



Upper Barwon Riparian Works Trial

Project requirements

To participate in the Riparian Works Trial all projects need to meet the requirements and eligibility criteria as set out in this Fact Sheet.

Project requirements

Project requirements have changed from past incentive rounds in response to a landholder survey conducted by Monash University in 2021.

Fencing and revegetation

Fencing and revegetation will still be required, however buffers are much smaller and controlled grazing will be allowed within the project site after revegetation establishment. Species selection and planting plans will be considerate of this.

These requirements remain because native plants are deep rooted and reinforce the banks, they bind and trap sediment in finer roots and provide shade which controls instream temperatures to reduce algal growths and control the levels of instream plant growth.

Willow removal

When combined with fencing and revegetation the CMA will manage and pay for the removal of willows and their maintenance.

Focus waterways

The East and West branches of the Barwon River are the focus for the works trial over the next 2 years. This is to:

- Remove blockages to improve flow and allow for environmental water flows
- Protect sites with populations of nationally threatened dwarf galaxis and/or potential habitat and refuge pools and protect platypus.

Other waterways that are within the Upper Barwon Flagship area can register an expression of interest for future funding opportunities. This includes Dewing Creek which is not currently part of this trial.

Funding

Sites will be funded using a non-competitive rolling fund.

Funding will be directed to the East and West branch of the Barwon River working from upstream to downstream until the funding pool is exhausted.

To secure funding, sites need to meet the project requirements and eligibility criteria (outlined below).

Funding for each site is paid based on maximum incentive rates for each project activity and willow removal will be managed and paid for by the CMA.

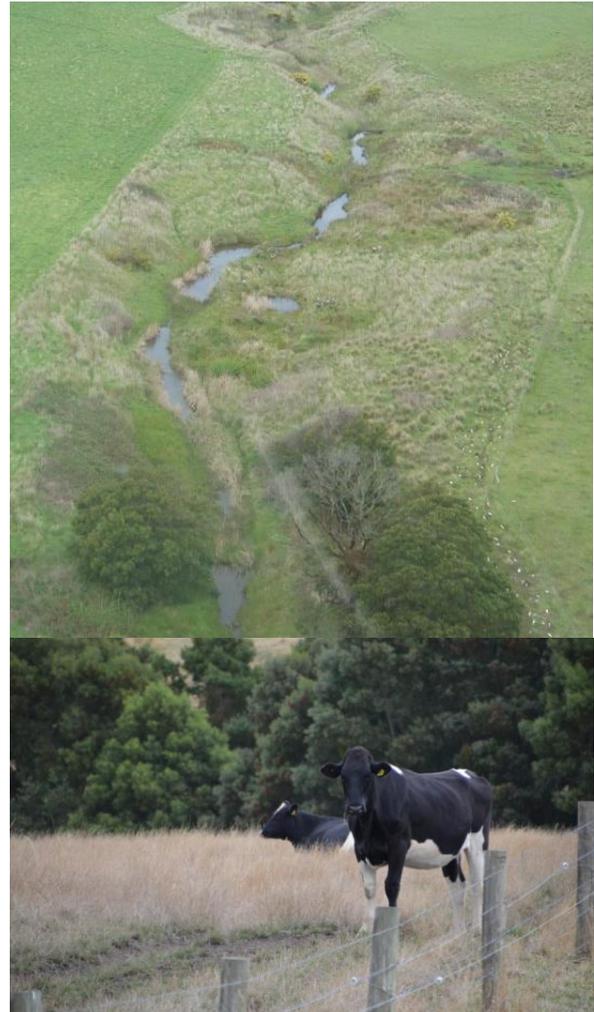
Activities that can be funded include:

- Fencing (electric, standard or flood)
- Off-stream water infrastructure and stock crossings (and controlled grazing allowed within the site after revegetation establishment)
- Weed control for 5 years
- Revegetation with indigenous species and careful consideration of the types of species, density and arrangement of plants
- Actions to prevent rabbit, deer or native herbivore browsing
- Willow removal

Refer to Fact Sheet 3 for the incentive rates available and work standards.

Activities that can't be funded include:

- Large scale erosion control with the main purpose of private benefit only.
- Large scale excavation works (such as defining or deepening the river channel and channel reconstruction works).
- Remediation works associated with illegal works on waterways.
- Willow removal directly adjacent to infestations of *Glyceria maxima*.
- Works that will alter the flow of water from one property to another, i.e. modifying drains, flood runners and tributaries without expert geomorphic advice.
- Willow removal without complementary riparian restoration works.



Previously CMA project sites needed to have stock exclusion and 20m average buffers (above: Matthews Creek, 2005). This has been reduced to 10m average buffers and controlled grazing will be allowed within project sites (after 5 years) as a part of this trial.

How to apply

Contact Corangamite CMA to express your interest: angus.donaldson@ccma.vic.gov.au

Phone 0409 794 234

After you express interest, a CCMA project officer will discuss the project requirements and arrange an onsite meeting.

Upstream sites will be contacted first and have the first opportunity to secure funds.

What to expect:

1. At the site meeting a Project Officer will discuss your goals and the CMA project requirements and complete a site assessment and risk assessment.
2. You will be provided with a site management plan, site map and project costings and notified of the risk assessment outcome and your site's eligibility.
3. If your site is deemed eligible, an offer of funding will be made, and you will have 2 weeks from receiving the offer to review the management plan, map and costings and decide whether you wish to proceed (late offers may be accepted, but there is no guarantee that funding will still be available).

When accepting a funding offer, you will sign onto a Management Agreement with the CCMA to complete the works within the Management Plan and maintain the site. This will include monitoring of controlled grazing activities and revegetation by CCMA project officers (once this can commence).

Eligibility criteria

Site eligibility requirements

To receive funding, sites must:

- Be located along the East or West branch of the Barwon River.
- Be located on waterway frontage and begin at the bank of the waterway and continue up to a maximum distance of 50m away from the bank.
- Meet the land ownership requirements and be deemed low risk with a high chance of success (as outlined below).

Ineligible sites:

- Sites with heavy infestations of *Glyceria maxima* (a separate trial is underway for glyceria management).

- The site cannot be part of an offset for permitted vegetation clearing elsewhere or an offset established under the EPBC Act.
- The proposed works must not be part of a current management agreement over the site that has the same actions and same time period.
- The site must not have been previously funded by the waterways program for the same actions unless the land manager has changed. Previously funded sites with no change to activities or the land manager may be eligible for assistance through the CCMA maintenance program.
- Sites that are not along water frontage sites that are on a waterway other than the East Barwon or West Barwon River.



Glyceria maxima choking the West Barwon River, which was removed by contractors in March 2022 to reduce flood risk to the road. Revegetation is to be tested for shading as a long-term management technique, before any further large scale glyceria removal occurs in the catchment.

Site risk requirements

Sites that are deemed low risk and have a high chance of success will be funded through this trial. This includes:

- Zero to low risk of stock wandering into project site from across the river, upstream or downstream.

- No major risks or complications from willow removal such as major erosion.
- Zero to low chance of invasion or spread of *Glyceria maxima* (reed sweet grass). Where glyceria is present within or adjacent to the site, any removal of willows could allow the glyceria to spread.
- No major erosion or breakout problems where works might significantly change local flow conditions between properties.

Sites that are deemed high risk or have a low chance of success will not be funded through this initial trial but may be eligible for future funding.

Land ownership requirements

Land managers wishing to participate in projects must meet at least one of the criteria listed here:

- The land manager has responsibility for the management of public land on behalf of the State or Commonwealth.
- The land manager owns and manages the site(s).
- The land manager owns the site(s) and engages or leases the site to someone else to manage it.
- The land manager leases the site(s) from another landowner. The land manager commits to undertaking the management actions and the landowner agrees to co-sign the agreement, agreeing to the actions on their land. The recipient of the annual payments will be responsible for all the actions under the Management Agreement.
- The land manager holds a Crown land licence over the site(s) which covers the period of the agreement.
- The land manager manages a Crown land site(s) that is licensed to another person. The land manager commits to undertaking the management actions and the actual licence holder agrees to co-sign the contract agreeing to the actions on the land they hold licence over.

- A committee or organisation acting as land manager for a landowner (who may be a business/organisation or simple landowner).

Land managers in the following situations are ineligible under the project:

- Land managers wishing to manage unlicensed Crown land. The site(s) will become eligible only if the person can obtain a Crown land licence.
- Land managers managing a Crown land site(s) that is licensed to another person where the Land manager commits to undertaking the management actions but the licence holder does not agree to co-sign the contract for the land under their licence.
- Land managers leasing the site(s) from a landowner, which the landowner does not agree to co-sign the agreement for actions on their land.
- Non-Government Organisations, committees or trusts that wish to manage a site on behalf of business or another organisation where the landowner does not agree to co-sign the agreement for management actions on their land.
- Land purchased through a government grant (e.g. National Reserve System whereby the grant includes an expectation that the organisation receiving the grant has the funds to manage the land as per the proposed works).

Previous recipients of CMA funding

Previous recipients of CMA funding are eligible providing they have a new site, new activities or are a new land manager of an old site.

For previous recipients that need assistance with an old site, you may be eligible for the CMA's maintenance program. Please contact the CMA for further information.

Public land

Public land sites are eligible, provided the applicant and the site meets all the other eligibility requirements.

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cared for by thriving communities*

