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Upper Barwon Riparian Works Trial Standards & Incentive Rates

The Upper Barwon Flagship project is a long-term project aiming to improve the health of the Barwon River. There are many aspects to improving the health of a catchment, including environmental water releases, riparian protection and supporting community groups.

Protection of riparian areas (land adjacent to waterways) is funded through an incentive process, where the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) provides funding for landholders to undertake on ground works on private land. The Corangamite CMA has developed a specifically designed works trial to address the unique challenges in this system, with changes from our standard approach including reduced buffer widths, increased fencing rates, controlled grazing options, increase weed control rates and revegetation options. The CMA will also continue to pay for and organise willow removal when fencing and revegetation are part of the project.

Through discussions between the CCMA and landholders, a project may have one, all or a combination of the following activities:

- Fencing
- Off stream water
- Stock crossings
- Revegetation
- Weed control and willow removal
- Pest animal control
- Controlled grazing

To maximize the benefit of the incentives to the waterway and landholders, this document will outline the standards and incentive rate for each of the activities. For more information about each management activity please speak with a CMA representative.

Willow Removal

The cost, organisation, maintenance, and disposal of willows is undertaken by the CCMA. The only two requirements of willow removal are that the site needs to be:

1. Fenced to control stock access
2. Revegetated with native species

Controlled Grazing

Controlled grazing has been introduced as a new component of the riparian works trial in the Upper Barwon Flagship project. Controlled grazing can be used to reduce the weed burden once weed control funding, after 5 years, has expired.

Standards for controlled grazing are:

- a) All domestic livestock must be totally excluded from the project site for a period of five years.
- b) After 5 years, domestic livestock must remain excluded from the project area for the Term of the Agreement except for controlled grazing for management purposes (e.g. to control weeds or grass).
- c) No more than one-week continuous occupation by livestock.
- d) Only during the months of December through to March (inclusive), and a minimum of 4 weeks interval between grazing events.
- e) Must be at appropriate stocking levels to maintain at least 80% groundcover (no more than 20% bare ground or mud).
- f) No grazing is to occur on areas where the soil is saturated and where pugging may occur. This includes over-allocated months.
- g) The Landholder must have written permission from the Authority before proceeding to graze the riparian reserve(s) outside of these prescriptions.

Weed Management

Effective weed management is a critical component of a successful riparian project. Weed management seeks to address the

high threat weeds as a priority. Funding for this has been tailored for riparian trials by providing annual funding for years 2 to 5 after the initial weed management.

Standards for weed control are:

1. Comply with herbicide label and legislation
2. Control weed populations before seeds are set
3. Minimise disturbance to native vegetation
4. Monitor and eliminate any new or emerging weeds
5. Contact CCMA if willows are emerging or reshooting in site

Weed control incentives:

Weed management	Maximum rate per hectare
Initial knockdown	\$1000 / hectare (Per hectare of infestation)
Year 2	\$200 / hectare of site
Year 3	\$200 / hectare of site
Year 4	\$200 / hectare of site
Year 5	\$200 / hectare of site
Year 6 and beyond	Controlled grazing can be used in accordance with grazing standards.

Stock Crossings

CCMA may provide up to \$3,000 toward the cost of crossings where fencing is installed, and it prevents access to the opposite side of the waterway. Minimum standards will be discussed on a case-by-case basis with the project officer.

Waterway crossings will require a Works on Waterways permit from CCMA. For more

information, please contact a CCMA representative.

Off-stream water

Where there is no other means of accessing stock water after fencing, you are eligible to receive funds for installation of off-stream watering infrastructure. The CMA will provide \$5000 per kilometer of river frontage protected at an average buffer width of 10 meters or greater.

If installation of off-stream water equipment is not a possibility for your site (e.g. flooding risks) please talk to your CMA representative about alternatives.

Standards for off-stream water are:

1. This grant is payable upon installation of fencing
2. Incentive does cover off-stream water equipment such as pumps, tanks or pipes
3. Incentive does not cover maintenance, on-going costs, delivery charges, labor or damages
4. The project results in stock no longer having direct access to the waterway for drinking water purposes (except in periods when controlled grazing is permitted)
5. Stock water assets are then owned and managed by the landholder
6. Off-stream water equipment can be subject to application of licences; please contact Southern Rural Water or CCMA project officer.

Fencing

The CCMA has increased flexibility in the widths permitted to be fenced off and increased the incentive rates for fencing in

the Upper Barwon Riparian protection trial. If neighboring stock have access to the nearby paddocks, a fence is required to restrict access to the waterway. Stock access to the waterway is a large threat to the health of the Barwon system.

Standards for fencing are:

1. Buffer widths need to meet an average of 10 meters and be no less than 5 meters in any one location.
2. Higher fencing incentive will be paid for buffer widths of 15 meters or greater.
3. Fences will be positioned to avoid or minimise disturbance of native vegetation and soil and be flexible to fit in with conditions on site (such as terrain, river bends and access to paddocks).
4. All fences should include gates as required, to ensure management access when needed.
5. Fencing must be maintained to provide stock control indefinitely.
6. Landholders are permitted to have controlled grazing within the project site after a 5-year period.
7. Barbed wire and bottom electric wires are not allowed due to the potential adverse impact on native animals.

Fence design:

1. Wire: Four strand plain wire with at least two electrified wires. Or seven strand plain wire.
2. Posts: 1.8m treated pine or steel, no more than 8m apart, with droppers in between.
3. Strainers: 2.1m treated pine or large diameter steel posts.
4. Stays: 3m treated pine or steel.

Flood Fence design

1. See flood fencing guidelines

Buffer Width	Type of Fencing *	Max rate per meter
Average of 10 meters no less than 5 meters in any one location	Seven wire	\$10
	Seven wire Flood fence (Lay down)	\$12
	Four wire plus electric	\$7
	Four wire plus electric Flood fence (Sacrificial)	\$10.00 (new fence) \$3.00 (one replacement)
	Four wire plus electric Flood fence (Lay down)	\$10

Buffer widths of 15 meters or greater receive a 10% addition to incentives.

Revegetation

Revegetation is important as part of the project because it shades the river and reinforces the bank. Shade provided by native trees reduces thick instream vegetation such as reeds or glyceria from establishing.

Revegetation of indigenous plant species will be used, however, density and arrangement will be taken into account for controlled grazing within the project site.

Incentive rates for plants include allowance for use of contractors and guarding. Incentive rates for revegetation are:

Type of revegetation	Rate per stem
Grasses (no guards)	\$2.00 ea
Trees and shrubs (with guards)	\$4.00 ea

Standards for revegetation are:

1. Plants are to be native and local to the area
2. Trees and shrubs are to be guarded
3. Site will exclude stock for a period of 5 years while plants establish
4. Opposite bank needs to be fenced to protect seedlings from grazing

5. Failure of revegetation due to climatic conditions will be replaced once by the CCMA

Health and safety

You are responsible for ensuring that all works required in implementing the management actions are conducted in a safe manner and comply with the lawful requirements of any Authority, and with all Acts, regulations and other laws which may be applicable to the Waterway Management Agreement.

Further information

For more information or to organise a site visit please contact Angus Donaldson at the CCMA, on 0409 794 234.



Riparian Project on Dewing Creek.

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*

