

**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 and Grey Box Grassy Woodlands.**
- **Funding application form.**

**Applications *strictly* close: 5pm Tuesday 11 September 2012**



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY

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# 1. Overview of Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands Project Grants

## 1.1 Introduction

White Box, Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum (Box-Gum) Grassy Woodlands and Grey Box Grassy Woodlands were once widespread on the tablelands and slopes from Queensland to Victoria, on soils that are moderately to highly fertile. Today, very little remains in good condition and remaining patches are still being lost. Remnants mostly occur as isolated patches; consequently the vegetation communities have respectively been listed as 'critically endangered' and 'endangered' under the Australian government *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC) 1999.

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has received funding for the Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands project (**covering both the Box-Gum and Grey Box Grassy Woodland communities**) through the Australian Government's Caring for Country. 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 and Grey Box Grassy Woodlands remnant vegetation, such as revegetation and fencing.

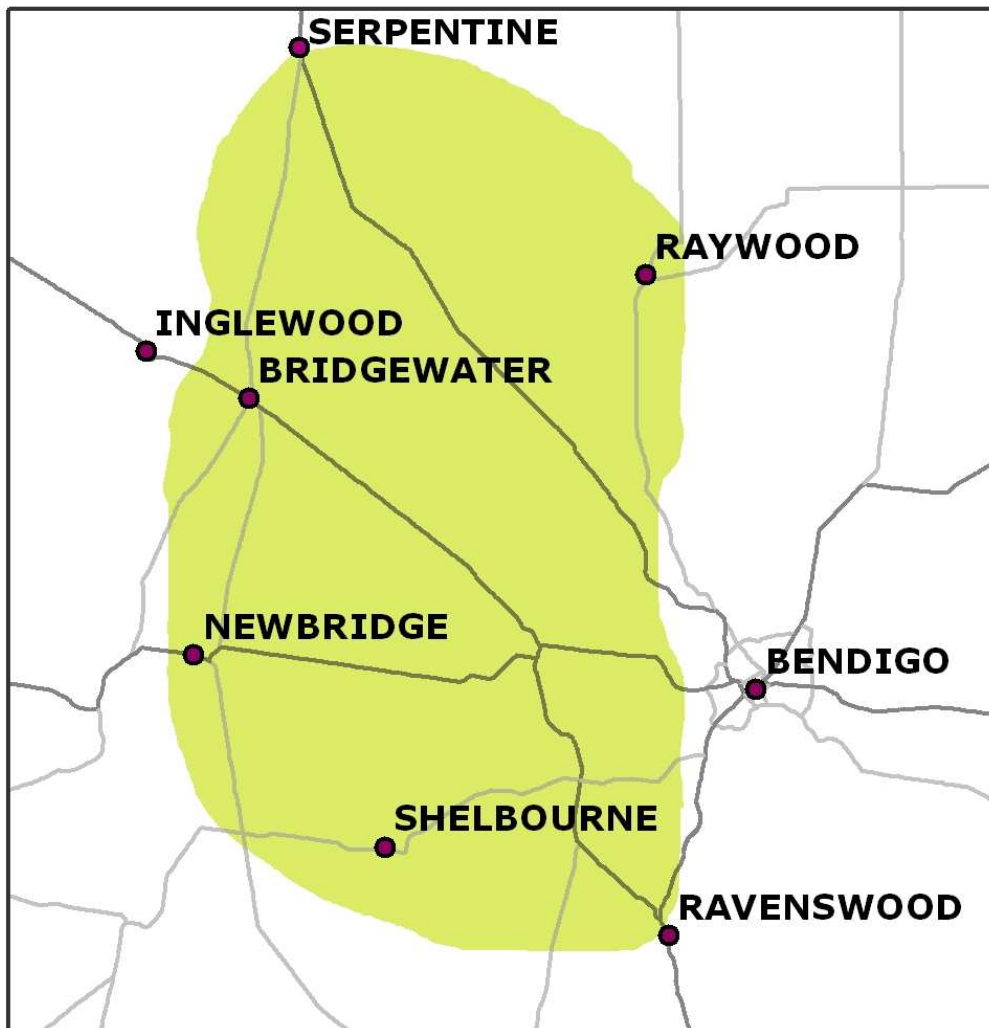
The project officer will assist in identifying planned activities that contribute to landscape scale conservation, focusing on large patches and/or those of high ecological value, connectivity and corridors between isolated patches and increasing the overall condition and extent of the area of endangered Box-Gum and Grey Box 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 or Grey Box Grassy Woodland ecological community within the project area are eligible to participate (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><b>Fencing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>
<p><b>Revegetation/enhancement of existing vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>



## 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 Tuesday 11 September 2011**.

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. An agreement form, including 5 year management responsibilities, will accompany the letter to successful applicants asking applicants (and the 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 April 2013.**

## Timeline

**Applications open; project officer available to assist with applications.**  
(July 2012)

Site visits by Project Officer to assess vegetation and determine eligibility  
(July – September 2012)

**Applications Close**  
(11 September 2012)

Grants Committee meets to assess, rank and approve applications.  
(late September 2012)

Applicants advised in writing if their application is successful or unsuccessful.  
(early October)

North Central CMA announces successful applicants.  
Applicants receive agreements for completion and return prior to distribution of grant monies.  
(October - November 2012)

**Projects Capable of Completion – Final Reports Submitted**  
(30 April 2013)

Site visits by Project Officer to inspect works  
(May 2013)

### 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 for any onground works undertaken, and a minimum of two before and after photographs from a designated photo point. For revegetation projects, actual species lists and quantities will be required. 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 30 April 2013**. 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](http://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](mailto: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 will be viewed favourably.
- 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 (verified by site assessment).
- Larger patch sizes. Remnants under 0.5ha will not be funded.
- Ability for natural regeneration. Patches must contain less than 50% understorey cover of exotic weeds.

#### 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 for all materials and 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 (please specify type)
- 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](http://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 sensitivity 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](http://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](mailto: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 Bambi Lees or AAV or to find out what to do.

If you are unsure about this process please contact North Central CMA’s Indigenous Facilitator Bambi Lees on 03 5440 1852 or 0438 749 504; email: [bambi.lees@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:bambi.lees@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 posts 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 received no later than **5pm Tuesday 11 September 2012**

#### 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](mailto:robyn.mckay@nccma.vic.gov.au)



<b>BUDGET *all costs should be exclusive of GST*</b>				
<b>1. Protect &amp; enhance existing vegetation</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>			<b>Type of Unit</b>
- 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
<b>Activities (attach contractor quote if relevant)</b>	<b>Activity Cost</b>			<b>Funding Sought</b>
	<b># units</b>	<b>Unit type</b>	<b>\$\$/unit</b>	<b>Total</b>
• 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		\$

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

<b>SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	
<b>Aims</b>	<b>Please give information below</b>
What do you hope to achieve?	
<b>Site condition</b>	<b>Please give information below</b>
Site size (Ha)	
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 and protect the existing vegetation ie 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 stock - number of plants _____ Hiko stock - number of plants _____ Direct seeding – number of kilograms _____
No. of species to be planted – please attached intended revegetation list	
Watering in	
<b>Site protection</b> <i>How will the gains be protected and maintained?</i>	<b>Please detail how the following has been considered</b>
Fencing	

Weed control	
Rabbits/Fox control	
Stock exclusion	
Erosion	
<b>Monitoring</b>	
How will a change in condition be measured? ie photo points <i>Note that before and after photos are required for final reporting</i>	
<b>Site Location</b>	<b>Please attach a map of your site including the location of the proposed works (sketch or aerial imagery)</b>
Address	



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

- Yes
- No

Details .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

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

