

LMD CMA FACT SHEET No. 036

INCENTIVES TO ESTABLISH SUSTAINABLE GRAZING SCHEMES

The Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority (LMD CMA) offers a range of incentives to assist Landholders in the establishment of **Sustainable Grazing** programs. These are aimed at helping landholders to better manage Total Grazing Pressure and in doing so contributing to *a measurable improvement in the condition of the native vegetation communities on their property and helping to achieve soil erosion levels of less than 50% of the 1999 benchmark by 2015* in accordance with the LMD CMA's Catchment Action Plan (CAP).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

What is Sustainable Grazing?

Sustainable Grazing is defined as grazing which will not result in substantial long-term decline in the structure and composition of native vegetation.

The LMD CMA Draft 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.

WHAT ARE THE INCENTIVE OPTIONS?

Funding is available to landholders for implementation of an agreed sustainable grazing plan and subsequent monitoring.

The incentive is flexible, and allows landholders to use combinations of other on-ground works incentives available to manage total grazing pressure such as waterpoint management.

Funding is also available to participate in a range of sustainable grazing training courses such as:

- Tactical Grazing Management course with NSW DPI,
- Grazing For Profit
- Holistic Management.



FUNDING AMOUNTS

Funding amounts will be determined by assessing the proposal submitted and assessing its likely improvement in vegetation condition. Proposals which target the CAP priority vegetation communities such as:

Belah – Rosewood	Cypress Pine
Black Box	Acacia Shrubland
Chenopod Mallee	Mulga Shrubland
	Chenopod Shrubland

will generally score higher.

Stewardship Payments

Stewardship Payments will be made on a \$/hectare based and calculated according to a Environmental Services Score which is made up of scores for vegetation significance, site condition and management activities agreed.

On-Ground Works

1. 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.

2. 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

Sustainable Grazing Plan

A Sustainable Grazing Plan is to be developed which incorporates the principles of Sustainable Grazing described in the Sustainable Grazing Courses and addressing how this will achieve the vegetation outcomes required by the LMD CMA targets.

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).

New Troughs

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

MINIMUM TARGETS AND REQUIRED OUTCOMES

For this incentive the Landholder will need to address the following criteria;

- Sustainable Grazing area is managed to maintain and improve vegetation condition under an approved PVP
- The Landholder completes training workshop on Sustainable Grazing (note: if the person completing the training leaves the property the Landholder will be responsible for training a replacement at their cost), and agrees undertake annual monitoring and submitted results to the LMD CMA

whilst addressing the relevant Catchment Action Plan Targets *improving vegetation condition*.

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:

Minimum Level Of Groundcover

To achieve the aim, landholders are encouraged to achieve a minimum level of 40% groundcover 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 km².

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 MA Agreements and Property Vegetation Plans (PVP) 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 for PVPs; 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 landholder's labour/time component of a project will be considered as in-kind a contribution to a project (at \$30/hr), as will the use of the Landholder's own machinery (at 80% of a contractor's rate) will be considered as in-kind contribution to a project.

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 the attached Application Form with your details and a brief description of what you would like to do return 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 to you, alternatively download the relevant forms off the internet at www.lmd.cma.nsw.gov.au).
2. Discussion - Once your completed Application form is received, you will be contacted by a PVP Officer to discuss your 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 your proposal is required to meet. The Officer will also discuss funding options and assist you to estimate funding requested.
4. Environmental assessment - Once your project meets the applicable minimum standards, the field officer will carry out an environmental assessment to evaluate the environmental benefits of your project. The

higher the score, the higher the environmental benefits of your project. The score will then be compared with the funding requirement to determine a project value and help rank it against other proposals.

5. Draft Agreement – A draft Incentive Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) or PAMS MA Agreement will be sent to you 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 acceptable to all parties, a final agreement is produced and approved. Works may then commence and an invoice for the 1st payment instalment 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 are NOT eligible for incentives.

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
32 Enterprise Way
Buronga NSW 2739

Phone: 03 5021 9460
Fax: 03 5021 1308

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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