



MEDIA RELEASE

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Funding for farmers to tackle rabbits and weeds

SOUTHERN Mallee farmers can now access funding to help tackle rabbits and weeds to protect important Buloke Woodlands.

Land managers in targeted areas can apply for up to \$1,400 per hectare to undertake on-ground works to control rabbits and eliminate priority weeds in Buloke Woodlands.

This project is supported by the Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA), through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

"Grazing by rabbits and the spread of serious weeds like boxthorn and cactus are damaging our Buloke Woodlands and preventing their regeneration," explains the Mallee CMA Chair Sharyon Peart.

"Private land managers have a crucial role to play in the conservation of Buloke Woodlands but control works can be costly.

"Incentive payments will enable land managers to really reduce rabbit density and environmental weed cover in their remnants to a level that allows native species to regenerate."

Buloke Woodlands in the Mallee are part of the 'Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions', a community that is listed as endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

The funding available now is targeted at two key areas which together contain 42% of all Buloke Woodland remnants on private land in the Mallee region. These target areas take in farmland from Chinkapook to Nullawil and Birchip, and from Burroin to Hopetoun and Beulah. Anyone who manages land in the target areas is eligible to apply.

Land managers need to lodge an expression of interest over coming weeks. Successful applications will enable landholders to enter into a three-year management agreement with the Mallee CMA.

To find out more contact Cameron Flowers (Southern Mallee Regional Landcare Facilitator) on 0427 509663 or Jennifer McCamley (Mallee CMA Coordinator Regional Land Partnerships) on 5051 4529 or visit the Mallee CMA website: www.malleecma.com.au.



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ALL MEDIA INQUIRIES

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Background information:

The Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is a statutory authority established to ensure that natural resources in the region are managed in an integrated and ecologically sustainable way. Its work is based on science and delivered through meaningful partnerships with local organisations such as Landcare, community groups, and government agencies in the Victorian Mallee.

For more information visit www.malleecma.vic.gov.au