

Information Sheet 03

South Eastern

Management Services – Guidelines and Standards

Landholders participating in *South Eastern BushBids* will be required to meet minimum standards and agree to certain management conditions in order to be eligible to score points for their management services. All management actions agreed to by the landholder will be contained in the management plan for a site.

In general, landholders will need to agree to an integrated management approach that commits to implementing a range of management actions.

Landholders will be required to agree to the *essential commitments* and *maintenance activities* listed below in order to participate. Landholders can choose whether or not to include *improvement activities* in their management plan.

Commitments and activities outlined below will only apply to the proposed sites for *South Eastern BushBids* and not to the whole property.

Essential commitments: On signing a management agreement the landholder will commit to the following:

- no fertiliser application or artificial feeding,
- no soil disturbance (beyond that which is necessary for agreed management actions),
- no cropping,
- no new dams,
- no drainage alteration and
- no rock removal.

Maintenance activities: Landholders will gain a management services score for:

- excluding stock (in non-grassy ecosystems)¹
- or a commitment to graze (or other biomass reduction) at an agreed timing and frequency (in grassy ecosystems)¹
- and agreeing to retain all dead trees, fallen logs and branches and plant litter.

Improvement activities: Improvement activities will include the management of all significant threats identified during the site assessment.

Management services required to address significant threats may include:

- weed control,
- feral animal control and
- erosion prevention and management.¹

The following targets for weed management will apply:

- Control weeds to negligible levels (i.e. to <1% cover). This target will apply to weeds defined by the program as “high threat and manageable”.
- Ensure weeds do not increase beyond current levels. This target will apply to weeds that are not defined as “high threat and manageable”.

In some circumstances supplementary planting and/or revegetation may be considered as optional improvement activities:

- supplementary planting (where species diversity and or structural diversity of plant life forms is poor or very poor compared to the relevant benchmark) and
- revegetation (for buffering or linking existing native vegetation remnants).

Permanent protection:

A commitment to permanently protect the site under a Heritage Agreement (either through an existing Heritage Agreement or a commitment to initiate a Heritage Agreement) is an optional management service and is valued by the program.

Guidelines and Standards

Standing/fallen timber*

In some cases remnant vegetation on private land is likely to be a source of firewood and/or fence posts for landholders. Standing and fallen timber and plant litter are important habitat for a range of native plant and animal species and therefore the *South Eastern BushBids* program requires that all standing and fallen timber and plant litter is retained at the sites.

Stock grazing*

Landholders will be required to adopt grazing practices that maximise the condition of native vegetation and habitat at their site/s.

In some cases this will require complete exclusion of stock (non-grassy ecosystems) and in other cases some grazing may be appropriate.

In grassy ecosystems one of the following options should be adopted:

- a commitment to graze at an agreed timing and frequency or
- complete stock exclusion with periodic biomass reduction by other agreed methods.

¹ Fencing may be required as part of these management services.



Photo: P. G. Tucker



Photo: P. G. Tucker



Photo: C. Dixon

Where stock grazing is used, stock should be kept in a holding paddock outside the site for a minimum period of 24 hours prior to entry to reduce the risk of weed introduction and spread.

Fencing*

In many cases, fencing will be needed to manage stock grazing impacts. Landholders who choose not to fence their offered site will need to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the *South Eastern BushBids* officer how they intend to manage grazing in the absence of fencing in order to qualify for the relevant management services points.

Minimum fencing standard*

Conventional fences should be at least 6 plain wires (2 barbed wires are recommended for cattle) and electric fencing should be at least 5 wires (including two electric). Materials and construction should be of a professional standard to ensure the fence is maintained in good order for at least ten years.

In line with other fencing incentive programs, successful bidders who sign management agreements that include fencing will be required to maintain that fencing for a period of ten years from the date of commencement of agreement.

Grazing, soil disturbance and predation by feral animals*

In order to manage threats landholders may need to commit to controlling grazing pressure, soil disturbance and predation from introduced animals such as rabbits, goats, deer and foxes.

Methods used to control feral animals should be consistent with South Australian Murray-Darling Basin and South East NRM Boards' policies and guidelines.

Grazing by native animals*

In some cases, browsing by native herbivores (e.g. kangaroos) may need to be controlled. Control of kangaroos (and other relevant native species) must be conducted under permit from the SA Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

Weed Control*

Under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, control of declared weeds, using standard broad-scale control methods is the responsibility of the landholder. Weed control beyond current landholder responsibilities, including best practice bushcare weed management techniques is eligible to be included in a *South Eastern BushBids* management plan.

A *South Eastern BushBids* officer will advise you on which weed control activities are eligible.

Weed control methods must be consistent with relevant policies and guidelines of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin and South East NRM Boards. Weed control methods must also minimise off target damage and soil disturbance.

Weed control actions will be based on landholder agreement to meet certain weed species cover targets.

Supplementary planting and revegetation*

Revegetation aims to reestablish the local native vegetation. All supplementary planting and revegetation must use:

- site preparation, planting and post planting care techniques that minimise soil disturbance and optimise plant establishment and survival
- species listed in the management plan
- species indigenous to the local area
- species appropriate for the site
- seed or plant material collected from as close as possible to the planting site

Fire prevention*

Landholders will be able to take all reasonable steps to prevent fire on their land, provided these steps are not inconsistent with their commitments under the agreement.

In many cases control of various environmental weeds will help reduce fuel loads.

If required, fire-breaks should be mown rather than cultivated or sprayed. New mineral earth fire-breaks will not be permitted in the agreement site.

*It is the land manager's responsibility to ensure that all management actions undertaken are compliant with relevant legislation such as: the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.

In South Australia, native vegetation is protected by the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (the Act). Under the Act, clearance of native vegetation requires the consent of the Native Vegetation Council (NVC), unless it is covered by an exemption contained within the *Native Vegetation Regulations 2003*. All management activities must comply with requirements, policies and guidelines under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and *Native Vegetation Regulations 2003*. For further information contact the Native Vegetation Council Secretariat on: (08) 8303 9741.

Call 1300 847 450

for more information or to register
an Expression of Interest

