

## LMD CMA FACT SHEET No. 035

# WATER POINT MANAGEMENT INCENTIVES

The Lower Murray Darling CMA (LMD CMA) offers a number of incentives for improved control of **Water Points** to allow graziers to better manage Total Grazing Pressure and in doing so *improve the condition of the native vegetation* on their property and *to achieve soil erosion levels of less than 50% of the 1999 benchmark by 2015* in accordance with the Lower Murray Darling CMA CAP.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The LMD CMA CAP outlines a number of targets for improving the condition of native vegetation and reducing erosion across the region. Strategies to achieve this include:

#### Management of Total Grazing Pressure (including native animals)

To achieve these aims, landholders are encouraged to achieve a minimum level of groundcover 40% (including vegetation, cryptogam, litter and stone) as this will reduce wind and water erosion and result in a more rapid recovery of vegetation when conditions are suitable.

To achieve this, it is essential to control kangaroos, feral goats and rabbits, especially when animals move during dry times or congregate on spelled paddocks. Restricted access to stock watering points is encouraged as a primary measure to prevent the overstocking of properties.

#### Water Management Options

Access and location of watering points within a paddock are important issues for management of groundcover and native vegetation condition. The provision of additional controlled water points (tanks and troughs) will allow restriction of problem feral and native species, while resulting in better control of grazing pressure in target paddocks.

There are three areas where this incentive applies as follows:

#### 1. Conservation Reserves

- The CMA will provide incentive funding for the removal or decommissioning of an open water point.

#### 2. River and Floodplain Management

- The CMA will provide incentive funding for the provision of a tank, trough, pipeline and pump to supply water to paddocks cut off from the river by fencing of the river bank or floodplain areas to manage Total Grazing Pressure (TGP).

#### 3. Grazing Areas

##### Existing Water Points

- Where an earth dam is used for a water point and fed exclusively by a pipeline or bore, the CMA will provide incentive funding for the provision of a tank and trough to replace the earth dam.
- Where an earth dam is used for a water point and is fed exclusively by a rainfall catchment, the CMA will provide incentive funding for total exclusion fencing including a trap gate to allow removal of goats if required.



### *Alternate Stock Watering Points*

- Where a paddock is poorly watered causing localised degradation to native vegetation, the CMA will provide incentive funding for the provision of tank and trough if done in conjunction with control of the existing waterpoint.

### **FUNDING AMOUNTS**

1. **Removal or Decommissioning of an Open Water Point.**
  - The CMA will provide up to \$1,500 for the removal or decommissioning of each open water point.
2. **Provision of a Tank, Trough, Pipeline and Pump for River or Floodplain Management.**
  - The CMA will provide up to \$4,000 for the provision of a tank, trough, pipeline and pump for each paddock isolated by the river or floodplain fencing.
3. **Provision of a Tank and Trough to Replace Existing Earth Dams**
  - The CMA will provide up to \$2,600 for the provision of a tank and trough for each earth dam replaced.
  - The CMA will provide up to \$2,600 for the provision of a tank and trough for each new stock watering point installed.
4. **Exclusion Fencing**
  - The CMA will provide up to \$2,600 for total exclusion fencing including a trap gate to allow removal of goats for each earth dam fed exclusively by rainfall.

## **MINIMUM DESIGN STANDARDS**

### **Water Point Total Exclusion Fencing**

All fencing for this activity needs to be to a standard that will effectively exclude domestic stock (sheep, goats & cattle), feral herbivores (goats) and native herbivores (kangaroos).

### **Water Design**

For water systems containing three or more tanks and/or troughs the Landholder must obtain a design from the equipment supplier or design specialist showing that the key design factors such as pipeline diameter, pump size and pump power are suitable for the required duty.

### **New 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 TARGETS AND REQUIRED OUTCOMES**

For this incentive the Landholder will need to address the relevant Catchment Action Plan Targets of **improving vegetation condition** and reducing erosion and address how this will be achieved and monitored. Indicators which the Landholder may use to measure this include:

### **Minimum Level of Groundcover**

To achieve the aim, landholders are encouraged to achieve a minimum level of groundcover 40% as this will reduce wind and water erosion and result in a more rapid recovery of vegetation when conditions are suitable.

### **Reduction in Numbers of Feral and Native Herbivores**

Landholders may target reduction in the numbers of feral and native herbivores, particularly when spelling paddocks. For example, goat populations may be monitored with a target of maintaining populations below 5 goats per km<sup>2</sup>.

### **Resting of Paddocks**

Removing stock from a paddock and preventing access to water for feral and native grazing animals will better allow native vegetation to recover from grazing impacts. This will help our catchment meet the ground cover targets within the CAP vegetation target. It will also help water points recover from soil degradation caused by grazing animals.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

### ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include landholders and groups within the NSW Lower Murray Darling Catchment who have natural resource management responsibilities.

### 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.

### COST SHARING

- Funding for all incentives is on a dollar for dollar basis (ie. 50% landholder contribution required).
- A landholders labour/time component of a project will be considered as an in-kind a (at \$30/hr), as will the use of the landholder's own machinery (at 80% of a contractor's rate).

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR FUNDING?

Application to the Lower Murray Darling Incentive Program is open at all times.

1. Complete Incentives Application Form – Complete an Application Form with your details and a brief description of what you would like to do and then return it to the Lower Murray Darling 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](http://www.lmd.cma.nsw.gov.au) ).
2. Discussion - Once the completed Application form is received, the landholder will be contacted by a PVP Officer to discuss their ideas in more detail and organise a site visit, if appropriate.
3. Site Familiarisation Visit - During the site visit, a PVP Officer will inspect the proposed site, provide technical advice and guidance on the 'minimum standards' which the proposal is required to meet. The Officer will also discuss funding options and assist in estimating the funding required.
4. Environmental Assessment - Once a project meets the applicable minimum standards, the field officer will carry out an environmental assessment to evaluate the environmental benefits of the project. The higher the score, the higher the environmental benefits of the project. The score will then be checked against the funding criteria to determine if the project value meets the requirements.
5. Draft Agreement – 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.
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.

**ALL RELEVANT LEGISLATION, PERMITS AND LICENSES THAT MAY BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE PROPOSED PROJECTS MUST BE ADHERED TO. ALL RELEVANT PERMITS AND LICENSES ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LANDHOLDERS TO OBTAIN BEFORE ANY WORKS ARE CARRIED OUT.**

## INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The Lower Murray Darling CMA will not fund:

- Standard boundary fencing that is a land manager's normal responsibility under the *Western Lands Act 1901*.
- Works or training that has been commenced or completed prior to a incentive funding application being approved.
- The same or similar activities on areas of land which have previously received public funds.
- Purchase, lease or acquisition of land, computer hardware or software, photocopiers, GPS equipment or media equipment, motor vehicles, watercraft or aircraft.
- Overseas travel or research.
- Running conferences (support may be provided for local community workshops or field days).
- Activities that are inconsistent with the Lower Murray Darling's Catchment Action Plan (CAP).
- Offsets required under a development PVP.

## PLEASE NOTE

UNDER THE *NATIVE VEGETATION ACT 2003*, APPLICANTS WHO ACCEPT FUNDING FOR ACTIONS OR WORKS ON AREAS OF LAND MAY BE INELIGIBLE TO USE THOSE FUNDED AREAS AS OFFSETS IN A CLEARING PVP.

## Further Information contact:

PVP Team  
LMD CMA Buronga Office  
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Buronga NSW 2739

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Lower Murray Darling CMA

Respect for our communities  
& the environment



## Funding Sources:



**Australian Government**

**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**  
National Landcare Program

**State Sustainability Fund**

(til June 2007)

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

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