



Information Sheet 05

River Bend

Submission and assessment of bids

Submitting a bid

When do I submit a bid?

You will be sent a draft management plan after a *River Bend BushBids* officer has visited your property to conduct a site assessment and discuss management options.

If there are any changes that you would like to make to the draft management plan, please contact a *River Bend BushBids* officer on 1300 847 450 as soon as possible, and no later than **14 business days** after the draft management plan is posted to you. (See *River Bend BushBids* Information Sheet 'Questions and answers' for more information.)

What can I include in my bid price?

The first place to start in calculating a bid price is to think about the costs of management over the 5 years of the contract. Every site will be different and landholders will have different abilities and existing resources to implement management plans. Bids may include:

- labour costs, either hired or landholder-supplied, for undertaking the necessary management,
- material costs for undertaking management actions, for example fencing materials, pest and weed control or replanting,
- costs associated with equipment required to undertake management actions,
- the costs of seeking specialist advice relating to: contractors, advisors, personal financial advisors, accountants or product suppliers,
- costs associated with stock exclusion, such as alternate water sources,
- loss in income due to changes in production levels, eg. reduced stock numbers,
- financial issues that may arise over the timeframe of the agreement. For example, inflation over the period of the contract, or taxation or Centrelink payments, and/or
- time and costs associated with participation, eg. reporting.

Landholders may also consider personal benefits to be gained from changing management of their native vegetation. Landholders may reduce the cost of their bid to reflect these benefits. Benefits may include:

- improved stock and land management,
- improved profitability,
- increased land values or aesthetic values of the property,
- reduced risk or costs for future management, and/or
- personal enjoyment and satisfaction from having made a positive impact on the local natural environment.

How will I know how much to bid?

The amount you bid, and how you determine the bid, is entirely up to you. In costing your bid you are advised to consider the payment you wish to receive for undertaking the actions outlined in the agreed management plan over the 5 years of the agreement.

Bids will be assessed on the basis of value for money. Therefore the amount you bid will influence how competitive your bid is likely to be with respect to other bidders.

River Bend BushBids officers will not be able to advise you on your bid costing and will not know what is likely to comprise a successful bid. They will, however, be able to assist you by advising you of the current conservation values of your site and the relative value of the management services in the agreed management plan.

See the *River Bend BushBids* Information Sheet 'Site visits' for further information.

How can I make my bid more competitive?

You can influence the likely success of your bid in a number of ways:

- While your conservation value score depends on the types of vegetation, plants and animals occurring in or near your site and cannot generally be increased, you may have additional information on the presence of significant plants or animals that you can bring to the attention of the *River Bend BushBids* officer.
- You can increase your management services score by agreeing to undertake the broadest range of appropriate management commitments and actions that are acceptable to you.



Photo: M. Humphrey



Photo: C. Nikolai



Photo: M. Humphrey

- An existing Heritage Agreement, or initiation of a Heritage Agreement, will increase your management services score.

The final bid price will reflect the landholder's idea of the balance between the benefits of managing the site and the costs of any change in management. Landholders need to be realistic in their pricing as they need to be able to meet their obligations under the contract, and sites will be monitored to ensure that outcomes are being achieved. Once the bid has been completed and the document signed and submitted there will be no further opportunities to renegotiate the area of the site or the price. However a landholder is able to withdraw at any time before a management agreement is signed.

How do I submit a bid?

Bids must be submitted by post and received by *River Bend BushBids* within **24 business days** from the first date the draft management plan is posted to you. Late, facsimiled, or emailed submissions will not be accepted.

By submitting a bid, you acknowledge that the management plan is final.

Please post your bid, in the supplied postage-paid envelope, to *River Bend BushBids* PO Box 265 Stepney SA 5069.

Assessment of bids

When will my bid be assessed?

Once all of the bids have been received and the tender period has closed, your bid will be compared against all the other bids submitted. *River Bend BushBids* will work to keep the length of time between bidding and notification of success to a minimum.

How will successful bids be determined?

Bids will be compared in a consistent manner according to a numerical index of biodiversity benefit.

The Biodiversity Benefits Index takes into consideration (i) the conservation value of each site, (ii) the management services being offered by each landholder, and (iii) the cost of each bid. These factors are combined using the following calculation:

$$\text{Biodiversity Benefits Index} = \frac{(\text{Conservation Value Score} \times \text{Management Services Score})}{\text{Landholder Bid Price}}$$

Using this index, your bid will be ranked with all other bids. The available funds will then be allocated to those bids representing the best value for money.

How will I be notified of the results?

Both successful and unsuccessful bidders will be notified by letter when the bid assessment process is completed.

If your bid is unsuccessful you will be given feedback on how your bid compared to those that were successful.

If your bid is successful you will be invited to sign a management agreement based on the agreed management plan.

You can ask a *River Bend BushBids* officer to see an example management agreement at any time during the process. Also see the *River Bend BushBids* Information Sheet 'Questions and answers' for further information on management agreements.

How will the fairness of the bid assessment process be guaranteed?

River Bend BushBids has implemented a probity process to ensure that all landholders are dealt with fairly. An independent probity observer will oversee the bid ranking and selection. A probity report on the project will be provided to the SAMDB NRM Board and made publicly available. Individual landholder bids and contact details will not be disclosed as part of this report.

Call 1300 847 450

for more information or to register an Expression of Interest