

STOCK CONTAINMENT AREA (SCA) GRANTS PROGRAM 2016

INFORMATION FOR LANDHOLDERS

ROUND TWO

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicant must have demonstrated ownership of the property and must have a registered Australian Business Number (ABN).
2. Applicant must have and provide a Property Identification Code (PIC) number.
3. Applicant must currently have livestock on the property.
4. Structures must meet the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) siting requirements (outlined below).
5. Structures can only be constructed on private property (not on crown land).
6. Financial assistance of up to \$2000 is available for each SCA with a maximum of three SCA or \$6000 per approved applicant.
7. The grant is to be used to purchase items to construct a new SCA - such as fencing, gates, troughs, piping, tanks, pumps and stock feeders.
8. Producers who were approved for an SCA grant in the first round of funding (Round One: December 2015 Drought Support Package) can apply for a second or third SCA as set out above.

CRITERIA

Size:

1. The SCA will be 2500 m² in size (i.e. 50 metres x 50 metres) in order to hold a maximum of 500 head of sheep or 165 head of cattle.
2. The area must comprise a minimum of 5 square metres per sheep or 15 square metres per beast (cattle).

Design:

3. SCA must be designed to allow easy access of machinery for feeding.
4. Shade needs to be provided (this will be discussed during site assessment).
5. The SCA needs to have good drainage.

Construction:

6. The use of an existing suitable fence line is permitted, providing it is of appropriate standard, and is approved upon inspection.
7. All end assemblies, including stays, preferably be made with steel or concrete, or an appropriate quality timber.
8. Strainers must be stayed – where appropriate i.e. a stay is generally not required for railway line.
9. Fences must be constructed with at least seven horizontal wires (this can include seven line cyclone).
10. Posts must be concrete, steel or an appropriate quality timber at a maximum spacing of five metres.

11. Fences must contain **no** barbed wire.
12. Fences are not to be removed or re-sited without prior approval.
13. The use of existing quality materials may be permitted upon inspection and approval (assessors to inspect beforehand and after construction).
14. The SCA must be constructed for a minimum useful life of 10 years.

Environmental conditions:

15. No more than 20% of a SCA may contain remnant vegetation.
16. All trees within a SCA must be protected by a minimum distance of one metre perimeter to protect trees from ringbarking and soil compaction (unprotected trees will die in a SCA due to pressure from stock). Weldmesh is the recommended option but at the very least it must be the same standard as exterior fencing.
17. Run off must be managed to avoid contamination of water courses and water bodies (i.e. sediment traps / nutrient filter where appropriate).
18. SCA must be more than 200m from any watercourse or natural water body.

Water:

19. One water trough with a reliable reticulated supply, with a minimum capacity of 600 litres must be supplied. Flow rates must be considered in design of the system, and specific technical advice will be provided during assessment process.
20. The use of existing reticulated water supplies / troughs is permitted providing the location fits with the siting guidelines and the trough is deemed to be of a suitable standard.

Monitoring:

21. Access to a SCA must be made available for monitoring by CMA or DEDJTR staff in the future, if required.

Other:

22. SCA must not be used as a commercial feedlot.
23. Funding must not be used to establish a sacrifice paddock.

SITING GUIDELINES CHECK LIST

Design and Siting:

- Site on moderately sloping, well drained, stable soils (such as clay or clay loam).
- Yards should be constructed across the slope and aligned with the natural contour of the land.
- Reliable fencing – keeping in mind stock may push up against fencing or run into it.
- Siting must include the provision of shade for stock.
- Avoid placing site in an area of good quality remnant vegetation (the presence of listed threatened vegetation communities will be checked during site assessment).
- Site location should be considered to minimise impact on existing residence and neighbours. Close proximity to handling facilities is favourable.

- Consideration must be given to providing appropriate subdivision to enable separation of different classes of stock, if required, including shy feeders or sick animals.
- Feed areas are to be located away from water troughs.
- Mob sizes should be kept to **maximum** of 500 sheep and 165 cattle per SCA.

Water Supply:

- Water troughs and a reliable reticulated supply of good quality water that has the ability to meet the daily demand of animals. This may be up to 14 litres a day per head for sheep and 160 litres per day per head for cattle during peak summer (based on lactating females).
- Water quality should be monitored.
- Stabilisation of soils around troughs where appropriate.

PRIORITISATION FOR SCA GRANT ALLOCATION

The following prioritisation will be applied to the assessment and processing of applications until the available grant funding is exhausted. CMAs and DEDJTR will have the discretion to make decisions against each criteria:

1. Protection of a high value environmental asset (i.e. soil, wetland or watercourse).
2. Commercial farming enterprises that receive the majority of their income from primary production.
3. Producers with larger stock numbers (including those funded in Round One) will be prioritised over producers with smaller stock numbers.
4. No applications from Round One will be carried forward into Round Two.
5. Up to three SCAs per approved applicant.

APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1. The EOI process will open 21 March 2016 and will close COB 14 May 2016.
2. Initial eligibility checks of the application will be completed by the CMA as the EOI is received.
3. Eligible applications are forwarded from CMA to DEDJTR.
4. Applications will be prioritised for assessment based on the prioritisation criteria set out in these guidelines. Assessment of applications including site visits will be conducted as promptly as possible.
5. Initial site assessments will commence upon receipt of eligible applications:
 - a. A DEDJTR Case Manager will contact applicants to arrange site visit
 - b. A Cultural Heritage Officer may be deployed for an additional inspection if required
 - c. The DEDJTR Case Manager will remain the first point of contact for the landholder for the assessment process, including providing technical advice and completing final inspection
 - d. The CMA will deal directly with the Landholder regarding the contract and payment process.

6. Applicants will be advised of assessment outcomes by the CMA as soon as feasible:
 - a. Applicants will be notified by phone in the first instance and will receive a letter of confirmation and contract by mail, from the CMA
 - b. Construction of the SCA can commence upon signing of the contract.
7. Works must be completed and ready for inspection by 31 October 2016.
8. Landholders must notify their Case Manager when the SCA is completed and ready for final inspection.
9. Final SCA inspections will be completed by DEDJTR Case Managers with approval forwarded to the CMA.
10. The relevant CMA will make all payments to landholders upon final approval of the constructed SCA, with all grants to be fully paid by 31 December 2016.