

September 2022

2022-2023 Connecting the Plots Project

Project Standards and Eligibility Criteria

Current contractual and financial arrangements

To be eligible for this incentive funding, any Central Tablelands Local Land Services (CT LLS) or previous Catchment Management Authority agreements must be complete, and payment of any Local Land Services rates need to be up to date. [Public liability insurance](#) to the value of AUD\$10 million dollars is also required.

Project implementation time

You must complete your project by 31 May 2023. Your project must be managed and maintained, as per the agreed project standards, for 10 years from the date of project completion.

Project area

Your project area must be greater than 2 hectares (ha) and located adjacent to an existing TSR, shelterbelt or roadside biodiversity corridor within the priority areas of the CT LLS region.

Stock-proof fencing

You must construct fencing with new materials and manage it in a stock-proof condition for the duration of the Land Management Agreement. Conventional fencing (as per **Figure 1**) must have a minimum of 6 lines, electric fencing a minimum of 3 lines. You should avoid using barbed wire where possible and replace it with plain wire for the top two and the lowest strands (this is to ensure safe passage for native wildlife).

Central Tablelands LLS cannot fund boundary and exclusion fencing.

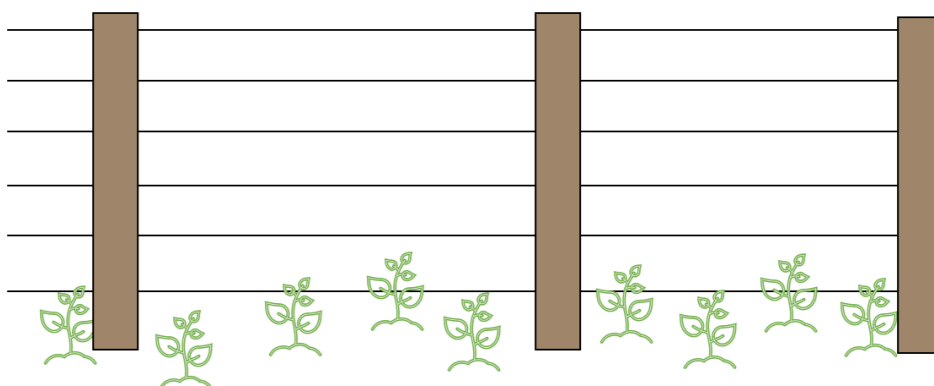


Figure 1: Example of conventional 6-line plain wire fence.

Guarantee of management

All stock access to the project site must be controlled for the length of the Land Management Agreement.

Grazing management

Stock exclusion is recommended and rewarded for a 10-year exclusion period through a one-off stewardship payment for ongoing management of the project site.

Planting sites are to exclude stock for a minimum of 5 years to allow the establishment of trees and shrubs.

Project area

All projects must be located adjacent to an existing TSR within the priority areas of the CT LLS region or within a known targeted Koala habitat area. The 2 ha project area could include a combination of smaller length corridors, cluster plantings and/or scattered paddock tree plantings, or a single 2 ha block planting.

Corridor planting – must have a minimum corridor width of at least 20 metres (m) (see example in **Figure 2**) for a corridor project. You must maintain vehicle access on the inside of the fenced area along its length (for maintenance and weed control). The required planting density is between 200 – 400 individual seedlings per hectare with a minimum distance between trees and shrubs of 4m and trees and trees of 8m to allow for canopy spread. A suitable distance must be left between the fence-line and the vegetation to ensure vehicle access.

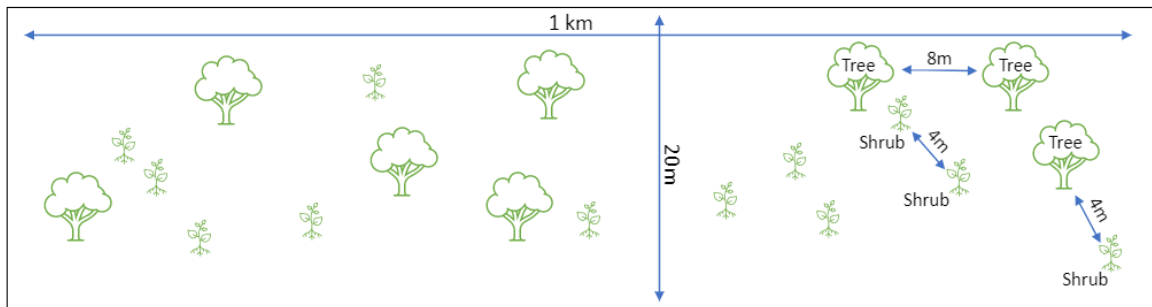
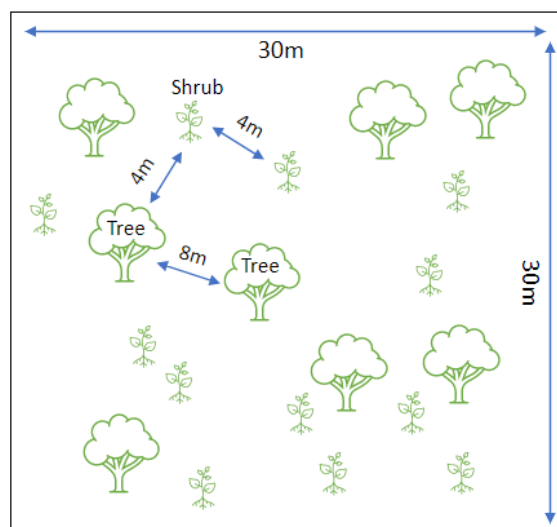


Figure 2: Example of a single 2 ha block corridor project area.

Cluster plantings - must be a minimum of 30m x 30m or 45m x 20m as per **Figure 3**. The required planting density is 30 per 900m² cluster with a minimum distance between trees and shrubs of 4m and trees and trees of 8m to allow for canopy spread.



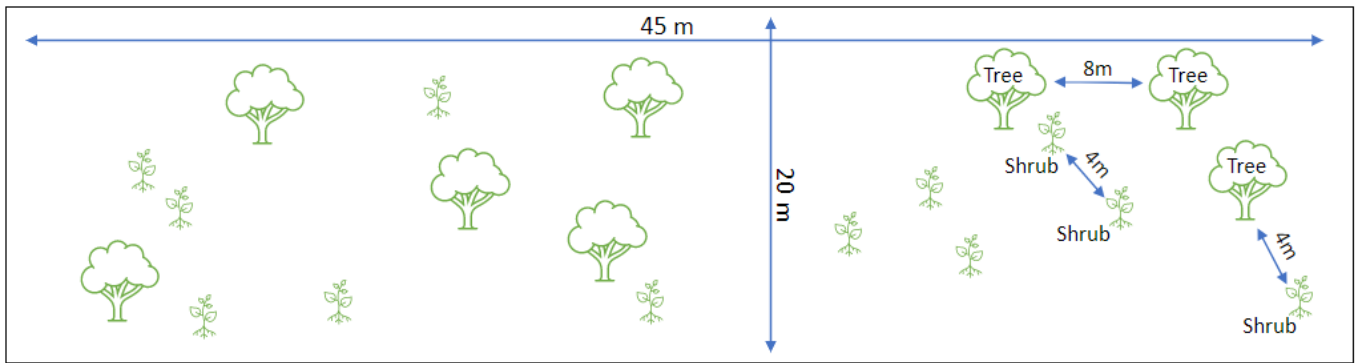


Figure 3: Examples of a cluster planting project.

Scattered paddock trees - must be protected by cylindrical tree guards (as per **Figure 4**) 114.5cm high with a circumference of 105cm, which results in a 33cm diameter. A minimum of three supporting posts and a weed mat must also be installed. Tree guards will be provided by LLS. The required planting density is 30 trees per hectare with a minimum distance between trees and shrubs of 4m and trees and trees of 8m to allow for canopy spread. (as per **Figure 5**)

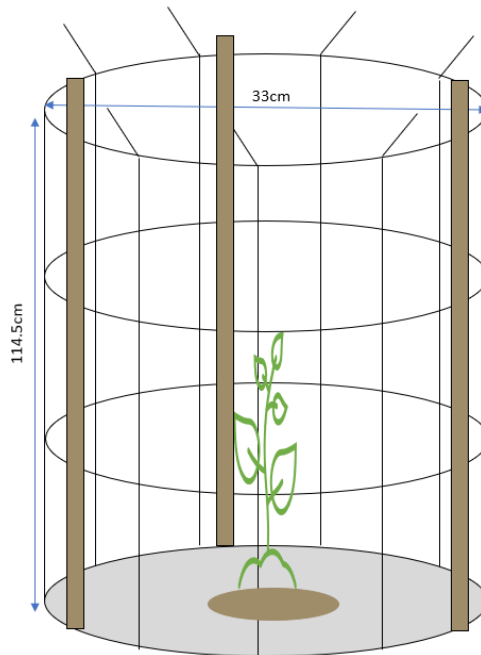


Figure 4: Example of a scattered tree cylindrical guard.

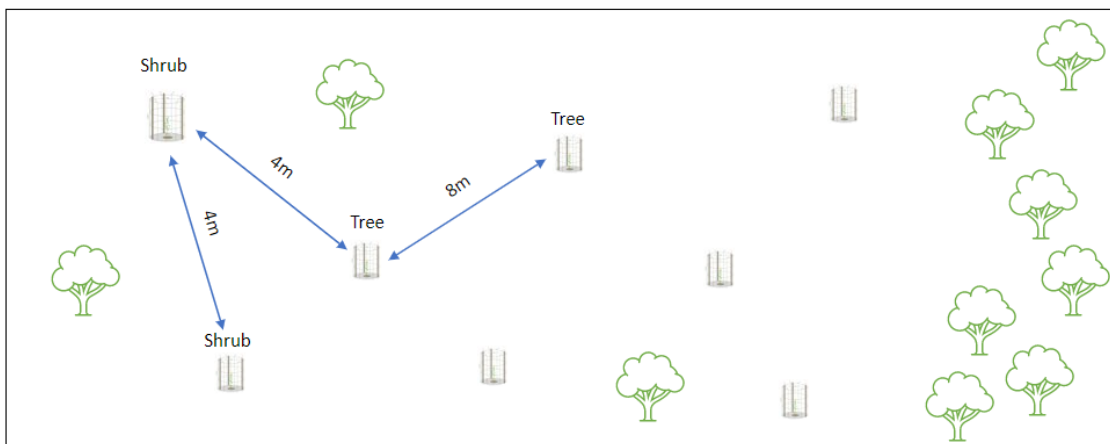


Figure 5: Example of a scattered paddock tree project.

Fencing off remnant vegetation

To ensure vehicle access and to allow for plant recruitment, the fence-line must be a minimum distance of 20m from the nearest existing remnant vegetation (see **Figure 6**).

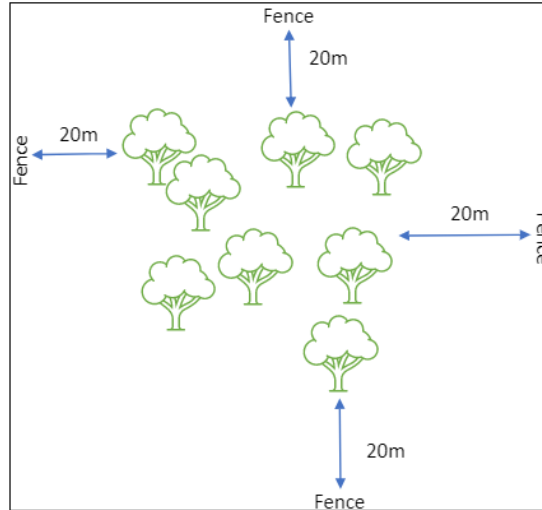


Figure 5 Example of a fenced-out remnant vegetation plot.

Planting and preparation

Targeted enhancement planting activities are to use [locally occurring tree, shrub and groundcover species](#).

A minimum of 70% survival rate for tubestock planting must be achieved by the landowner. The installation of additional plantings to achieve this survival rate will be the responsibility of the landowner.

A revegetation plan will be developed with a CT LLS Case Officer. The plan will include a schedule of site preparation, species list, weed control options, planting options and key contacts.

Landholders will be responsible for all site preparation including ripping and weed control to ensure successful revegetation establishment.

Retain habitat features

You must retain all bush rock, dead standing and fallen timber important habitat features. Movement of fallen timber within the site is permitted if it presents a hazard but should not be destroyed.

Exotic plant and pest animal control

You must control all pest animals and exotic plants on the site for the duration of the Land Management Agreement.

Sensitive regulated land

Native vegetation within your project area will be classified as '[Category 2 - regulated land](#)' under the [Local Land Services Regulation 2014](#) and the [Land Management \(Native Vegetation\) Code 2018](#). Clearing native vegetation will be restricted within your project area. Contact the [sustainable land management unit](#) for advice on 1300 795 299 or slm.info@lls.nsw.gov.au.

Permits and approvals

All relevant permits and approvals for works that trigger NSW State Government legislation must be obtained from or approved by appropriate government agencies.

Legislative requirements

You must be aware of and comply with all legal responsibilities under legislation relevant to the project. This includes the application and use of chemicals and poisons for exotic plant and pest animal control.

Monitoring

You must make project sites available for scientific monitoring activities as organised by the CT LLS.

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