



FACT SHEET No. 48
CONSERVATION FARMING INCENTIVES
SANDHILL REHABILITATION
AND
PLANTING OF DEEP ROOTED PERENNIALS
GUIDELINES

The Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority has funding available for retirement and rehabilitation of eroding sandhills or for planting of deep rooted perennials.

Funds for sandhill rehabilitation will be assessed according to value (\$/hectare/year) and against the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authorities Soil Targets as outlined in the Catchment Action Plan. Preference will be given to projects in the Euston Balranald area with multiple benefits e.g. rehabilitating sandhills with deep rooted native perennials such as saltbush, which will also have biodiversity value.

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

Funded by:



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OUR
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CLOSING DATE:

Applications close at:

5pm Friday **5 December 2008.**

LATE APPLICATIONS MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CATCHMENT TARGETS

The Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority Catchment Action Plan identifies five Catchment Objectives, including Soil and Vegetation and Salinity.

The LMD CMA Soil Catchment Action Plan aims *"To achieve soil erosion levels of less than 50% of the 1999 benchmark by 2015"*

The CAP includes a number of Soil Management Targets to assist achieve the Catchment Target, including So1. *"Promote the retirement from cropping and rehabilitation of 5,000 hectares of eroding sandhills by 2015"*

Achievement of Salinity Management Target S1 *"No net increase in the risk of land and river salinisation due to the effect of dryland cropping between 2002 and 2015"* will also be assisted by the planting of deep rooted perennial plants on eroding sandhills and associated areas of deep drainage.

Relevant Soil management activities include;

- implementing clearing and cropping patterns that leave highly erodible soils (i.e. those with less than 13% clay content) under native vegetation, and
- maintaining wind breaks of adequate size and spacing in cropping areas.

WHAT THE INCENTIVES WILL FUND:

This funding is intended for areas within the Lower Murray Darling catchment where eroding sandhills occur.

Listed below are the areas which the incentive will fund:

1. Rehabilitation of Sandhills. This may be with Saltbush or with mixed native species.
2. Planting of Deep Rooted Perennials e.g. Lucerne in areas with high deep drainage eg. low productivity sandy areas

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligibility

1. Eligible applicants include landholders and groups within the NSW LMD Catchment who have a cultivation permit or own freehold cropping land
2. Applicants with current Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority incentives that are past the contracted finish date or have uncompleted milestones will NOT be eligible for funding.

MINIMUM CONDITIONS AND REQUIRED OUTCOMES

For this incentive the landholder will need to address the relevant CAP Targets of reducing erosion and improving soil condition, and address how this will be achieved and monitored.

Minimum Conditions:

- Rehabilitation of Sandhills with Saltbush Seedlings: 414 plants per ha, 4m x 6m spacing.
- Planting of Lucerne at a rate of 2kg/ha
- Weed control for perennial weeds should be undertaken during the spring and summer before planting.
- Annual weeds can be controlled prior to planting with knock down herbicides.
- Plant as soon as possible following autumn break.
- **Watering for Old Man Saltbush**
 - Watering monthly through the first spring/summer. (landholder in-kind contribution)
 - **Note:** drippers will not be provided and are not encouraged as they interfere with root growth

DETERMINING A 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 (seedlings etc)
- The 2nd part outlines the cost for the maintenance and on-going management required for a period of between 5 and 15 years (i.e. watering, weed control, 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 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 management component of the project.

Example Budget

Activity to be undertaken & items to be purchased	Number of items	Units	Cost per Item	Total cost	CMA Funding Sought	Landholder Contribution
Lucerne @ 2kg /ha	10	kg		\$1500	\$750	\$750
Purchase of Old Man Saltbush	4140	Seedlings	27 cents	\$1180	\$1120	0
Exclusion fence materials	800	metres	\$7	\$5600	\$5600	0
Labour	250	hrs	30	\$7500		\$7500
				\$15,780	\$7,470	\$8,250

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

Activity to be undertaken & items to be purchased	Times over term	Amount of work undertaken	Units	Estimated Cost per Unit*	Total cost	CMA Funding Sought	Landholder Contribution
Watering	6	4	hrs	\$30	\$720		\$720
Weed control	6	5	ha	\$30	\$900		\$900
Fence Maintenance	15	2	Hrs	\$30	\$900		\$900
		Total			\$2520		\$2520

* Remember to consider all the costs when calculating your *Estimated Cost per Unit*
eg. materials, fuel, labour, equipment hire, etc

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.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF OUTCOMES

If your project is funded you will be required to carry out monitoring of the outcomes from your project for the whole term of the contract. At times, Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority 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 an incentive agreement is signed, payment will be made on your submission of evidence that works have commenced (photos or receipts) and of an invoice for the agreed amount.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

Delivery Mechanisms

PAMS Management Agreements (MA) will be the delivery mechanism for the LMD CMA Sandhill Rehabilitation and Planting of Deep Rooted Perennial Incentives. MAs only require a simple map and little or no field assessment and will be for a term of 5 years. 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.

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 "in-kind" (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?

Applications to the Lower Murray Darling CMA for this Incentive is open until 5 December 2008

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. 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. Assessment and Ranking of Applications – The Technical Panel will assess and rank the applications on a number of key criteria including:
 - How well the proposal addresses CAP Targets
 - Cost of the proposal per hectare managed to meet CAP Targets
 - How well the proposal fits into and improves the overall cropping system
4. Draft Agreement – A draft Incentive PVP or PAMS MA 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.

CONTACT LMD CMA ON 03 5021 9460:

NOEL HAYWARD, TEAM LEADER PVP AND PROJECTS

DAN EYLES, IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER (PVP)

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

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