

NORTH CENTRAL CMA

Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands Project Grants

GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION FORM



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority

These Guidelines include:

- **A guide for individuals and groups completing the application form for financial assistance for the protection and conservation of Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands.**
- **Funding application form.**

Applications *strictly* close: 5pm Friday 26 February 2010

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1. Overview of Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands Project Grants

1.1 Introduction

The White Box, Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodlands and derived grasslands were once widespread on tablelands and slopes from Queensland to Victoria on soils that are moderately to highly fertile. Today, less than 5% remains in good condition, with remaining patches still being lost. Remnants mostly occur as isolated patches; consequently the vegetation community has been listed under the federal government *Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC) 1999 as 'Critically Endangered'.

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has received funding for the Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands through the Australian Government's Caring for Country (CfoC) natural resource management initiative. The project will provide strategic support to landholders and groups to deliver on-ground works through a devolved grants process. It will continue to guide the landholders and groups to achieve goals, contribute to state and federal priorities for natural resource management (NRM), as well as supporting them to achieve their individual aims and undertake leading edge NRM.

Preference will be given to applications from groups who, through local planning, can demonstrate that the funding will maximise their impact, by working across a number of adjoining landowners, in the landscape. Funded activities will focus on, but not be limited to, protection and enhancement on private land such as revegetation, fencing of remnants and pest plant and animal control.

The project officer will work with these groups to identify planned activities that are preferably linked across farm boundaries and contribute to landscape scale conservation, focussing on large patch sizes, connectivity and corridors between isolated patches and increasing the overall condition and extent of the area of critically endangered Box-Gum Grassy Woodland

1.2 Grants available

The North Central CMA, in administering the Box-Gum Grassy Woodland project, is offering funds for on-ground works. Suggested works are summarised in the table below. Other on-ground activities such as infrastructure for off-site watering points may also be considered. Funds will be allocated proportionately to the size and quality of remnant vegetation. Applications in the vicinity of \$20,000 will be considered for large patches in near ecological health. A higher level of funding may be considered in accordance with conservation value.

Possible onground works to be undertaken through the Box-Gum Grassy Woodland project
<p>Fencing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works must protect and increase the area of existing native vegetation and fencing for the establishment of corridors to link isolated patches. Selective (or removal of) grazing will encourage natural recruitment and species diversity. Fencing may also be erected to link isolated patches, or to increase the area of existing vegetation through revegetation.
<p>Revegetation/enhancement of existing vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works must increase the total area, or replace missing species, to improve the structural connectivity and habitat values of vegetation. Revegetation should also form an integral part of weed control to provide competition and corridors linking isolated patches. Where quality understorey exists, disturbance from revegetation should be avoided.

Pest plant control

- The primary focus of weed control programs will be on Gorse (early intervention, containment and reduction) and Chilean Needle Grass (containment) where there is an impact on native vegetation communities. Other grass weeds and agricultural weeds should also be controlled where there is similar demonstrable impact. Weed control should be closely linked to recruitment and revegetation activities to ensure long-term success through replacement.

Pest Animal Control

- Integrated control of rabbits should aim to reduce the total grazing pressure, encourage recruitment and increased species diversity, and reduce grazing risk to revegetation activities. Integrated fox control will also be considered where removal of weeds and changes in land management practices present an opportunity for effective control that contributes to improved habitat values.

1.3 The Grants Process

1.3.1 Timeframe and Ranking

The North Central CMA is now accepting applications for the Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands. The closing date for all applications is **5pm Friday 26 February 2010**.

As landholders and groups develop projects, North Central CMA staff will assist in ensuring that projects are linked across groups and networks, and ensure that quality, feasible applications are submitted for funding.

Applications will be assessed ranked, and approved by a Technical Assessment Panel comprising a North Central CMA board member, Natural Resource Management Committee (Community) members, technical experts and North Central CMA staff to ensure that applications are assessed equitably, are feasible and adhere to best-practice management principles and contribute maximum value to the Australian Government's Caring for our Country priorities.

The North Central CMA Board will approve successful applications, announce these via the media, and post successful applicant names on the North Central CMA website. All applicants, successful or unsuccessful, will be notified in writing by the North Central CMA after Board approval. An agreement form will accompany the letter to successful applicants asking applicants to sign, date and return to the North Central CMA. **Failure to return this form in a timely manner may result in the funding being re-allocated.**

Upon receipt of the agreement form, the relevant funds will be made available so that the on-ground works can commence. All works will be mapped and recorded by the North Central CMA. As projects are completed, data will be verified and will form a vital part of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting process.

Projects must be capable of completion, including submission of a Final Report, by the **end of August 2010**.

Timeline

Applications open; project officer available to assist with applications.

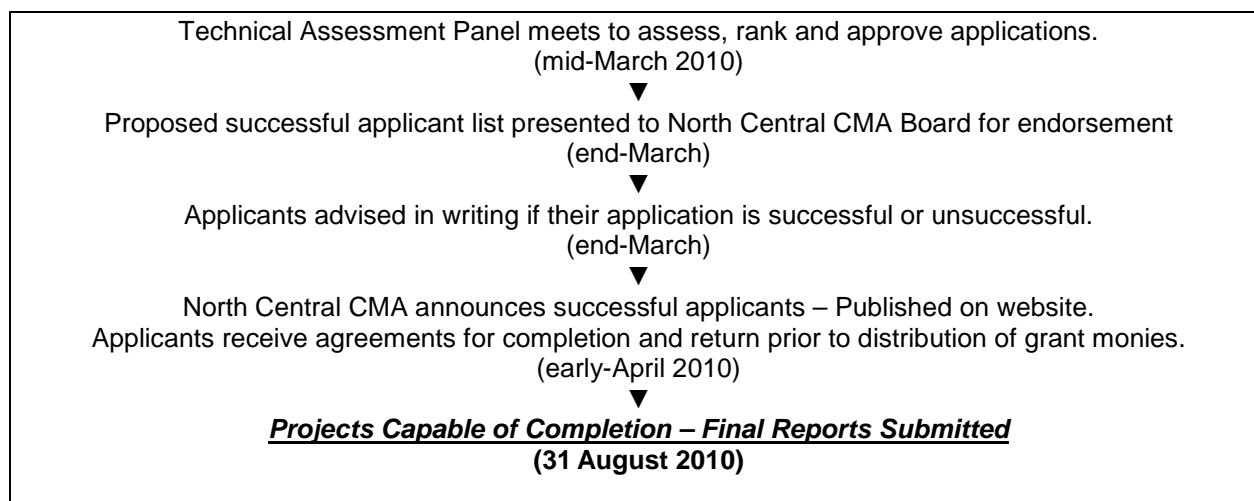
(January 2009)



Applications Close

(26 February 2010)





1.3.2 Reporting

Individuals and groups receiving a Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands Project grant will be required to lodge a **final report as soon as the project has been completed**. If your project is successfully funded, we will advise you at the time of funding what information is required to enable you to complete the final report. The project officer will assist with this process.

The final report **must** be lodged with the North Central CMA by **Tuesday 31 August 2010**. This form allows the North Central CMA to fulfil its obligations to report to the Australian Government investors. If the North Central CMA is unable to report on your project, it will jeopardise the ability to obtain future funding for individuals and community groups. **Site visits to evaluate works may be conducted**. Unspent funds must be returned to the North Central CMA and may only be carried over with prior written approval from the North Central CMA.

2. Guide for Applicants

2.1 General Criteria

Grants are available to private landholders, or members of incorporated, non-profit community groups (or groups sponsored by an incorporated organisation) that are involved in natural resource management for community benefit on private land or leased Crown Land. 'Community groups' include Landcare, Committees of Management, 'Friends of' groups, Indigenous Communities, Field Naturalists/Plant groups, golf clubs and sporting associations. Schools and local governments are eligible where they can demonstrate that they are partnering a Landcare or other non-profit incorporated community group.

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate the following:

- Groups and individuals will work across adjoining property boundaries to maximise the impact on the protected vegetation community.
- How gains achieved during the project will be secured and maintained.
- A maximum number of plants established or area treated per dollar of grant funds spent (i.e. low cost plants, direct seeding, low cost fencing or other efficiency measures).
- A willingness to participate in promotion through a field day, publicity and/or displays.
- Contain high quality understorey vegetation, including 12 native understorey species excluding grasses, and at least one important species for the ecological community (see project officer for the list of important species or check the website www.nccma.vic.gov.au).
- Have larger patch sizes. Remnants under 0.1ha will not be funded.

2.1.1 Standard rates for budget items and in-kind contributions

The following indicative costing should be used in your application:

- Group/individual labour – \$25 per person per hour
- Fencing materials – see fencing standards in Appendix A and the attached fencing materials guide.
- Tube stock plus guard – \$1.50*
- Quotations for contractor services
- Other items not listed here will be considered in terms of cost effectiveness. Cost effectiveness may affect the ranking of an application.

**Should costs be higher, please provide an explanation*

The following is a guide to assist in calculating the labour hours associated with project activities:

- Planting: approximately 80 plants per person per day on flat terrain with mattocks and hand watering (without ripping)
- Fencing: approximately one kilometre of plain or hinge joint wire (not including end assemblies or gates) per team of two or three people per day.

Note: These figures are intended as a guide only; labour hours will vary depending on factors such as equipment, skill level, terrain etc.

2.2 Specific Criteria

Fencing:

Applications can include fencing costs where the works protect and improve remnant vegetation. The landholder must erect or maintain adequate fencing in accordance with fencing minimum standards to ensure the exclusion of domestic stock. The landholder must take reasonable steps to exclude fire, provided that these steps are consistent with the protection of the vegetation community. Boundary fencing will not be funded. As a general guide to calculating labour hours, a two to three person team could complete approximately one kilometre of fencing per day, on flat terrain and not including end assemblies – this figure will vary according to equipment, skill level, terrain etc.

Payments to fence remnants will only be considered if the setback (that is, the minimum distance from established trees to the fence) is outside of the drip line (edge of tree canopy). Fencing costs for corridors to link patches will only be considered if the corridor is the **recommended 30 metres** wide. See Appendix A for fencing standards required to adequately protect against grazing.

Vegetation enhancement or establishment:

Vegetation enhancement or establishment must be in accordance with the *Vic Veg Best Practice Management for Native Vegetation* (see website <http://dev.vicveg.nrms.net.au/vvHome.aspx>), and the *North Central Native Vegetation Plan* should be used as a reference. A copy of the Plan is available on the North Central CMA website (visit www.nccma.vic.gov.au and enter 'North Central Native Vegetation Plan' in the search field) or by contacting the North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124.

Plantings may be undertaken for enhancement to increase the total area or replace missing species, or for revegetation as part of weed control to provide competition or as corridors linking isolated patches.

Where quality understorey exists, disturbance from revegetation should be avoided.

A site management plan (attached) must be included with the application, including a species list and the proposed number of seedlings/ kilos of seed of each species to be used. Advice on species lists for your area can be obtained from the project officer, who will assist with preparing a site management plan.

The following must be considered (where applicable) in regard to vegetation projects:

- Ensure existing vegetation communities are not adversely impacted upon. Grazing exclusion may be sufficient to facilitate natural recovery.
- Projects must use indigenous (naturally occurring in the area) species – both plants and seed.
- Species used must include a range of understorey/groundcover species in addition to overstorey species where appropriate.
- Ongoing monitoring and management of projects is essential. A vegetation assessment of the site and photo monitoring should be undertaken at the beginning and completion of the project. The project officer will assist with this process.
- To be successful, applications must demonstrate that pest plant and pest animal issues have been considered.

Ensure that your application is realistic and within your capacity, taking into account time constraints and ongoing management.

If existing native vegetation species might be affected by your proposal, check with your local council first to see whether you need a permit or if there are other restrictions/requirements.

Visit the North Central CMA website www.nccma.vic.gov.au for information about native vegetation in your area.

Be aware that native fauna may be involved in your project works area. Contact your local Department of Sustainability and Environment office for advice.

Weed Control:

- As with fencing and vegetation establishment, labour for weed control can be costed at \$25/hr.
- Where groups/individuals propose to do their own weed control using chemicals requiring an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP), participants **must** hold a current ACUP license.

Pest Animal Control:

- Funding assistance is available for the cost of fumigation, poisoning, and plant hire for warren and harbour destruction activities where biodiversity benefits can be clearly demonstrated.
- It is recommended that a registered contractor must be used to fumigate using Chloropicrin. Where groups/individuals propose to do their own control using chemicals requiring an ACUP, participants **must** hold a current ACUP license.

The following **must** be considered in regard to rabbit control projects:

- The use of 1080 provides only a short-term reduction in rabbit populations and will only be funded to complement an integrated rabbit control program including warren and harbour destruction.

A complete list of Pest Management Officers appears at the end of these guidelines. Please contact the relevant person for your area if you need questions answered, or in regarding to compliance work being included in your project.

If control projects are within Carpet Python areas, advice should be sought from DSE Epsom, telephone (03) 5430 4444. Carpet Pythons are known to use rabbit warrens for shelter.

Aboriginal Cultural Significance:

All Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected by law in Victoria under the *Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2007*. High impact activities such as ripping may trigger the need for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan. Aboriginal Affairs Victoria provides maps of cultural resources on their website www.dvc.vic.gov.au/aav. See attached Landcare Indigenous fact sheet for further information, or contact the North Central CMA Indigenous Facilitator Mark Pietzsch, ph: 03 5440 1897 / 0434 730 536; email: mark.pietzsch@nccma.vic.gov.au

APPENDIX A - Fencing Standards

Beef Cattle

- Standard 6/70/30 or 7/90/30 ring-lock/hinged joint and plain wire **or** a four strand plain wire with at least two electrified strands **or** seven strand plain wire. *(NB: Barbed wire is not recommended because of its adverse impact on native fauna)*
- Posts: 6' (1.8m) treated pine or steel post no more than 10m apart with two droppers in between (where appropriate).
- Strainers: 7 or 8' (2.1m or 2.4m) at least 6–7" treated pine (or other suitable material).
- Stays: 10' (3m) treated pine (or other suitable material).

Dairy cattle

- Standard 6/70/30 or 7/90/30 ring-lock and plain wire **or** a three strand plain wire with at least two electrified strands **or** seven strand plain wire. *(NB: Barbed wire is not recommended because of its adverse impact on native fauna)*
- Posts: 6' (1.8m) treated pine or steel post no more than 10m apart with two droppers in between (where appropriate).
- Strainers: 7 or 8' (2.1m or 2.4m) at least 6–7" treated pine (or other suitable material).
- Stays: 10' (3m) treated pine (or other suitable material).

Sheep

- Standard 6/70/30 or 7/90/30 ring-lock and plain wire **or** a five strand plain wire with at least three electrified strands ensuring that the bottom wire is earthed **or** seven strand plain wire. *(NB: Barbed wire is not recommended because of its adverse impact on native fauna)*
- Posts: 6' (1.8m) treated pine or steel post no more than 10m apart with two droppers in between (where appropriate).
- Strainers: 7 or 8' (2.1m or 2.4m) at least 5–6" treated pine (or other suitable material).
- Stays: 10' (3m) treated pine (or other suitable material).

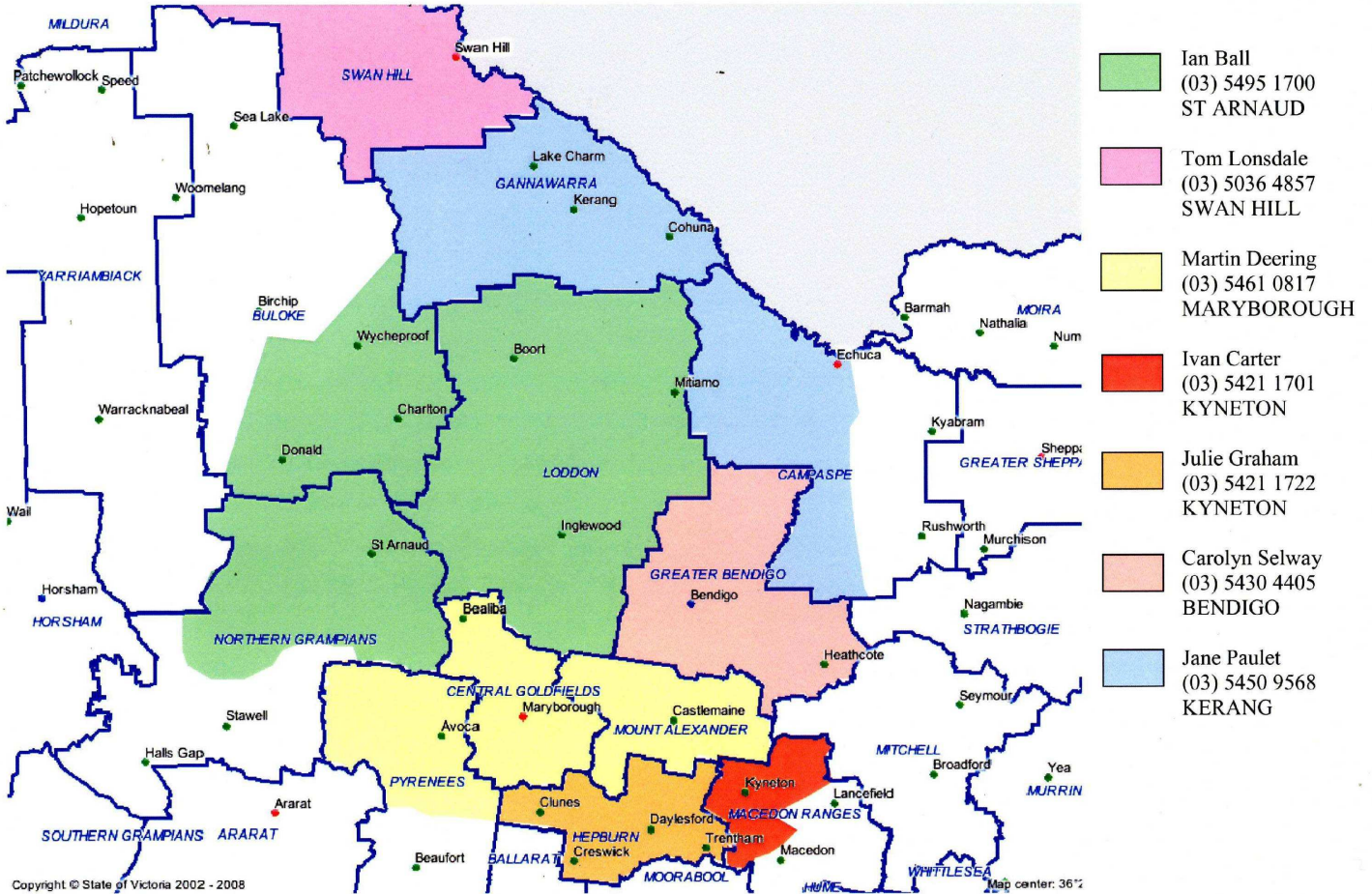
Rabbits

- 1050mm width: 40mm mesh diameter: and 1.4mm wire diameter rabbit proof netting.
- Support fence to withstand stock or native animals with rabbit netting fixed so that it reaches at least 900mm above the ground.
- Netting buried to 150mm depth or laid down and secured with pegs, rocks or timber.

NB: Fences may include gates for access where required.

APPENDIX B – Pest Management Officer Contact Details

North Central Region PMOs Contact Areas





NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands Project

Grant Application Form

Please note that all relevant parts must be completed using typed text or legible handwriting with black / blue pen. Failure to complete required sections to a satisfactory standard may affect the success of the application. Applications close **5pm Friday 26 February by post or fax.**

Your contact details:

Surname _____ First name _____

Address (postal) _____

Phone (BH) _____ (AH) _____
(M) _____

E-mail _____

Amount sought \$ _____

"I have read the guidelines and am fully aware of, and agree to, a commitment to the project".

Signature _____

Name _____

Date _____

Return applications to:
North Central CMA, PO Box 18, Huntly 3551
fax: 5448 7148

BUDGET				
1. Protect & enhance existing vegetation	No. of Units			Type of Unit
- Area of existing vegetation to fence				Hectares
- Area to be revegetated (i.e. amongst existing vegetation or corridor)				Hectares
Activities (attach contractor quote if relevant)	Activity Cost			Funding Sought
	# units	Unit type	\$\$/unit	Total
• Fencing materials		Metre		\$
• Labour		Hour	25	\$
• Purchase seed		Kilogram		\$
• Purchase seedlings/tubestock (<i>up to \$1.50 per plant including guard, please provide explanation for larger amounts</i>)		Each		\$
• Purchase tree guards		Each		\$

2. Pest Animal Control	No. of Units			Type of Unit
- Area treated for pest animals				Hectares
Pest Animal/s (please specify):				
Activities (attach contractor quote if relevant)	Activity Cost			Funding Sought
	# units	Unit type	\$\$/unit	Total
• Equipment hire - Rabbit harbour removal		Hour		\$
• Equipment hire - Rabbit warren ripping		Hour		\$
• Contractor hire		Hour		\$
Registered contractor name (if known) or ACUP permit number of landholder:				
• Labour		Hour	25	\$

3. Weed Control	No. of Units			Type of Unit
- Area treated for weeds - (<i>Actual area treated, not project or target area</i>)				Hectares
- Sites treated for weeds (how many sites make up treated area)				Sites
- Weeds treated (please specify)				
Activities (attach contractor quote if relevant)	Activity Cost			Funding Sought
	# units	Unit type	\$\$/unit	Total
• Contractor hire		Hour		\$
Registered contractor name (if known) or ACUP permit number of landholder:				
• Equipment Hire		Hour		\$
• Herbicide		Litre		\$
• Labour		Hour	25	\$
• Purchase seed		Kilogram		\$
• Purchase seedlings/tubestock		Each		\$
• Purchase tree guards		Each		\$

4. Other	No. of Units			Type of Unit
Please specify				
Activities	Activity Cost			Funding Sought
	# units	Unit type	\$\$/unit	Total
•				\$
• Labour			25	\$
•				\$
Total budget				\$

SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN	
Aims	Please give information below
What do you hope to achieve?	
Site condition	Please give information below
Site size (Ha or acres)	
What is the previous/current site use? i.e. grazed annually for 50 years but never cultivated, no fertiliser applied.	
What are the current threats to condition and extent to which the site is affected? i.e. scattered box thorns, low density rabbits, weeds on adjoining roadside	

Actions	Please detail how these steps will be undertaken
Revegetation Before planting, how will you prepare the site appropriately to optimise establishment considering existing vegetation? i.e. spot control of weeds, ripping.	
<i>Soil type, protection of existing vegetation and access issues will affect planting methods.</i> Planting method Please circle	Tube/Hiko stock No. of tubes _____ Direct seeding No. of kg
No. of species to be planted— please attach list	
Watering in	
Site protection <i>How will the vegetation and ecological gains be protected and maintained?</i>	Please detail how these steps will be undertaken
Fencing	
Weed control	

Rabbit/Fox control	
Stock exclusion	
Erosion	
Monitoring	
How will a change in condition be measured? i.e. photo points	

If you are an individual, are you a member of a Landcare group, 'Friends of' or similar group?

- Yes
- No

Details

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PRIVACY:

The North Central Catchment Management Authority may use the information collected on this form for the following uses and purposes:

1. Expression of interest information collected in connection with applications for work
2. Information obtained to assist in managing client and business relationships.

We may disclose your personal information for the purpose for which it is primarily held, or for a related secondary purpose. In some cases we may only disclose information with your consent. For information regarding our compliance with the Privacy Act please ask our staff for a copy of our Privacy Policy.

Further queries please contact:

Robyn McKay
North Central CMA, PO Box 18, Huntly 3551
phone: 5440 1876
mobile: 0448 578 086
email: robyn.mckay@nccma.vic.gov.au

