Paddock shade and shelter project

Large isolated trees scattered across paddocks provide significant benefits for both farm productivity and to the broader landscape.

With funding from the NSW Government’s Catchment Action Program, Riverina Local Land Services is offering incentives to landholders to take positive actions to protect, restore and establish native paddock trees across the region.

**Why are paddock trees important?**

Isolated paddock trees are remnants of once extensive woodlands and are often the oldest living things in the landscape. These trees provide shade and shelter for livestock and maintain the productive capacity of the land. Paddock trees also provide an immense benefit to biodiversity by providing food, shelter and nesting sites for a large number of birds, bats, insects and small mammals. Modified or scarred trees which have had bark removed have cultural significance, providing evidence of past aboriginal activities.

**What activities can we fund?**

Funding is available for:

1. **Establishing individual paddock trees** - Establishing paddock trees on your farm can not only provide future shade and shelter for livestock but also provide future habitat for wildlife. Funding will be provided towards the costs of materials for individual tree guards and the purchase of new plants. A minimum of 10 paddock trees and a maximum of 30 paddock trees will be funded per agreement.

2. **Planting small clusters of paddock trees** - Establishing small clumps of native vegetation on your farm can help provide future stepping stones for wildlife whilst improving the natural assets of your farm. Funding will be provided towards the costs of standard fencing materials, site preparation and the purchase of new plants on sites on sites that are a minimum of 1ha and a maximum of 3ha. Sites must be a minimum of 25m wide.

3. **Protecting existing paddock trees** is the most cost effective means of retaining paddock trees in the landscape and will help to extend their life and habitat values. Funding will be provided towards the costs of standard fencing materials, site preparation and the purchase of new plants to minimise livestock damage and allow natural regeneration. Individual sites must be a minimum of 0.4ha ie 20m x 20m.

**Did you know?**

It takes at least 60 to 80 years for hollows to develop?

Research indicates that in the next 40 years most paddock trees could be gone.
Eligibility to apply
• All previous works funded by Riverina Local Land Services or Catchment Management Authority must be completed
• You must be willing to enter into a contractual agreement with Riverina Local Land Services for 10 years
• You must have no outstanding debts to Riverina Local Land Services
• Your property must be greater than 10ha and reside in the Riverina Local Land Services region (see map below)
• You must have public liability insurance for a minimum of $10 million to be considered for funding
• Works will need to be completed by the 30th December 2020

What are the next steps
• Funding is limited and project proposals need to be received by the 30th August 2019
• Landholders must submit an Expression Of Interest via www.lls.nsw.gov.au/riverina
• Once an EOI has been submitted, a Riverina Local Land Services officer will contact you to discuss your project and the project proposal form

Questions
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