place during this funding period and the following events must take place in the consecutive financial year/s (e.g. 1 July 2027 and 30 June 2028, 1 July 2028 and 30 June 2029).*
- The requested funding amount must be between \$5,000 and \$40,000 per Event.
- The Event must be held in one of WA's nine regional areas as determined by the Regional Development Commission Act 1993. These include the Peel, South West, Great Southern, Wheatbelt, Mid-West, Gascoyne, Goldfields-Esperance, Pilbara and Kimberley regions ([view map here](#)).
- The Event application must come under the classification of an 'Event', which is a special occurrence tied to a certain time and place, consciously planned by the Applicant.

For events to be eligible for RAES funding, the Event must also have:

- More than 50% of the Event's program offering Aboriginal activities or experiences.
- Involvement of Aboriginal people in the leadership, coordination and delivery of the event program, which may also relate to performers, food and beverage offerings or the production and selling of merchandise.

Tourism WA will only enter into sponsorship agreements with the following types of applicants:

- Local Government Authority
- Incorporated Entity
- Pty Ltd Company
- Natural Person

For events to be eligible for multi-year funding, the Event must have received single-year funding through the Regional Events Scheme within the last three (3) funding rounds.

APPLICATIONS THAT **WILL NOT** BE CONSIDERED

The following applications are ineligible to receive funding:

- Events held in the Perth metropolitan area or outside of Western Australia.
- Business or industry events including, but not limited to, conferences, conventions, symposia, congresses, incentive group events, marketing events, special celebrations, seminars, courses, public or trade shows, product launches, exhibitions, company general meetings, corporate retreats, study tours or training programs (funding for business events may be available through [Business Events Perth](#)).
- Tourism products including, but not limited to, transport, attractions, accommodation, catering, natural resources, entertainment, experiences as well as other facilities and services.
- Agricultural shows, which have the primary purpose to showcase agriculture, machinery, trade and/or animal husbandry.
- Events that are already in receipt of Tourism WA funding for the funding period.
- Auspice arrangements (where the contracted organisation is not the organisation delivering the contractual obligations).
- If the requested Tourism WA funding amount exceeds more than 50% of the Event budget.
- If the applicant does not hold an ABN and does not meet one (1) of the criteria contained in the Australian Taxation Offices Statement by a Supplier form.
- If the Event and/or applicant has any outstanding sponsorship requirements or funding reporting with Tourism WA or the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (previously the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries), or has had an agreement terminated due to failing to meet sponsorship requirements. *

** This does not include Events that are receiving RES or RAES funding and the Event has not yet occurred. In this instance, the application can be considered, however, if successful, the funding is awarded in principle, and all sponsorship requirements must be completed for the previous year's funding before funding for the next financial year can be received.*



THE GIBB CHALLENGE
♀ THE KIMBERLEY

WHAT COSTS **CAN** BE SUPPORTED?

All applications for RES and RAES funding must clearly outline what costs the funding will be used toward. These costs must align directly to the objectives of the scheme ([see page 4](#)).

Some examples of acceptable costs include:

- Paid marketing and media
- Live music and performances
- Prestigious talent/hero names
- Arts and cultural activities
- Workshops
- Event infrastructure (cannot be permanent)
- Event operational costs such as traffic management and licensing
- Event staff (event/project specific)
- Waste and recycling management
- Access and inclusion measures

WHAT COSTS **CANNOT** BE SUPPORTED?

RES and RAES funding cannot be used for the following expenditure items:

- Capital works (permanent infrastructure);
- Existing, ongoing or recurrent organisational costs (for example, employee salaries and employment costs, insurance, lease or rental payments, uniforms, administration expenses);
- Purchase of capital equipment or assets (for example, computers, photocopiers and vehicles);
- Venue hire or rental fees for the applicant organisation's own venue or assets;
- Prize money or gifts; or
- Expenses from previous or future Events (outside of the funding period).

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENTS

Applicants that have an executed, current multi-year funding agreement (2-3 years) may apply for additional funding for newly developed initiative(s) for their Event.

To apply for additional funding:

- Applications must be received through the applications portal during the application period (no applications for additional funding will be accepted outside of this period).
- The total sponsorship amount (including the current sponsorship agreement) cannot exceed \$40,000.
- The new initiative must align with the objectives of RES; further developing/elevating the Event.

The additional funding request will be competitively assessed in the same process as other RES funding applications and is subject to available funding.

Should funding be awarded, a variation to the current sponsorship agreement will be undertaken and the proposed new initiative(s) will be set against new payment milestone(s).



WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Applications for the 2026-27 funding round will open on **18 August 2025**.

Applicants will be able to complete an application through the online portal (located on the [Tourism WA website – Regional Events Scheme landing page](#)). The portal will only be accessible from **9am 18 August 2025** until **5pm 19 September 2025** (applications will not be accepted after this time). Please note, only applications received through the online portal will be considered; no other format of application will be accepted.

Applicants will need to complete the full online application and provide any required supporting material (incomplete applications will not be accepted and no additional information will be accepted after the deadline).

Once submitted, applicants will automatically receive a confirmation email with a PDF copy of the completed application. If applicants do not automatically receive this email, contact Tourism Western Australia at regionalevents@westernaustralia.com.



XTERRA ASIA-PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS
♀ DUNSBOROUGH | QUEDJINUP

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

Applications are assessed by a panel which will generally include representatives from Tourism WA, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and can include members from relevant sectors including grant making bodies, community service organisations, government departments and the community.

Applications are reviewed and assessed against the Regional Events Scheme Assessment Criteria. Assessments are conducted primarily on the information provided in the application. Assessors will also take into consideration regional dispersal of funds, diversity of Tourism WA-funded events, previous dealings with the applicant and outcomes of previous events.

Funding is competitive and, on some occasions, events that sufficiently meet the criteria or have been awarded funding previously may not be awarded funding as other events have met the criteria to a greater extent and provide a better outcome for State Government funding.

The assessment process takes approximately 5 months from the closing date of the application period. Funding decisions are final and cannot be contested or appealed. Applicants will be provided with feedback regarding their application, regardless of the outcome.

If successful, awarded funding amounts are strictly confidential.



GASCOYNE FOOD FESTIVAL
♀ CARNARVON | GWOONWARDU

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO IF I RECEIVE FUNDING?

If the application is successful, the applicant will enter into a sponsorship agreement with Tourism WA. The requirements of the sponsorship agreement include, but are not limited to:

- **Invite the Minister for Tourism** and the **Minister for Regional Development**, or their representatives, to attend the Event including key official functions, announcements or ceremonies.
- Supply the Event **Risk Management Plan** which adopts the Australian standard for risk management AS ISO 31000:2018. *

** Tourism WA engages a risk management specialist to conduct a high-level review of risk management plans. Applicants will receive feedback on their risk management plan and may be requested to implement updates.*

- Maintain appropriate and sufficient **insurance cover** for the duration of the Event including 30 days post-Event. The required insurance includes:
 - General liability insurance coverage of \$20,000,000 for any one occurrence and unlimited in aggregate.
 - Workers' compensation/employers' indemnity insurance no less than \$50,000,000 for any one Event.
 - Personal accident insurance for volunteers engaged by the Applicant (if volunteers are used for the Event).
- Applicants who receive funding for **over \$15,000** are also required to supply a **Marketing and Communications Plan**.
- At the completion of the Event, all applicants will need to complete a **Final Event Report**, **Final Event Budget** and **Budget Declaration** to demonstrate that the funding has been spent in accordance with the sponsorship application.

A high-action photograph of a surfer riding a large, powerful wave. The surfer is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and dark shorts, leaning into the turn. The wave is breaking with a massive wall of white water and spray, creating a dramatic and energetic scene. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE
Event Invitations to the Minister for Tourism and Minister for Regional Development	90 days before Event
Risk Management Plan	90 days before Event
Insurance Certificates of Currency	90 days before Event
Funding over \$15,000: Marketing and Communications Plan	45 days before Event
Final Event Budget	90 days post Event
Budget Declaration	90 days post Event
Final Event Report	90 days post Event

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Most information can be found on the Tourism WA website. If you have supplementary questions, you can email the Regional Events Team at regionalevents@westenauralia.com.

To receive updates for RES and RAES, please sign-up to the RES mailing list on the [Tourism WA website – Regional Events Scheme landing page](#).

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Tourism WA is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA), which provides a general right of access to documents held by State and Local Government agencies.

Successful applicants may be contacted by the Minister for Tourism, Minister for Regional Development and/or their local Member of Parliament to discuss their Event. Contact details of applicants may be provided to Members of Parliament for this purpose.

Information provided in funding applications may be tabled in the Western Australian Parliament.



Tourism Western Australia

Level 10, 1 William Street, PERTH WA 6000

GPO Box X2261 PERTH WA 6847

T. 08 9262 1700 F. 08 9262 1787

info@westernaustralia.com

westernaustralia.com

tourism.wa.gov.au

 Facebook:
facebook.com/extraordinarywesternaustralia

 YouTube:
youtube.com/westernaustralia

 Instagram:
Instagram.com/westernaustralia

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threads.com/@westernaustralia

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