



**GROWER
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Media Release

27 November 2024

Grower Group Alliance releases \$137,300 in grants through the Evergreen Farming Legacy Fund

The Grower Group Alliance (GGA) has released \$137,300 in grants through the Evergreen Farming Legacy Fund to six grower groups in Western Australia. The grants aim to continue the Evergreen Farming body of work in perennial pasture systems across WA's diverse farming regions.

After 23 successful years of operation, the Evergreen Farming grower group wound up in 2023 and had unused reserves. GGA was appointed to the independent role of ensuring these funds were made available to the GGA network to continue the Evergreen Farming legacy; supporting research, development, extension, and capacity-building initiatives in perennial pastures.

The following grower groups have been successful and were awarded up-to \$25,000 each, for initiatives that support Evergreen Farming's work and vision:

- Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association
- Western Beef
- Facey Group
- Fitzgerald Biosphere Group
- Southern Dirt
- The Gillamii Centre

GGA Chief Executive Officer Rikki Foss spoke about the opportunity provided by Evergreen Farming to fellow GGA network member grower groups through the fund and said, *"it is a privilege for the Grower Group Alliance to extend the opportunity to members through the Evergreen Farming Legacy Fund"*.

"The fund allows Evergreen Farming's work to be continued by other grower groups by exploring initiatives of importance around perennial pasture systems in their local area," Ms Foss said.

"Each initiative that has been awarded a grant will contribute to perennial pasture solutions for farmers across the state."

These grants will also help achieve long-term environmental and economic resilience for WA's agricultural community. Each grant recipient will implement projects focused on key areas such as:

- **Research and Development:** Trials and studies that push the boundaries of perennial pasture systems, exploring their potential for soil health improvement, water management, and grazing productivity.
- **Extension and Adoption:** Initiatives such as field days, workshops, and collaborations with industry experts that bring cutting-edge knowledge to the field, helping growers adopt best practices and new technologies in pasture management.
- **Capacity Building:** Programs such as student bursaries and guest speaker sessions that educate the next generation of agricultural leaders and strengthen the knowledge base within WA's agricultural community.



Applications were open to the GGA grower group network, to encourage growers to collaborate, build capacity, and adopt sustainable practices that will help WA agriculture thrive in the face of changing environmental conditions.

A total of ten grant applications, from GGA member grower groups, were received and assessed by a four-person selection panel with pasture knowledge, as well as former Evergreen Farming group co-ordinator Phil Barrett-Lennard, representing Evergreen Farming's interests.

Mr Barrett-Lennard said the applications that were submitted through GGA's grant program was of the highest quality, which is a testament to WA grower groups.

"The groups put forward a diverse range of initiatives that aimed to improve sustainable pasture management through practical initiatives, such as field trials, workshops, and educational opportunities that strengthen WA's agricultural resilience," Mr Barrett-Lennard said.

"Those who were successful will continue the hard work and dedication of the 23 years of work by Evergreen Farming and our legacy will live on. This collaboration is a testament to GGA and the collaboration of grower groups in WA and we look forward to seeing these initiatives come to life."

Proposed timeline for the initiatives to be executed by recipients will be a staggered delivery, starting as early as March 2025, through to March 2027.

– ENDS –

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Caption: Perennial pastures.



Caption: Evergreen Farming group co-ordinator Phil Barrett-Lennard.



Background information

The Grower Group Alliance (GGA) is a not-for-profit group, established in 2002 to develop the capacity of groups and stronger connections between Western Australian grower groups, researchers, funding bodies and industry. Today the GGA is a thriving state-wide network of over 90 member groups from across Western Australia, with a collective membership exceeding 4,000 farm enterprises.

About the Evergreen Farming Legacy Fund

The Evergreen Farming Legacy Fund was created to advance sustainable agriculture and support growers dedicated to resilient, productive land management and perennial pasture systems.

For more information visit the Evergreen Farming Legacy Fund page at the [GGA's website](#).