



FACT SHEET No. 50

2008-09 CONSERVATION, THREATENED SPECIES HABITAT & RIPARIAN RESERVES INCENTIVE GUIDELINES

The Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority (LMD CMA) offers incentives to assist landholders to manage land for conservation through the establishment of Conservation, Threatened Species Habitat & Riparian Reserves, and in doing so *improves the condition of the native vegetation communities* on their property, and *to increase the area of each vegetation community reserved in the catchment* in accordance with the LMD CMA Catchment Action Plan.

Applications are now invited from landholders interested in the LMD CMA's Conservation, Threatened Species Habitat & Riparian Reserves Incentive program. Funds are available to landholders to carry out on-ground works to protect large areas of native vegetation including areas which improve threatened species habitat or increase connectivity between existing reserves.

Incentives include:

1. funding for the on-ground works necessary to establish a reserve
2. payment for the on-going management of the area for 15 years.

APPLICATIONS:

The Guidelines and Application form are separate documents. 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

Funded by:



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OUR
COUNTRY

CLOSING DATE:

Applications close at:

5pm Friday **24 December 2008.**

Establishment works are to be completed by 30 June 2009.

LATE APPLICATIONS MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT TARGETS

The establishment of Reserves is a key CMA Strategy to achieve the targets of:

- V2 – achieving the permanent reservation of 20% of each vegetation community (pre-clearing extent) by 2054, and
- V3 – improving the condition of each vegetation community at 90% of sites by the year 2007 as measured by the key indicators.

The conservation of large areas of less well protected native vegetation types in strategic areas which improve connectivity, will improve native fauna habitat and reduce the risks of loss of native animals and plants.

Threatening factors such as total grazing pressure (the impact of grazing by all animals) and altered fire and flood regimes have brought about broad scale changes by causing an imbalance to the native animal and plant relationships that survive in these living systems. By managing an area for conservation you can improve native vegetation and assist with preserving native animals habitat.

While all vegetation communities may be considered, preference will be given to those which are currently least represented in reserves.

For Rangelands these include **Belah-Rosewood, Chenopod Shrublands and Chenopod Mallee**.

For Floodplain areas, proposals which target the priority vegetation communities of **Redgum Woodland, Wetlands, Blackbox Woodlands and Lignum Shrublands**, will generally score higher.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applications are open to individual landholders, groups, non-profit organisations and local government agencies within the NSW Lower Murray Darling catchment with natural resource management responsibilities.
- All on-ground works must be conducted within the LMD CMA area, and be completed and assessed by CMA staff prior to **30 June 2009**.
- Applications must address at least one of the vegetation communities listed above.
- Successful applicants must attend an Information Day to discuss the implementation of projects with biodiversity staff.
- Applicants with current LMD CMA incentives that uncompleted and are beyond the contracted finish date or have incomplete milestones **WILL NOT** be eligible for funding.

PROJECTS AND WORKS FUNDED

On-Ground Works Necessary to Establish a Reserve

The CMA will provide funding for the following on-ground works required to establish a conservation or riparian Reserve.

- All Reserves
 - Total exclusion fencing
 - Decommissioning or control of water points, including exclusion fencing or trap to control goats
 - Firebreaks
- Riparian Reserves
 - Alternative water points to allow off-river watering including provision of a tank, trough, pipelines and solar pump.

Payment for the On-going Management of the Area for 15 years

Funding is available for on-going maintenance of the reserve and undertaking management activities according to an agreed Property Vegetation Plan (PVP). Activities which will be funded include:

- On-going maintenance of fencing
- Monitoring
- Pest control (rabbits, foxes)
- Native and feral herbivore control (goats, kangaroos)
- Maintenance of fire breaks and ecological fire management; and
- Activities which will improve native vegetation condition.

Within the funds available there is no upper limit on the funds for which an individual landholder may apply. However all funds will be distributed on the basis of best value for money and the level of landholder in-kind contribution.

MINIMUM DESIGN STANDARDS

Total Exclusion Fencing

- All fencing for this activity needs to be a standard 7 panel hinge joint with barbwire on top and bottom which is recommended, that will effectively exclude domestic stock (sheep, goats and cattle), feral herbivores (goats) and native herbivores (kangaroos).

Troughs

- New troughs must have a gate valve to allow control of water and thus total grazing pressure.

Polyethylene Pipelines

- Any polyethylene pipeline laid as part of a CMA funded watering project must be buried to prevent destruction or damage from fire or UV light.

MINIMUM REQUIRED OUTCOMES

For this incentive the landholder will need to address the following criteria:

- The proposal will need to include a significant area of the vegetation types listed
- The conservation area must be fenced to control and exclude entry of domestic, feral and native herbivores
- The area is to be managed to maintain and improve environmental outcomes for 15 years under an agreed PVP
- Increasing the percentage of vegetation reserved and improving vegetation condition, in accordance with Catchment Targets.

The landholder will also be required to address how this will be achieved and monitored. Indicators which the landholder may use to measure this include:

- **Improvement in Vegetation Condition**
 - Removing stock from a reserve and preventing access to water for feral and native grazing animals will allow native vegetation to recover from grazing impacts. This will help our CMA meet the Catchment Action Plan Vegetation Target. This may be monitored through photo points and measurement of ground, mid-storey and over-storey % cover.
- **Control Feral and Native Herbivores**
 - Landholders may target reduction in the numbers of feral and native herbivores, eg - goat populations may be monitored with a target of maintaining populations below 5 goats per km².

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

If your project is funded, you will be required to carry out certain monitoring of the outcomes from your project 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.

DETERMINING PROJECT BUDGET

Once the management options have been decided, you are required to complete a two part budget for your project as follows:

- The 1st part outlines the costs of materials and labour to establish the on-ground works (fences etc)
- The 2nd part outlines the 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.) in your budget according to the points below.

- An individual's time costed at \$30/hr.
- Employment of contractors may be costed into the project.
- If using your own plant, please cost the machinery at 80% of the current market (contractor) 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.

Cost Sharing

Funding for all incentives is on a dollar for dollar basis (ie 50% landholder contribution required. Loss of income from the land may be considered as in-kind. If a landholder wishes to include this, they will need to show the average income received from the area over the past 15 years.

Budget Part 1 - Example Budget

Activity to be undertaken & items to be purchased	Item	Cost per Item	Total cost	CMA Funding Sought	Landholder Contribution
2km TGP Fencing					
Fence line preparation	20 hr	\$150	\$3,000		\$3,000
Purchase of fencing materials					
Hinge joint – 200m	10 rolls	\$179	\$1,790	\$1,790	
H/T barb wire – 1.9mm	4 rolls	\$78	\$312	\$312	
End assemblies	4 sets	\$175	\$700	\$700	
Steel star pickets	200	\$4.29	\$858	\$858	
Labour					
To erect the proposed fence	25 hrs	\$30	\$750		\$750
		TOTAL		\$3,660	\$3,750

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

Activity to be undertaken & items to be purchased	Times over term	Average Cost per Activity	Total cost	CMA Funding Sought	Landholder Contribution
Rabbit control	3	\$1,500	\$4,500	\$3,000	\$1,500
Fox baiting	30	\$250	\$7,500	\$3,000	\$4,500
Fence maintenance	30	\$300/day	\$9,000	\$4,500	\$4,500
Monitoring	15	\$500	\$7,500	\$3,250	\$3,250
			TOTAL	\$13,750	\$13,750

PROJECT PLAN / MAP

Your project plan should provide a map showing the location of the project area on your property. It is recommended that you consult the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority 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 Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority staff.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

If your application is successful and an incentive agreement is signed, payment will be made on your submission of evidence that works have commenced (photos or receipts) and an invoice for the agreed amount.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

Delivery Mechanisms

A Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) will be the 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 scale projects such as Conservation Reserves.

PVPs are voluntary, legally binding agreements under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, between the landholder and the 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 is transferred to the new owner if the property is sold.

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, then return it to the LMD CMA. (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).
2. Site Visit and Environmental Assessment – a CMA officer will inspect the proposed site and confirm the native vegetation communities present and that suitable management actions have been proposed.
3. Assessment and Ranking of Applications – The Technical Panel will assess and rank the applications on a number of key criteria including:
 - Conservation significance of the vegetation communities in the proposal
 - How well the proposal addresses CAP targets
 - The Management Actions proposed
 - Landholder contribution (monetary and in-kind)
 - Condition of flora
 - Area to be protected, eg does it link to reserves or corridors?
 - Value for money
4. 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.
5. Draft Agreement – successful applicants will be notified and a PVP prepared. A draft Incentive PVP will be sent to the landholder outlining the management actions and outcomes required, along with a proposed schedule of milestones and payments.
6. 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.

CONTACT LMD CMA ON 03 5021 9460:

RANGELAND IMPLEMENTATION OFFICERS – JADE TEMBY AND JOANNE ROBINSON

CATCHMENT OFFICER (PVP & PROJECTS) – JACINTA CAIN

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

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