

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 Monday 1 November 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 (where trees have been cleared) 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 Protection 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 project through the Australian Government's Caring for Country (CfoC) natural resource management initiative. The project will provide strategic support to landholders and groups in the Mid Loddon Catchment to deliver on-ground works through a devolved grants process. It will 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 in NRM.

Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate optimum funding impact on the landscape, by working across property boundaries or with clusters of landowners. Funded activities will be limited to on-ground works on private land which protect and enhance Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands or derived grassland remnant vegetation, such as revegetation and fencing.

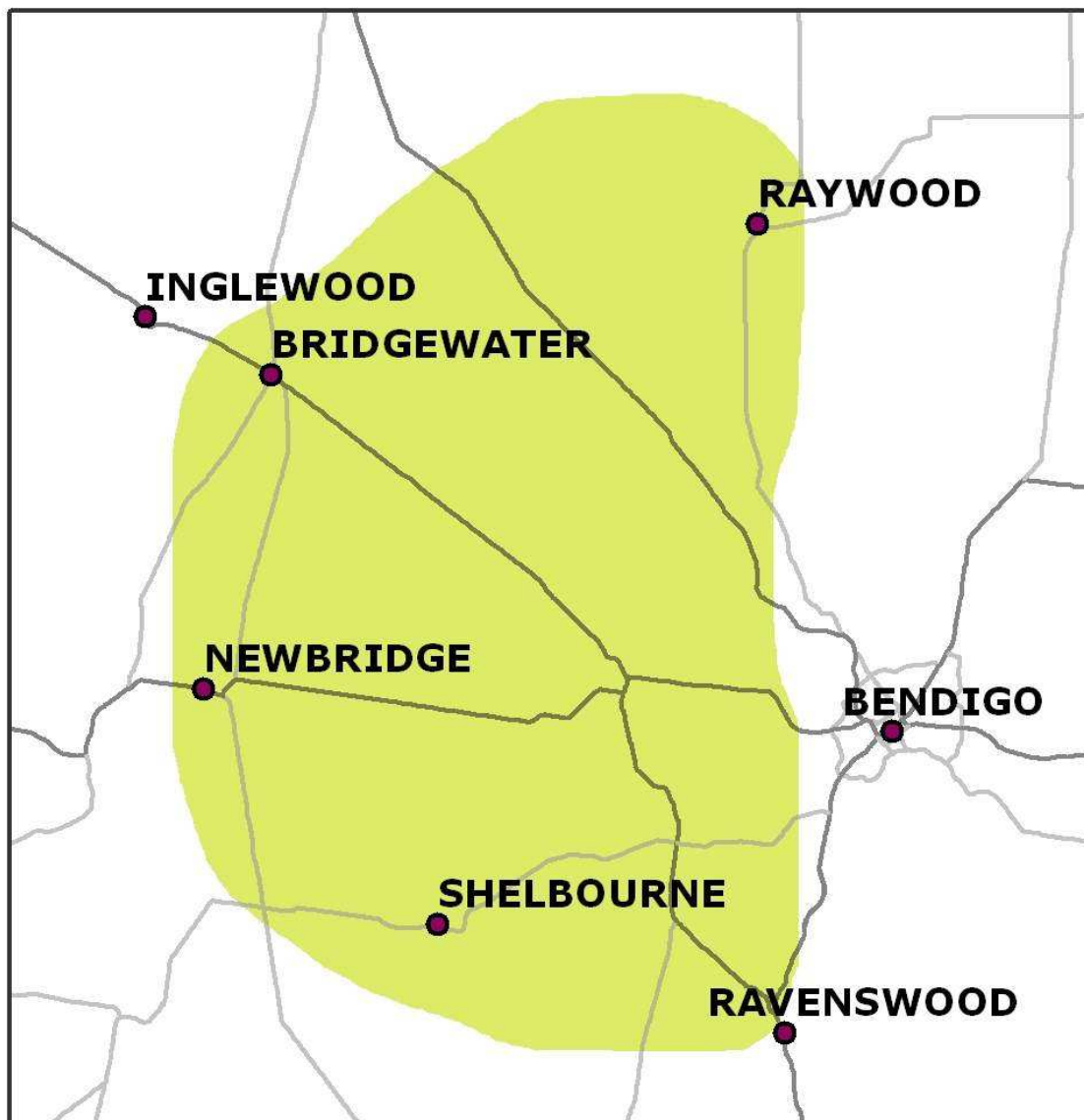
The project officer will assist in identifying planned activities that contribute to landscape scale conservation, focusing on large patches and/or those of high ecological value, connectivity and corridors between isolated patches and increasing the overall condition and extent of the area of critically endangered Box-Gum Grassy Woodland and derived grasslands.

1.2 Grants available

The North Central CMA, in administering the Box-Gum Grassy Woodland project, is offering funds for on-ground works. Only sites that contain the Box-Gum Grassy Woodland listed ecological community within the Mid Loddon Catchment project area are eligible to participate in the project (see project area map overleaf). A site assessment by project staff may be necessary for verification.

Works are summarised in the table below. Other on-ground activities may also be considered such as infrastructure for alternative watering points where construction of fencing will provide protection for high value remnants but prevent access to existing watering points. Funds will be allocated proportionately to the size and quality of remnant vegetation and the level of activity proposed. Applications of up to \$5,000 are suggested but a higher level of funding may be considered where very high ecological value is determined.

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, or be erected to link isolated patches, or provide a buffer zone to existing native vegetation by increasing the area through revegetation.• Management (or removal) of grazing will encourage natural recruitment and species diversity. To be funded, fencing must protect against unmanaged grazing by stock and/or herbivores.
<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 existing vegetation. Revegetation should also form an integral part of weed control to provide competition or as a corridor linking isolated patches. Where quality understorey exists, disturbance from revegetation should be avoided or minimised.



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 Monday 1 November 2010**.

Applications may be made by **(a)** individuals, or **(b)** on behalf of more than one individual landholder by a not-for-profit NRM group.

(a) Individual applications may be made directly by landholders. North Central CMA staff will assist individuals with the preparation of quality, feasible applications and support successful landholders to fulfil their final reporting requirements. Landholders will be responsible for obtaining quotes and engaging contractors where relevant. Individuals gain from the benefit of on-ground works implemented on their property and are therefore ineligible for project management fees.

(b) Incorporated, insured, not-for-profit Landcare groups (or sub-groups of Landcare networks), community NRM groups or networks may submit applications if on behalf of more than one landholder. The group may assist landholders by developing applications, co-ordinating materials and/or contractors and fulfilling final reporting requirements. Groups will need the signed permission of the land

holder to conduct on-ground works (see application form) and should submit one application per landholder.

By providing project assistance to more than one landholder, groups will be eligible to include a project management fee of not more than 10% in each of their applications.

The North Central CMA encourages the involvement of Landcare groups in the Box-Gum Grassy Woodland project in order to:

- Maximise outcomes by working across property boundaries
- Facilitate efficient co-ordination of contractors through one primary contact
- Encourage strong Landcare groups and Networks through increased community involvement and access to funding
- Strengthen relationships between North Central CMA and local Landcare
- Promote project participation by landholders of limited time or capacity

Following the closing date, applications will be assessed and ranked by a Grants Committee comprising North Central CMA board members, 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 Grants Panel will approve successful applications. All applicants, successful or unsuccessful, will be notified in writing by the North Central CMA and successful applications will then be announced via the North Central CMA website. An agreement form, including 5 year management responsibilities, will accompany the letter to successful applicants asking applicants (and landholder where applicable) to sign, date and return to the North Central CMA. Management responsibilities are a condition of funding to ensure benefits gained from the on-ground works are maintained for a minimum term.

Failure to return this form in a timely manner may result in the funding being re-allocated.

Upon receipt of the signed agreement form, the relevant funds will be paid via electronic funds transfer 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 May 2011**.

Timeline

Applications open; project officer available to assist with applications.
(September 2010)

Site visits by Project Officer to assess vegetation and determine eligibility
(September – October 2010)

Applications Close
(1 November 2010)

Grants Committee meets to assess, rank and approve applications.
(Mid November 2010)

Applicants advised in writing if their application is successful or unsuccessful.
(end November)

North Central CMA announces successful applicants – Published on website.
Applicants receive agreements for completion and return prior to distribution of grant monies.
(December 2010)

Projects Capable of Completion – Final Reports Submitted
(31 May 2010)

Site visits by Project Officer to inspect works
(June 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**. The final report will confirm the achievement of agreed activities and outputs', including maps /spatial information/GPS coordinates for any onground works undertaken and a minimum of two before and after photographs from a designated photo point. 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 May 2011**. 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 will be conducted.**

If the obligations and responsibilities are not reasonably met to the satisfaction of the Authority, the Authority may terminate the agreement and require the Landholder to refund/return to the Authority the funding amount/works/materials provided by the Authority to the Landholder under the agreement.

Project variations or extensions may only be given with prior written approval from the North Central CMA.

2. Guide for Applicants

2.1 General Criteria

Grants are available to landholders or incorporated, insured, not-for-profit community groups (or groups sponsored by an incorporated organisation) that are primarily involved in natural resource management, on private land. 'Community groups' include Landcare, Committees of Management, 'Friends of' groups, Indigenous Communities, or Field Naturalists/Plant groups. Applicants should have public liability insurance of at least \$10M, or be auspiced by a group or network that carries such insurance. If your group is not insured, go to www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/for-groups/insurance or contact the Farm Tree and Landcare Association:

Contact: Susi Johnson

Phone: 03 9207 5527

Fax: 03 9207 5500

sjohnson@vff.org.au

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 (ie covenanting agreements). Applicants willing to enter into protective covenanting agreements with Trust for Nature may be eligible for funding for additional works.
- Cost effectiveness (ie a maximum number of plants established or area treated per dollar of grant funds spent, 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 (verified by site assessment).
- Larger patch sizes. Remnants under 0.1ha will not be funded.
- Ability for natural regeneration. Patches must contain less than 50% exotic weed cover.

2.1.1 Standard rates for budget items and in-kind contributions

The following indicative costing should be used (all figures are exclusive of GST):

- Fencing materials – up to \$7 per metre including labour. See fencing standards in Appendix A.
- Tube stock – up to \$1.10* per plant
- Guards – up to \$1.60 depending on type of guard
- Revegetation labour - \$1.50* per plant including guard installation (note commercial rates for revegetation can vary according to the ground conditions, site preparation and type of plant guard.)
- Direct seeding labour - \$25 per hour
- Copies of written quotations for contractor services
- Other items not listed here will be considered in terms of cost effectiveness. Cost effectiveness will 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 applicant must erect and maintain adequate fencing in accordance with fencing minimum standards to ensure the exclusion of domestic stock (Appendix A). 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 generally not be funded.

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). Ideally fencing should be at least 30m from the drip line as seedlings will not establish easily under the canopy of an existing tree. Fencing costs for corridors to link patches will only be considered if the corridor is the **recommended 30 metres** wide.

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 should 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.

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

Aboriginal Cultural Significance:

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* has placed greater emphasis on the protection of Indigenous cultural heritage sites. Cultural heritage must be taken into account when planning projects that will disturb the earth (e.g. activities like ripping) and in areas of cultural sensitivity. It is an offence to conduct an act that will harm, or is likely to harm Aboriginal heritage, except in accordance with a cultural heritage permit or an approved cultural heritage management plan.

To find out if your planned project site is within an area of cultural significance you can:

- Look at the Cultural Resource Management Map on the Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) website to see if your project site is within an area of cultural heritage sensitivity. To do this, go to www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au. Click on [Aboriginal Cultural Heritage](#) for general information about cultural heritage. Click on [Heritage Tools](#) for maps and assessment tools.
- Contact the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Registry (VAHR) at AAV directly – call 1800 762 003 or email vahr@dpcd.vic.gov.au or post to PO BOX 2392, Melbourne VIC 3001.

Note: Fencing is considered ‘minor works’ under the Act and does not trigger the need for a cultural heritage management plan unless it will harm, or is likely to harm Aboriginal heritage.

If your project **is** in an area of cultural sensitivity, you must contact North Central CMA’s Indigenous Facilitator Mark Pietzsch or AAV or to find out what to do.

If you are unsure about this process please contact North Central CMA’s Indigenous Facilitator Mark Pietzsch on 03 5440 1897 or 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.

Kangaroos and Wallabies

- Exclusion is difficult, but construction of several smaller exclusion plots (10m x 10m), rather than one large one, to one of the above standards may deter native macropods from entering.

NB: Fences may include gates for access where required.



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 must be postmarked or received no later than **5pm Monday 1 November 2010**

Your contact details (group or individual):

Surname _____ First name _____

Group (if applicable) _____

Address (postal) _____

Phone (BH) _____ (AH) _____

(M) _____

E-mail _____

Amount sought (do not include GST) \$ _____

"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
628-634 Midland Highway, Huntly
fax: 5448 7148
email: robyn.mckay@nccma.vic.gov.au

BUDGET *all costs should be exclusive of GST*				
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
- Area of corridor or buffer created (i.e. extending or linking remnant vegetation)				Hectares
	Activity Cost			Funding Sought
Activities (attach contractor quote if relevant)	# units	Unit type	\$\$/unit	Total
• Fencing materials (up to \$7.00 per metre including labour)		Metre		\$
• Purchase seed		Kilogram		\$
• Purchase seedlings/tubestock (up to \$1.10 per plant)		Each		\$
• Purchase tree guards (up to \$1.60 per guard)		Each		\$
• Type of guard (please specify)				
• Labour for direct seeding (up to \$25 per hour)		Hours		\$
• Labour for revegetation (up to \$1.50 per plant)		Each		\$

2. Other (attach contractor quote if relevant)	No. of Units			Type of Unit
Please specify				
	Activity Cost			Funding Sought
Activities	# units	Unit type	\$\$/unit	Total
•				\$
• Labour			25	\$
•				\$
Project Management Fee (up to 10% for NRM groups or Networks only)				\$
Total budget (all costs should be exclusive of GST)				\$

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 plants _____ 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 the following has been considered
Fencing	
Weed control	

Rabbit/Fox control	
Stock exclusion	
Erosion	
Monitoring	
How will a change in condition be measured? i.e. photo points	
Site Location	
Please attach a map of your site including location on proposed works (sketch or aerial imagery)	

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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Are you interested in placing a Conservation Covenant on your Box-Gum Grassy Woodland remnant?

- Yes, I would like to know more
- No
- My property is covenanted already

If yes, your contact details will be forwarded to a Trust for Nature Covenanting Officer to provide you with information.

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

Botanical Name	Common Name	Category i.e. tree, grass, herb	No./kg	Use (enhancement or revegetation)
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i> (<i>Example only</i>)	Yellow Box	Tree	50	R