



## RARE AND SIGNIFICANT FLORA PROTECTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Guidelines for individuals, groups and organisations applying for Incentive Funding to **implement on-ground works** to address **Threatened Species or Threatened Species Habitat Protection** in the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority.

Applications are now invited from landholders interested in the Lower Murray Darling CMA's Rare and Significant Flora Protection Incentive Program. A total of \$110,000 is available to landholders to carryout on-ground works to protect rare and significant flora species and their habitat across the catchment and/or to implement Threatened Species Priority Action Statements.

Incentives include:

1. Total exclusion fencing for protection of flora and endangered ecological communities i.e. fencing designed to exclude herbivores, including rabbits and goats.
2. Payment for the on-going maintenance of fencing, and
3. Payments to implement Threatened Species Priority Actions in the protected area.

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### APPLICATIONS:

Applications may be hand delivered, faxed or posted to the:

#### ***Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority***

32 Enterprise Way (PO Box 363)

Buronga NSW 2739

Phone No: 03 5021 9460

Fax No. 03 5021 1308

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**Funded by:**



**CLOSING DATE:**

Applications close at 5pm Friday **15 February 2008.**

Works are to be completed by **30 May 2008.**

### CONTACTING THE LOWER MURRAY DARLING CMA:

The best approach to submitting an application is by working with the staff of the Lower Murray Darling CMA, Department of Environment and Climate Change and RMAP.

Our Biodiversity Officers listed below are there to assist you in determining if you have any rare or significant plants/ ecological communities on your property.

Location	Position	Name	Contact
Buronga	Biodiversity Officer :	<i>Claire Wilkinson</i>	03 5021 9460
		<i>John McLaughlin</i>	
	Conservation Assessment Officer:	<i>Else Foster</i>	03 5021 8916

The CMA Catchment Officers and RMAP Staff listed below are able to assist you in submitting the best possible application for your project.

Balranald	Catchment Officer (PVP & Projects)	<i>Jacinta Cain</i>	03 5021 9460
	Implementation Officer (PVP)	<i>Jade Temby</i>	03 5021 9460
	Rangelands Officer	<i>Phil Baird</i>	03 5021 9460
	Community Landcare Coordinator	<i>Sheree Scott</i>	03 5027 2416
	Project Officer	<i>Mandy Tripcony</i>	0427557533

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CATCHMENT TARGETS

The LMD CMA Catchment Action Plan aims “to protect and enhance the natural environment across the catchment thereby achieving the highest possible level of biodiversity” including threatened species. Some of the management activities that aim at enhancing biodiversity and thus protect threatened species include:

- retention and protection of existing remnant vegetation, especially high quality vegetation, threatened vegetation communities and habitat of threatened species,
- management to enhance remnant vegetation for threatened taxa (taxa - a grouping of organisms given a formal taxonomic name such as species, genus, family, etc),
- restoration of strategic vegetation blocks or linkages.
- maintenance or rehabilitation of ecological processes,
- habitat preservation and rehabilitation (terrestrial and aquatic),
- collection of base line data on condition and status of flora and fauna communities including threatened species,
- wetland rehabilitation,
- threat abatement including pest control,
- development and implementation of threatened species, populations and ecological community recovery plans, and national recovery plans for threatened species and communities.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Eligible applicants include landholders, groups, non profit organisations and local government who have the ability to implement NSW Priority Actions for the nominated flora species within the NSW Lower Murray Darling Catchment with natural resource management responsibilities
- All on-ground works are to be conducted within the Lower Murray Darling CMA area.
- Properties which have previously entered into Property Vegetation Plan agreements are still eligible to apply for this incentive.

## WHAT ARE OUR RARE AND SIGNIFICANT FLORA SPECIES / COMMUNITIES AND HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE ANY?

The Department of Environment and Climate Change lists threatened and endangered species and communities for each region in NSW. In the Lower Murray Darling Region a total of 91 species and communities are listed. Some of the key species being targeted by this incentive are listed below. A detailed description of these, including their extent, can be discussed at your local LMD CMA office if you feel that you have an area of land that may contain threatened species or be suitable threatened species habitat the LMD CMA.

### Rare and Significant Flora Protection Incentive can be applied to:

Rare or Significant species	Description	Region
Bitter Quandong ( <i>Santalum murrayanum</i> )	Tall shrub or small shapely tree to 4 m high, with long pendulous branchlets and smooth bark. Leaves grey-green or silvery-green, opposite or some in whorls of 3.	Euston and Pooncarie districts
Bluebush Daisy ( <i>Cratystylis conocephala</i> )	Silver-grey or blue-grey shrub, 1 m or more in height and diameter, strongly resembling Pearl Bluebush.	Wentworth district
Harrow Wattle ( <i>Acacia acanthoclada</i> )	An erect or spreading shrub, 0.3-1.5 m high; bark smooth, grey or occasionally slightly greenish.	Buronga, Wentworth and Pooncarie districts
Swamp She-oak ( <i>Casuarina obesa</i> )	The Swamp She-oak is a much-branched shrub or small tree, 3 - 15 m tall, with deeply-fissured, corky bark. The branchlets are to 30 cm long and 2 - 3 mm in diameter	Lake Benanee
Purple-wood Wattle ( <i>Acacia carneorum</i> )	The Purple-wood Wattle ( <i>formerly Acacia carnei</i> ) is a dark green and prickly shrub to small tree, 2 - 4 m tall. Plants have a striking, deep-purple heartwood.	Menindee area



Bitter Quandong



Purple-wood Wattle



Nelia Woodland



Harrow Wattle

Endangered Ecological Community	Description	Region
Halosarcia lylei low open shrubland	It is dominated by the chenopod shrub <i>H. lylei</i> and occurs on saline clay soils on the beds of small salt lakes and around the perimeter of larger salt lakes.	Most locations occur to the immediate north-east and south-east of Nanya Station.
Nelia Woodland (Acacia loderi Woodland)	The Nelia Woodland community is dominated by the tall shrub or small tree, Nelia Other tree species that may occur in association with Nelia are Mulga, Umbrella Wattle and Slender Cypress Pine and Belah.	Broken Hill, Ivanhoe and Wilcannia districts
* Buloke Woodland in the Riverina and Murray Darling Depression bioregions	<i>The tree layer, dominated by Buloke may also include White Cypress Pine or Moonah, though usually in lower abundance than Buloke. Other tree species, including Slender Cypress Pine, Bull Mallee and Black Box, may also occur at some sites within the community.</i>	Balranald local government area
* Sandhill Pine Woodland in the Riverina and Murray Darling Depression bioregions	The community is dominated by Slender Cypress Pine the community occurs on lunettes associated with dry lake beds, and as patches within a mosaic of vegetation types on extensive sandplains.	Balranald, Central Darling and Wentworth local government areas
*Old Man Saltbush Shrubland in Western NSW	Old Man Saltbush Shrubland in western NSW is the name given to the ecological community dominated by stands of Old Man Saltbush up to 2.5 meters tall. Throughout its range Old Man Saltbush Shrubland is scattered across a range of soil types on level to depressed plains, low-lying areas and depressions	Wentworth, Balranald and Central Darling local government areas

\*denotes preliminary listing

For more detailed descriptions please refer to the DECC website:

<http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/index.aspx>

## **ABOUT THE NSW PRIORITIES ACTION STATEMENT**

The Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement (PAS) outlines the broad strategies and detailed priority actions in NSW to:

- promote the recovery of threatened species, population and ecological communities
- manage key threatening processes (KTPs)

**The following activities are examples of priority actions. Different priority actions apply to each threatened species.**

- Close or fence off the groundwater tanks to reduce the concentrated impacts of stock, feral animals and native grazers on existing remnants.
- Eradicate weeds from remnants.
- Fence off populations from grazing by rabbits, stock, goats and kangaroos; allow for population growth in fenced areas; Control rabbits and goats.
- Develop preferred mitigation measures to minimize impact of wildfire and/or suppression operations.

A list of priority actions for the LMD CMA can be found at:

[http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/pas\\_cma\\_region.aspx?name=Lower+Murray+Darling](http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/pas_cma_region.aspx?name=Lower+Murray+Darling)

## **DETERMINING A PROJECT BUDGET**

- Once the management options have been decided, you are required to complete a part two budget for your project.
- This funding is intended for areas with high public / low private benefits, which is reflected by the LMD CMA's willingness to pay **up to** 100% of the project costs, including ongoing management expenses.
- The **1<sup>st</sup> part** outlines the costs of materials and labour to establish the on-ground works (fences etc)
- The **2<sup>nd</sup> part** outlines the ongoing cost for the maintenance and on-going management required for a period of 15 years (i.e.: fence maintenance, baiting, rabbit warren ripping etc).

### Part 1: Project Setup Costs

- Please include all in-kind costs (your labour, time, materials, maintenance, monitoring, etc.). An individual's time can be costed at \$30/hr.
- Employment of contractors may be costed into the project.
- If using your own plant, please cost the machinery at current market rates.
- Please obtain relevant quotes from suppliers.
- Itemise all materials, attach quotes if too numerous.
- All budget figures must be GST **exclusive**.
- Be aware that money allocated to projects will be based upon the submitted budget and no allowances will be made for price increases in materials.

### Part 2: Ongoing Management of the Area for up to 15 years

This budget is to be completed following the same process as above although only for the ongoing component of the project. The total amount for this budget will be paid at the completion of the on-ground works in one lump sum.

## Example Budget

Activity to be undertaken & items to be purchased	Item	Cost per Item	Total cost	CMA Funding Sought	Landholder Contribution
<b>2 km TGP fencing</b>					
Fence line Preparation	10 hr	\$150	\$1,500		\$1,500
<b>Purchase of fencing equipment</b>					
Hinge joint - 200m	10 rolls	\$179	\$1,790	\$1,790	
H/T barb wire 1.8mm	4 rolls	\$78	\$312	\$312	
End assemblies	4 sets	\$175	\$700	\$700	
Steel star pickets	200	\$4.29	\$858	\$858	
<b>Labour</b>					
To erect the proposed fences	20 hrs	\$25	\$500		\$500
		<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3660</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>

## Budget Part 2: Ongoing Management of the area for up to 15 years

Activity to be undertaken & items to be purchased	Times over term	Averaged Cost per Activity	Total cost	CMA Funding Sought	Landholder Contribution
Rabbit Ripping	3	?	?	?	?
Fox Baiting	45	?	?	?	?
Fence Maintenance	Ongoing	?	?	?	?
		<b>Total</b>			

## PROJECT PLAN / MAP

Your project plan should provide a map showing the location of the project area, and where on the property it is located. It is recommended that you consult the CMA office for a current, high quality property map and indicate all relevant data on this map.

Alternatively you may also choose to draw a schematic plan of the proposed project. It is important that all existing reference points and infrastructure are indicated on the diagram as well as proposed works.

Drawn diagrams do not need to be to scale, but should provide distances and areas relevant to the project area. It is recommended you develop your property plan, location map and site map in consultation with LMD CMA staff.

## Monitoring and evaluation of outcomes

- If your project is funded you will be required to carry out certain monitoring of the outcomes from your project.
- Monitoring will be required for the whole term of the contract.
- At times, LMD CMA staff may require property access for project monitoring purposes. You will be advised in advance of any access requirements.

## Payment Schedule:

If your application is successful and agreement signed, payment will be made on submitting of evidence that works have commenced and submitting of an invoice. All payments are to be made by May 2008.

## **DELIVERY MECHANISMS**

A Property Vegetation Plans (PVP) or PAMS Management Agreement (MA) will be the primary incentive delivery mechanism for the LMD CMA incentives.

A PVP generally requires detailed mapping and significant field assessment and will be used for the larger property scale projects of \$10,000 or more.

Management Agreements will usually only require a simple map and little or no field assessment. They will be used for smaller projects of typically less than \$10,000 such as goat traps or waterpoint control.

Both PAMS MAs and PVPs are voluntary, legally binding agreements under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, between the landholder and the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority (LMD CMA). They are a record of the terms of agreement and include; standard conditions, special conditions, agreement objectives, agreement period, activities and milestones, landholder and property details and the payment schedule.

An Incentive Funding PVP can be negotiated to last for any length of time and is transferred to the new owner if the property is sold. Some project types have a minimum agreement length; please check the minimum standards for each project.

**How to apply?** *See next page*

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR FUNDING?

1. Complete Incentives Application Form – Complete an Application Form with your details and a brief description of what you would like to do along with your project budget, and then return it to the Lower Murray Darling CMA. If you need any assistance in identifying the plants on your property, or completing the application form please contact one of the nominated CMA Officers. (If there is no application form attached contact the LMD CMA on 03 5021 9460 and a form will be sent out, alternatively download the relevant forms from the internet at [www.lmd.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lmd.cma.nsw.gov.au)).
2. Site Visit and Environmental Assessment - During the site visit, a CMA Officer will inspect the proposed site and confirm the plants present and that suitable management actions (PAS) have been proposed.
3. Assessment and Ranking of Applications -The Technical Panel will assess the applications on a number of key criteria including;
  - Conservation significance of the species in the proposal
  - How well the proposal addresses CAP Targets
  - The Management Actions proposed, e.g.
  - Number of priority actions employed
  - Impact on other species (both beneficial & detrimental)
  - Landholder contribution (monetary & in-kind)
  - Condition of flora
  - Area to be protected, e.g.
  - Does it have adequate buffers?
  - Does it link to reserves or corridors?
  - Value for money.

The Technical Panel will rank applications and advise priorities to CMA Management who will make a final determination on which properties/applicants will be funded.

4. Draft Agreement – Successful applicants will be notified and PVP's or MA's prepared. A draft Incentive Property Vegetation Plan or PAMS Management Agreement will be sent to the landholder outlining the management actions and outcomes required, along with a proposed schedule of milestones and payments.
5. Final Agreement – Once the landholder accepts the offer or negotiates amendments that are acceptable to all parties, a final agreement is produced and approved. Works may then commence and an invoice for the first payment instalment may be submitted.

**NOTE - This document was current at time of production, please check latest details with LMD CMA.**

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