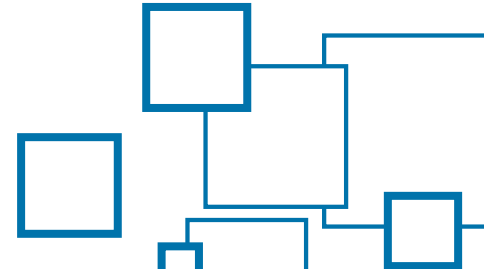


# MIA ENVIROWISE INCENTIVES: Biodiversity information sheet



**One of the main objectives of MIA EnviroWise is to protect our natural resources.**

This objective is primarily aimed at protecting remnant vegetation, wildlife and habitat corridors, Aboriginal heritage sites, rare or threatened species and ecological communities/critical habitats.

MIA EnviroWise provides incentives to Murrumbidgee Irrigation customers to promote sustainable natural resource management with the aim to improve overall health of our environment throughout the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area.

The following information applies to biodiversity incentives undertaken in the form of a Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) from **1 July 2006**. The general criteria specifies the **minimum** level of detail that must be undertaken in order for an incentive to be paid under MIA EnviroWise.

**General Criteria:**

1. The applicant must own a farm enterprise and be a shareholder in Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited.
2. At least 50% of the productive capacity of the enterprise must be located in the area defined by the MIA EnviroWise boundary. If you are uncertain regarding this point please consult with Murrumbidgee Irrigation.
3. In order to gain the incentive the landholder must have a signed PVP.
4. Funding is not available to applicants that have claimed for a similar incentive under MIA EnviroWise or other funding programmes such as Salt Action.

5. Invoices and receipts should clearly detail the proportion of money spent on each component. Estimates WILL NOT be accepted.
6. Conditions associated with this incentive will be attached as a schedule to the landholder's Member Contract.

**Incentive Rates:**

The MIA EnviroWise Incentive Rates, refers to the maximum amount of funding MIA EnviroWise will provide to landholders per property. Activities must be completed to the minimum specification criteria as detailed in this brochure.

If the cost of the biodiversity activity is lower than the minimum MIA EnviroWise contribution, MIA EnviroWise will only contribute the lower amount.

**Payment:**

- Biodiversity incentives will be paid in one upfront payment to the amount specified in the PVP contract.

**Monitoring:**

- Upon satisfactory completion of works the landholder must provide a statutory declaration to Murrumbidgee Irrigation.
- A visual assessment of all sites will be made by an MIA EnviroWise Officer upon completion of works as outlined in the PVP contract.
- 10% of all Incentive PVP's will be audited annually by Murrumbidgee Irrigation.

**Table 1: Remnant Enhancement – Incentives & Contributions**

Enhancement activity	'A' Rated Site (any woodland remnant > 10ha / Under-represented vegetation types / Woodland remnants within 15km of the Murrumbidgee River Riverine Biolink / All wetlands)		'B' Rated Site (Remnants not represented under 'A' condition)	
	Incentive Rate	Landholder Contribution	Incentive Rate	Landholder Contribution
<b>SUPPLY OF TREES/ SHRUBS</b>	100% of the cost up to \$1000/ha for native trees/shrubs. This includes: • Contract planting • Tube stock • Guards (if required) • Wetland plants	Ground preparation • Deep ripping • Cultivation • Mounding (if required)  Strategic grazing	100% of the cost up to \$1000/ha for native trees/shrubs. This includes: • Contract planting • Tube stock • Guards (if required) • Wetland plants	Ground preparation • Deep ripping • Cultivation • Mounding (if required)  Strategic grazing  Pre-planting weed control  Post-planting weed control
Pre-planting weed control	\$25/ha per application up to two applications	Labour and equipment for weed control		
Post-planting weed control	Max \$25/ha per application up to two applications, as per PVP	Follow up applications to keep the site weed free		
<b>DIRECT SEEDING</b>	100% of the cost. This includes: • Seed • Seed treatment • Contract sowing • Wattle inoculant • Weed control at time of sowing	Stock exclusion for five years	100% of the cost up to \$350/ha. This includes: • Seed • Seed treatment • Contract sowing • Wattle inoculant • Weed control at time of sowing	Stock exclusion for five years  Pre-planting weed control  Post-planting weed control  Labour and equipment for weed control
Pre-planting weed control	\$25/ha per application up to two applications	Labour and equipment for weed control		
Post-planting weed control	\$25/ha per application up to two applications	Follow up applications to keep the site weed free		



**Table 2: Revegetation – Incentives & Contributions**

Revegetation activity	Incentive Rate	Landholder Contribution
<b>SUPPLY OF TREES/ SHRUBS</b>	100% of the cost up to \$1000/ha for native trees/shrubs. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract planting</li> <li>Tube stock</li> <li>Guards (if required)</li> <li>Wetland plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deep ripping</li> <li>Cultivation</li> <li>Mounding (if required)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Strategic grazing</li> <li>Pre-planting weed control</li> <li>Post-planting weed control</li> </ul>
<b>DIRECT SEEDING</b>	100% of the cost up to \$350/ha. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seed</li> <li>Seed treatment</li> <li>Contract sowing</li> <li>Wattle inoculant</li> <li>Weed control at time of sowing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stock exclusion for 5 yrs</li> <li>Pre-planting weed control</li> <li>Post-planting weed control</li> <li>Labour and equipment for weed control</li> </ul>

**Fencing:**

*Minimum specifications*

*Fence Type:*

- Prefabricated Hinge/Ring lock fencing
- Horizontal Line Wires: 2.44mm HT Wire
- Top & Bottom Line Wire: 2.80mm HT Wire
- Vertical Picket Wires: 2.64 Soft Wire
- One barb wire
- Steel posts @ 6m spacings (galvanised)
- Strainers minimum 5 per km
- Stays 2 per strainer
- One gate

*All Fences:*

- All materials must meet Australian standards.
- Maintenance of the fences remains the responsibility of the landholder.
- Cost of replacement of damaged and/or destroyed fences is the responsibility of the landholder.
- Where the landholder chooses to erect a fence above the minimum specification set out above, the additional cost of materials will be borne by the landholder.

**Table 3: Fencing**

Fencing activity	Incentive Rate	Landholder Contribution
<b>Fencing 'A' rated remnant</b>	100% cost of materials plus up to \$930/km for construction	Balance of construction costs plus additional materials, eg gates
<b>Fencing 'B' rated remnant</b>	100% cost of materials to minimum specifications	Cost of construction plus additional materials, eg gates
<b>Revegetation</b>	100% cost of materials to minimum specifications	Cost of construction plus additional materials, eg gates

Note: \* & \*\* — see definitions for 'A' and 'B' rated remnants in Table 1

**Site Preparation – Ripping:**

*Minimum Specifications:*

- It is the landholder's responsibility to check and verify if any utilities are located in or around the area to be ripped. Utilities may include telephone cables, fibre optic telecommunication cables and underground powerlines. MIA EnviroWise will not accept responsibility for damage to utilities.
- Deep ripping to a depth of 60cm should be carried out at least 6 months prior to planting during the dry summer-autumn period so that the sub-soil is shattered to encourage deep root penetration.
- Cultivation should be carried out with a rotary hoe or offsets so that a fine tilth, to a depth of 15cm, is achieved.
- Where possible, lines will need to be ripped along contours to reduce erosion.
- Mounding is only required for saline or waterlogged sites. Mounds should be formed to a minimum height of 30cm, at least 6 months prior to planting using row crop equipment, delva or disc banker.
- Avoid ripping within the drip line of existing trees.
- Ripping should be carried out in such a way as to not increase the risk of soil erosion. Dispersable soils should not be ripped at all. Drilling with a tree planting auger in these situations is recommended.

**Planting Specifications:**

- The proposed biodiversity planting should include a ratio of 30% trees to 70% shrubs, however consideration will be given to the vegetation community and locality when determining this ratio.
- All minimum specifications for fencing, ground preparation and pre/post weed control must be followed.
- Locally native species to be used and where possible local provenance seed must be used for tube stock and direct seeding.
- Corridor plantings must be a minimum of 15m wide with a minimum of 3 rows of trees/shrubs.

**Direct Seeding Specifications:**

- Ripping not required.
- Thorough weed control program to be carried out pre and post seeding.
- Total stock exclusion for a minimum of 5 years.

**Remnant Protection & Enhancement Specifications:**

- All minimum specifications for fencing, ground preparation and pre/post weed control must be followed.
- Locally native species to be used and where possible local provenance seed must be used for tube stock and direct seeding.
- Exclude stock during flowering and seed set of target species.
- Retain dead and fallen timber.

**Weed Control – prior to planting:**

*Minimum Specifications:*

- Sites to be sprayed a minimum 2 times prior to planting.
- If necessary at least 2 weeks prior to ripping, use knockdown herbicide to control annual weeds.
- Residual herbicides should be used at least 3 weeks prior to planting.
- Two weeks before planting use a knockdown herbicide if fresh weed growth has developed since cultivation.
- A third spray may be required after planting for persistent weeds. In this instance a selective herbicide registered for use over or around trees will be required.
- Weed control that is the responsibility of the land manager under the Noxious Weed Act 1993 (or as amended) will not be funded.
- Herbicides must always be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and current legislation.

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