



Fact Sheet 03

Woodland

Management Services – Guidelines and Standards

To participate in *Woodland BushBids*, landholders 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 listed below in order to participate and must commit to the relevant *maintenance* activities and *improvement* activities in order to increase their point score.

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

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

- no fertilizer 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: A landholder will gain a management services score for:

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

Improvement activities: A commitment to undertake the relevant *maintenance* activities is necessary for *improvement* activities to contribute to the management services score.

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

All significant threats must be managed in order to qualify for an *improvement* score, however for management of 'high threat' herbaceous and grass weeds, the following options will be available:

1. Controlling 'high threat' herb/grass weeds to negligible levels (ie to <1% cover)
2. Controlling 'high threat' herb/grass weeds to 50% of current levels if one or more of these weeds is currently greater than 5% cover.
3. Ensuring 'high threat' herb/grass weeds do not increase beyond current levels.

Option 1 will attract a higher score than option 2 which will attract a higher score than option 3.

Supplementary planting (or predicted recruitment of understorey species from on site or adjoining areas) can be considered where species diversity and or structural diversity of plant life forms is poor or very poor compared to the relevant benchmark.

Supplementary planting as a buffer zone for an existing remnant may also be considered.

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 are important habitat for a range of native plant and animal species and their retention is strongly encouraged.

Stock grazing*

Landholders will be encouraged to adopt grazing practices that maximize the condition of native vegetation for their site.

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.





Where stock grazing is continued, 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 *Woodland BushBids* assessment officer how they intend to manage grazing in the absence of fencing in order to qualify for the relevant improvement 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 10 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 by feral and native animals*

In order to manage threats landholders may need to commit to controlling grazing pressure from introduced animals such as rabbits and goats, and in some cases, browsing by native herbivores (eg. kangaroos) may also need to be controlled.

Methods used to control rabbits and goats should be consistent with South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board policies and guidelines.

Control of kangaroos (and other relevant native species) must be conducted under permit from the SA Department for Environment and Heritage.

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 *Woodland BushBids* management plan.

A *Woodland BushBids* assessment 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 NRM Board. Weed control methods must also minimize off target damage and soil disturbance.

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

Mistletoe*

Mistletoe is a native plant and in most cases has a positive contribution to the value and condition of native vegetation. In some cases where mistletoe numbers are extremely high, and the bushland condition score for mistletoe is poor or very poor, some management of mistletoe may be considered.

More information regarding mistletoe is available from:

Living with mistletoe booklet produced by the Mistletoe Action Group and Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council.

Supplementary planting*

All tube-stock, seed or plant material used for supplementary planting must be:

- species listed in the management plan
- species indigenous to the local area
- 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.

Call 1300 847 450

for more information or to register
an Expression of Interest.

* In South Australia, native vegetation is protected by the Native Vegetation Act 1991.

Under the Act the 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

