



## FACT SHEET No. 51

# TOTAL GRAZING PRESSURE AND SUSTAINABLE GRAZING INCENTIVES GUIDELINES

Guidelines for Land Managers who want to apply for incentive funding to better manage Total Grazing Pressure (TGP) on their property through water point management, rabbit control, stock containment areas and sustainable grazing projects.

The Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority has funding available for these TGP and Sustainable Grazing Incentives.

Funds for TGP and Sustainable Grazing Incentives will be assessed according to value (\$ per hectare per year) and against the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority's Vegetation and Soil Targets as outlined in the Catchment Action Plan for Targets V3, So4 and So5. These relate to the 2008/2009 Strategic Investment Plan milestones of managing or controlling Total Grazing Pressure on up to 50,000 hectares, and implementation of Sustainable Grazing Management on up to 8,000 hectares. The funding may also apply to Scald Rehabilitation of Chenopod Shrublands in the Balranald – Ivanhoe area, or to Rangeland sandhill rehabilitation.

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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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**CLOSING DATE:** Applications close at 5pm

Friday **30 January 2009.**

Works are to be completed by 30 June 2009.

**LATE APPLICATIONS MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

### 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.

Our Catchment Officer, or Implementation Officer (PVP), are available to assist you in submitting an application for this incentive.

Position	Name	Contact
Catchment Officer (PVP & Projects)	<i>Jacinta Cain</i>	03 5021 9460
Implementation Officer (PVP)	<i>Dan Eyles</i>	03 5021 9460

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CATCHMENT TARGETS

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

The LMD CMA Catchment Action Plan has targeted: *"A measurable improvement in the condition of native vegetation communities by 2015, as measured by key indicators at 90% of sites in the catchment"*; and *"To achieve soil erosion levels of less than 50% of the 1999 benchmark by 2015"*.

The CAP includes a number of Vegetation and Soil Management Targets to help achieve the Catchment Target, including:

*V3 "Improve the condition of each vegetation community at 90% of sites by the year 2015 as measured by the key indicators".*

*So4 "Fifty landholders to use the Property Vegetation Planning (PVP) tool to reduce total grazing pressure through various grazing strategies including: managing grazing according to landscape/vegetation; identifying areas for total grazing pressure management; early de-stocking; and resting areas for rehabilitation by 2015".*

*So5 "To increase the area to over 80% of the catchment achieving ground cover levels that avoids wind and water erosion (ie. Minimum level of 40% cover) by 2015".*

### WHAT THE INCENTIVES WILL FUND:

Listed below are the areas which the incentive will fund:

1. Establishment of a Sustainable Grazing Scheme, including
  - development of a Sustainable Grazing Plan,
  - infrastructure development to allow implementation of the grazing plan,
  - water point management eg provision of tanks and troughs to replace existing earth dams, or exclusion fencing to control waterpoints,
  - installation of new tanks and troughs, and
  - installation of a goat trap in conjunction with exclusion fencing works.
2. Total Grazing Pressure (TGP) Management
  - Water point management eg provision of tanks and troughs to replace existing earth dams, or exclusion fencing to control waterpoints,
  - installation of a goat trap in conjunction with exclusion fencing works.
3. Establishment of a stock containment area (drought lot) and necessary infrastructure.
4. Rabbit control and monitoring.
5. Scald rehabilitation, (resulting from water or wind erosion) including:
  - contouring and/or deep ripping to prevent further erosion processes occurring and to create conditions where regeneration of native vegetation can occur,
  - direct seeding of groundcover and mid storey species,
  - procurement and planting of over-storey species tubestock, and
  - erection of exclusion fencing if necessary to protect rehabilitation areas.
6. Sandhill Rehabilitation (of eroding sandhills in the Rangelands).

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### Eligibility

1. Eligible applicants include landholders within the NSW LMD CMA area or catchment.
2. Applicants with current Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority incentives that are past the contracted finish date or have incomplete milestones may NOT be eligible for funding.

## MINIMUM CONDITIONS, DESIGN STANDARDS AND REQUIRED OUTCOMES

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

### Minimum Conditions, Design Standards and Required Outcomes:

#### ***Sustainable Grazing Proposals***

- A *Sustainable Grazing Plan* is to be developed which incorporates the principles of Sustainable Grazing (as described in the Sustainable Grazing Course), which addresses how this will achieve the vegetation outcomes required to maintain and improve native vegetation condition. This will include:
  - A commitment to achieving a minimum of 40% groundcover (including vegetation, cryptogam, litter and stone) in the Sustainable Grazing area,
  - A reduction in the number of feral and native herbivores, and
  - Periodic removal of stock and closing of water sources to allow resting of paddocks and recovery of native vegetation.
- Proposals should target the CAP priority vegetation communities of:
  - Belah – Rosewood,
  - Chenopod Shrubland,
  - Black Box and River Redgum ,
  - Chenopod Mallee.
- An approved Sustainable Grazing Management training workshop arranged and funded by the LMD CMA must be completed.
- Annual monitoring and Record Keeping; annual monitoring must be undertaken and results submitted to the LMD CMA along with accurate and up to date records of stocking and grazing management practices and climatic conditions.
- A minimum term of 15 years is required.

#### ***Total Grazing Management (Waterpoint management, goat traps)***

- Commitment to achieving a minimum of 40% groundcover in the TGP management area is required.
- The number of feral and native herbivores in the management area must be reduced.
- A minimum term of 5 years is required.

#### ***Stock Containment Areas (Drought Lots)***

- These areas are not feedlots but are designed as a tool to help maintain 40% groundcover by resting native pasture during drought periods, for example, by protecting against low groundcover levels in dry times or to allow time after a seasonal break for pastures to recover.

Stock Containment areas must be designed and constructed in accordance to suitable guidelines and meet the following criteria:

1. A minimum area of 5 square metres is required per head of sheep. Cattle require a minimum of 15 square metres per head. Larger areas such as a holding paddock can be used but should not exceed 40 hectares in total.
2. Water and feeding infrastructure design is as per the DPI "Confinement of Cattle in Drought" or AWI "Managing Sheep in Drought lots".
3. Preference is to be given to previously heavily disturbed areas such as holding paddocks.
4. Off site water quality must be protected by locating stock containment areas a minimum distance of 500 metres from watercourses and water storages.
5. Stock containment areas must exclude dams in order to protect water quality, avoid stock injury and minimise the risk of disease.

6. Siting should include the provision of stock shelter.
  7. Weed control will be a requirement.
  8. Areas to be avoided include floodplains, adjacent to public roads, and areas which may impact on neighbouring properties.
- Commitment to achieving a minimum of 40% groundcover in the area the facility is to be used to protect groundcover in (TGP management area) is required.
  - A minimum term of 10 years is required.

#### ***Rabbit control***

- Areas of land previously treated (for rabbit control) using government funds are not eligible for further funding.
- Landholder contributions can include rabbit and harbor destruction (with approved equipment), marking out warrens and monitoring rabbit populations before and after treatment.
- The landholder will be responsible for ongoing monitoring and maintenance works (these may be included as part of the landholder contribution).
- A minimum term of 5 years is required.

#### ***Scald rehabilitation***

- Prior to revegetation works commencing, the area will require stabilisation by either contouring (ripping furrows along the contour) or checkerboard or cross ripping, so the furrows can trap water, windblown soil and seed and provide favourable sites for plant growth and establishment.
- Rehabilitation may be carried out with native vegetation of the type originally found in the area or through planting of chenopod shrubs, generally Bladder Saltbush, Black Bluebush or Old Man Saltbush.
- Seed Collection - all seed, (whether for direct seeding or producing tubestock) is to be collected locally as close to the treatment area as practicable.
- Direct Seeding - direct seeding will be carried out according to procedures and recommendations provided by organisations such as Greening Australia.
- 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.
- Control of Feral and Native Herbivores - landholders will need to control or exclude feral and native herbivores (including kangaroos, goats, domestic stock and rabbits) in rehabilitation areas to prevent damage to seedlings and juvenile plants.
- A minimum term of 10 years is required.

#### ***Sandhill Rehabilitation of eroding Sandhills in the Rangelands***

- This incentive will fund rehabilitation of degraded Sandhills in the Rangelands which are resulting in wind erosion, being either drifting sand or generation of wind born dust.
- Rehabilitation is to be carried out with native vegetation of the type original found in the area.
- Seed Collection - all seed, whether for direct seeding or producing tubestock, is to be collected locally as close to the treatment area as practicable.
- Direct Seeding - direct seeding will be carried out according to procedures and recommendations provided by organisations such as Greening Australia.
- 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.
- Control of Feral and Native Herbivores - landholders will need to control or exclude feral and native herbivores (including kangaroos, goats, domestic stock and rabbits) in rehabilitation areas to prevent damage to seedlings and juvenile plants.
- A minimum term of 10 years is required.

#### **General Minimum Design Standards:**

- *Water Point Total Exclusion Fencing* - will need to be to a standard that will effectively exclude domestic stock (sheep and cattle), feral herbivores (goats) and native herbivores (kangaroos).
- *Goat Trap Design* - Goat traps need to be of a design standard to ensure that all goats (small and large) are captured and held. The design should consider minimal capture of off target native herbivores (kangaroos). All goats trapped are to be effectively disposed of and not released back into the environment.
- *New Troughs* – must have a gate valve to allow control of water and thus total grazing pressure.

- *Polyethylene pipes* – laid as part of a CMA funded project must be buried to prevent destruction or damage by fire or UV light.

**Required Outcomes:**

- *Minimum Level of Groundcover* – landholders are encouraged to achieve a minimum level of groundcover of 40% as this will reduce wind and water erosion and result in a more rapid recovery of vegetation when conditions are suitable.
- *Record Keeping* - The landholder will keep records which will be made available to LMD CMA staff upon request.
- *Reduction in Numbers of Feral and Native Herbivores* – Landholders implementing Sustainable Grazing Plans are encouraged to monitor goat populations with a target of maintaining populations below 5 goats per km<sup>2</sup>.
- *Resting Paddocks* - Landholders implementing Sustainable Grazing Plans are encouraged to remove all stock from a paddock and prevent access to water for feral and native grazing animals to allow better recovery of native vegetation, and recovery of soils immediately around the water points.
- *Control of Numbers of Feral Herbivores* - Landholders may target reduction in the numbers of feral herbivores (goats). For example, goat populations may be monitored with a target of maintaining populations below 5 goats per km<sup>2</sup> (including kids).

**DETERMINING A PROJECT BUDGET**

- Once the management options have been decided, you are required to complete a two part budget for your project.
- This funding is intended for all areas within the Lower Murray Darling catchment.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> part outlines the costs of materials and labour to establish the on-ground works (fencing materials and installation etc).
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> part outlines the cost for the maintenance and on-going management required for a period of between 5 and 15 years (i.e. fence maintenance, rabbit warren ripping etc).

*1. 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.

*2. Part 2: Ongoing Management of the Area for the term of the agreement*

- 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
Clear fence line -grader	10	hrs	\$95 hr	\$950		\$950
Purchase steel posts	100	posts	\$5	\$500	\$500	
Strainer Posts 4" steel	10	posts	\$16	\$160	\$160	
Fence end assembly	3		\$315	\$945	\$945	
8/90/30 Waratah gal wire (200m rolls)	25	rolls	\$231	\$5,775	\$5,775	
High tensile Barb	10	rolls	\$66	\$660	\$660	
Tye easy Gal 2.5mm	5	rolls	\$145	\$725	\$725	
<b>Labour</b>						
Construct Fence	200	hrs	\$30	\$6,000		\$6,000
		<b>Total</b>		<b>\$15,715</b>	<b>\$8,765</b>	<b>\$6,950</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	Amount of work undertaken	Units	Estimated Cost per Unit*	Total cost	CMA Funding Sought	Landholder Contribution
Fence Maintenance	20	2	Hrs	\$30	\$1200		\$1200
Rabbit Warren ripping	5	5	Hrs	\$30	\$750		\$750
		<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1950</b>		<b>\$1950</b>
		<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>\$17,665</b>	<b>\$8,765</b>	<b>\$8,900</b>

NB - 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 and where on your property it is located. 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 certain monitoring of the outcomes from your project.
- Monitoring will be required 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 submission by you of evidence that works have commenced (photos or receipts) and of an invoice for the agreed amount.

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

#### **Delivery Mechanisms**

Total Grazing Plan, Rabbit control works and Sandhill and Scald rehabilitation Incentives of less than \$10,000 will be delivered via Management Agreements (MA). MAs only require a simple map and little or no field assessment and will be for a term of at least 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. Sustainable Grazing Plan and Total Grazing Plan Incentives will be delivered via Property Vegetation Plans, documenting the agreed actions, and will be for a term of 15 years.

#### **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 for this Lower Murray Darling CMA Incentive is open until **Friday 30 January 2009**.

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](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. 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,
  - Vegetation communities to be managed,
  - Cost of the proposal per hectare managed to meet CAP Targets (value for money),
  - The management actions proposed,
  - How well the proposal fits into and improves the overall property vegetation management.
4. Draft Agreement – A draft Incentive Property Vegetation Plan or 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.

Funding Source:



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

Created 15/10/2008. Last modified: 10/12/2008

A4055 LMD CMA TGP & Sustainable Grazing Incentive guidelines 2009