



# COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

## PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT



A project funded by the state government and administered by the Waste Authority

<b>Contract number:</b>	765
<b>Organisation:</b>	Esperance Growers Market
<b>Project Title:</b>	Waste Not Want Not
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$9,600 excl GST



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*The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Waste Authority or Government of Western Australia, which may not be held responsible for the accuracy of information provided, nor is it liable for any and all outcomes from the use of this information*

## ORGANISATION & PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- A brief overview of your organisation/group.
- A detailed description of the project, including your anticipated goals and outcomes /achievements.

Esperance Growers Market started in March 2011. We promote and sell locally grown produce, thereby contributing to reducing food miles and encouraging sustainable practices in food production and resource management in the community and Esperance region.

26 Workshops where held from December 2018 to August 2019.

22 of these workshops where about Permaculture including sustainable garden design, Mushroom growing, worm farming, beekeeping, using recycled fabrics to knit and weave into rugs and bags, pallet gardening and unique ways of upcycling which were all held at the Nulsen Primary School Permaculture Community Garden.

4 workshops where held on making reusable shopping bags. These where made using recycled fabric saved from landfill. We were able to support our local ESCARE and ACTIVE Industries.

We applied for a Variation on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to apply the unused portion of funds to be utilised making worm houses.

“The Phoenix worm houses are large 1000 litre recycled containers used by farmers across Australia. The containers used are non- chemical and sourced from Esperance farmers. These containers aren’t currently recycled in Esperance and due to our distance from Perth make them not viable to recycle.

Due to school holidays and various factors, the worm farms will be delivered by Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 2019 to Esperance Growers Market stallholders garden locations who sell vegetables, fruit and herbs at the growers markets every second Saturday morning.

The worm farms are delivered with an internal covered drainage system, drainage tap and a closable lid for bird, animal or vermin protection.

Worm bedding, worm castings and 1000’s of red and tiger worms are supplied with detailed operational instructions.

We have been using the same practical built worm farms at the Permaculture Education and Research Centre, Lot 813, Parkland Retreat, Esperance for the last three years with huge success and no problems.



This worm farm is designed using over thirty years experience of being a commercial/home worm farmer and is a wonderful education tool for children and adults. The Esperance growers market stallholders will produce wonderful organic liquid worm castings for their home gardens using these worm farms.”

The Esperance Growers Market Workshops have created an environment for people to share knowledge with people who are seeking education to minimise their environmental footprints and maximise their potential to avoid, reduce, recover, reuse and recycle.

The Committee feel that we have well and truly achieved our goal of promoting and educating growing local food, this has gone well beyond our expectations by utilising the Wastenot Grant we have been able to expand our upcycling and recycling to the benefit of everyone, especially children and travellers.

## EVALUATION / RESULTS - DATA

What kind(s) of project data/information did you collect?

Being able to improve our profile on Facebook and Instagram we have been able to obtain statistics from visitors to the page and have seen a significant increase - we have over 400 followers at the time of writing.

We don't keep a physical count of numbers that visit the actual Growers Market Venue but we have seen an increase, along with successful sales from the Stall holders.

We have:

- removed at least 3kg of Fabric from Landfill to make reusable shopping bags, which will reduce plastic use
- used 10kg of fabric making rugs and baskets
- made upcycled Mushroom farms by reusing 10ltr Ice cream containers
- recycled 6 pallets along with over 50 5ltr plastic Ice cream containers to make pallet gardens
- reused numerous household plastic containers making pots for plants
- recycled 9 International Bulk Containers into productive Worm houses which in turn has reduced organic waste going to landfill

Please explain how you recorded / measured your results, and include all the data you've collected, whatever it may be!

Our Evaluation has mostly been about discussions and involvement with people attending the Growers Market workshops and the interaction received from the Stall holders.

Some questions asked of us were *'how much do these cost?'* *'Can we keep bees?'* *'How do you keep the worms cool?'*

We have had between 5 and 30 people actively involved in our workshops therefore if we average this to 17 people per workshop x 26, we estimate in the vicinity of 180 people have directly gained knowledge.

We would now like to follow this up with feedback from the community which we could be able to do via our Facebook page and at the markets in a physical sense.

Was your project successful in the way you expected?

Did you achieve what you set out to do? (did you reuse/reduce/recycle as much as you had planned to?) If not, what happened?

YES

NO

We did achieve 'beyond our expectations' and was pleasantly surprised by how much knowledge already existed in our community about living in a sustainable way and learning about methods already in use. We felt that the sharing of knowledge during the project was very important and should be ongoing.

Our downside was being left to struggle after the main grant applicants left. If we had a key person through the entire process we would have gained a better continuity of the project. In future this will be a vital step when applying for Grants.

Do you feel your project made a positive difference in your community and why?

YES

NO

Esperance people are very community minded and fully support this.

How many people in total do you think your project has reached/affected?

Over 500

## LESSONS LEARNT

What lessons were learned through the project – what worked and didn't work?

What, if anything, would you do differently if you were to do the project again?

Planning is a must.

We found that a lot of time could have been saved if a plan for the distribution of the funds were made first, then a plan or template on how to run a workshop and on what dates, where and when, ie. If held at the markets or another suitable venue.

Did you encounter any problems/challenges in carrying out the project? If so, what were they?

If a plan was made and templates in place then when a person moves on the project can be picked up by the next person.

But, if the project is too constrained then there is no scope for imagination and versatility and we think that is what the secret to success is.

What advice would you give to other groups considering undertaking similar projects?

Go ahead, at one stage we discussed abandoning the project and giving back the funds, but we are glad we persevered as now we have a template for future projects and a set of skills shared amongst the community. The added bonus is being proudly able to say that we have educated and helped other people think about their waste.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT / PROMOTION

Does your organisation (or project) have a website or Facebook page?  
(please provide the link(s) to your organisation's site and/or the project page)

Face book: Esperance Growers Market

<https://www.facebook.com/esperancegrowersmarket/>

Instagram: Esperance Growers Market

Physically every second Saturday at Nulsen Primary School Permaculture Garden

How did you acknowledge the Community Grants Scheme funding you received?

A story in the Esperance Express

9 Stickers placed on the Worm Houses





Did you purchase any capital equipment with your grant money? (this includes things like sheds and large pieces of equipment)

No.

Were there any promotional / media opportunities for the project? (newspaper articles, photos) If yes, please ensure you attach copies or include screen prints

YES

NO

Newspaper article

Facebook events / posts

Did you produce any promotional material for the project? (flyers, brochures even screen prints of online promotion – Facebook posts etc) If yes, please ensure you attach copies or include screen prints

YES

NO

Yes – Facebook posts and events for the workshops.

## VARIATIONS & EXTENSIONS

Were you able to complete your project in the approved timeframe?

YES

NO

If there were variations or extensions, what were the cause(s)?

Due to a change of project officers, we found ourselves a little lost, having to pick up where others left off took up valuable time. When the time came up for project completion in August 2019, we realised that not all the funds allocated had been spent, we felt these savings could be spent in other ways that complimented and assisted the Growers Market. We applied for a Variation on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to apply the unused portion of funds to be utilised making worm houses.

Thankfully a positive committee decided to push on ahead as the Growers Market is very much orientated on waste reduction, growing local and reducing food miles.

## FUTURE PROJECTS

Did any opportunities or ideas arise during the project?

YES

NO

Do you now have ideas for other future projects?

We think the Worm Farm/Houses are brilliant!

Anne O'Neill says the one installed at Yirri Grove, which is a farm shop restaurant, has been able to reduce its waste by one green wheelie bin per week!

Not only are we creating worm juice for food production but have been educating and informing people especially staff, of waste reduction and how simply it can be achieved.

## PROJECT PHOTOS

Please attach project photos, screen prints of promotional materials and their brief descriptions here.

Aug 2018: article announcing grant success Esperance Express

<http://www.esperanceexpress.com.au/story/5562915/grants-to-sustainable-groups/>

Facebook post Sep 19



**Esperance Growers Market**  
17 September at 11:30 · 🌐

First of the worm houses delivered today. Look out for the full story in Esperance Express on Friday.

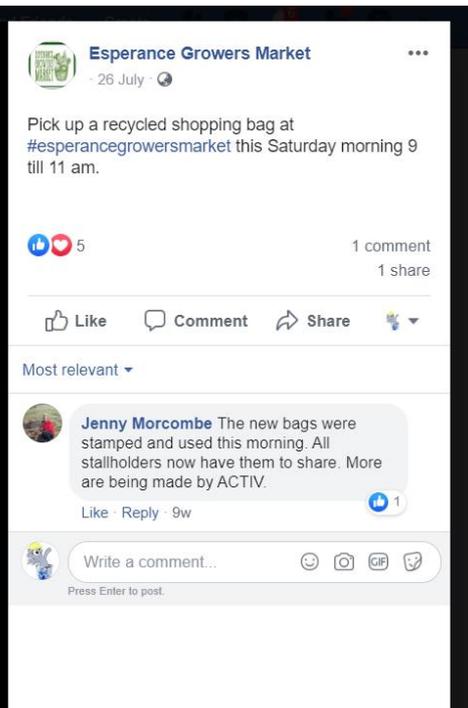
**Yirri Grove** is in Western Australia.  
17 September at 11:28 · 🌐 Like Page

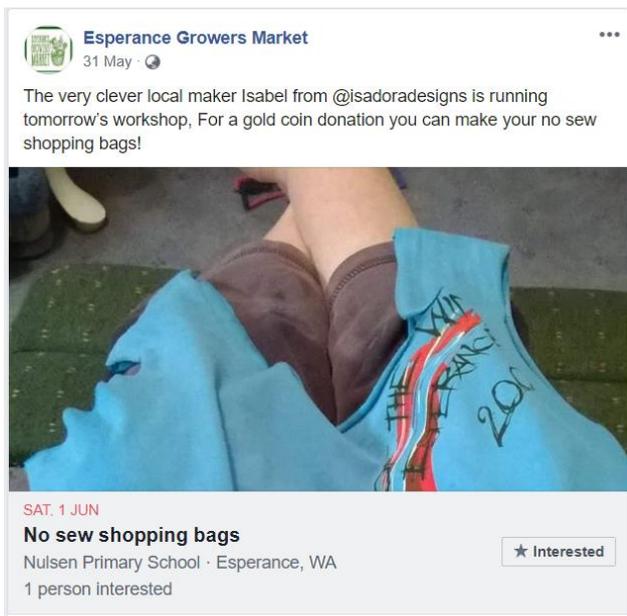
Worms & more worms 🐛 you might think these guys are 'icky' but they are going to eat a lot of our waste and reduce our fertiliser use.  
#esperancegrowersmarket have started rolling out the worm houses to be utilised by our local growers and funded by #wasteauthoritywa

#wormfarming #wastenotwantnot  
#reducereuserecycle  
#keepitlocal  
#organicfarming @ Western Australia

👍❤️ You, Amy Kennaugh Vickers, Naomi Timmins and 1 other

Facebook





## Esperance Express Article

produce, help reduce food miles and grab a plant or two, and taste delicious preserves from the Esperance Growers Market.

**The Growers Market** takes place once a fortnight come rain, hail or shine, on Saturday mornings from 9am until 11am at Nulsen Primary School.

The next market will be held this Saturday, Septem-

ber 21, from 9am until 11am on a day morning.

With the **Esperance Wildflower Festival**, September 24-28, fast approaching, the local community arts groups are in full Wildflower swing.

A **Banner Painting project** with Sally Elliott will be at Esperance Community Arts this Saturday, September 21, from 1pm until 4pm. Come along and help to create beautiful fabric and

Centre this Saturday night, September 21, from 6pm until 10pm for the **Club 75 Volume 4** of the Winter Series. With the Cannery's stunning pop up lounge bar, there will be a sparkling line up of very talented musicians, including Paul d McDowell, Michelle Gemina, Alex Richardson, Christiane and Alyce, and Kyron Smithson.

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**FRESH IS BEST:** Growers Market stallholders Anne and Shane O'Neill with Permaculture consultant Geoff Tonkin and the worm farm at Yirri Grove. Photo: Jesinta Burton.

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