

# Central West Soil and land program

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# Central West demonstration sites

This program aims to create demonstration sites to illustrate the rehabilitation of eroded and/or saline affected land within the Central West Local Land Services (LLS) region.

Assistance and technical support will be offered to eligible landholders to undertake targeted on-ground enhancement and conservation works to support the improvement of soil health.

The demonstration sites will be used to showcase different management techniques that can be adopted to assist in restoring and improving identified erosion and dryland salinity sites.

Central West LLS will work with landholders to monitor the sites to determine the effectiveness and impact of the works undertaken.

In addition, case studies and communication products will be developed. These will be based on information gathered throughout the project.

The benefits of the project activities will be highlighted during hosted field days and participating in promotional activities.

## What assistance is available?

Central West LLS will undertake projects with successful landholders. This will include the provision of technical support for the establishment of demonstration sites and financial assistance to implement on-ground works.

Projects will be eligible for maximum financial assistance of \$10,000 and may include the following remedial management actions:

Activity	Description	\$
Stock-proof fencing	Fencing to control grazing to allow regeneration to occur and improve groundcover	\$7,000/km conventional or \$3,500/km electric
Revegetation	Supplementary tubestock planting	Capped at \$500 for site preparation, planting, and maintenance of native tubestock.
Pasture Establishment	Establishment of a perennial based pasture in affected areas	Capped at \$5,000 per project for site preparation, planting, maintenance and seed purchase
Earthworks	Soil conservation earthworks	Capped at \$5,000/project
Cultural heritage site assessment	Cultural site identification prior to on-ground works will ensure project activities will not cause damage to Aboriginal cultural sites	Arranged by LLS at no cost to the landholder

Training and resources	Free information resources and workshops will be available to assist in the completion of the project and ongoing management	Arranged by LLS at no cost to the landholder
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## Project standards

### Project implementation timeframe

A project agreement between the landholder and Central West LLS will be established. All project infrastructure works must be completed by 31 May 2024.

Duration of the project agreement is 10 years.

### Management of project area for ground cover

Project areas must be managed to increase perennial plant density and diversity.

Groundcover is to be maintained at an average minimum level of 70% across the whole project area for the duration of the agreement.

The grazing strategy employed should aim for 100% groundcover. Grazing is not to be undertaken during flowering and seed set during spring and summer.

Strategic grazing to manage fire hazards or weeds is permitted if required.

If undertaking revegetation, stock is to be excluded from the project area for three years after the completion of on ground works.

### Minimise ground disturbance

The site should be managed to minimise ground disturbance that could lead to soil erosion for the duration of the agreement.

### Habitat features

Dead standing, fallen timber and rocks are important habitat features and must be retained on the project site. Movement of these features within the site is permitted only if they present a hazard.

### Supplementary planting and pasture establishment

A revegetation plan will be developed for the project site by Central West LLS and will include site design, species list, the position, width and length of the planting arrangement and site preparation requirements.

Tubestock purchase will be coordinated by Central West LLS.

Landholders will be required to organise their own site preparation, planting of seed and/or tubestock and ongoing maintenance as per revegetation plan and advice from Central West LLS.

Project areas containing revegetation are to have stock excluded for a minimum of 3 years to enable successful plant establishment.

## Stock proof fencing

Fences must be constructed with new materials and be maintained in a stock-proof condition for the duration of the agreement.

Conventional fencing must be a minimum of 6 wires and electric fencing a minimum of 3 wires.

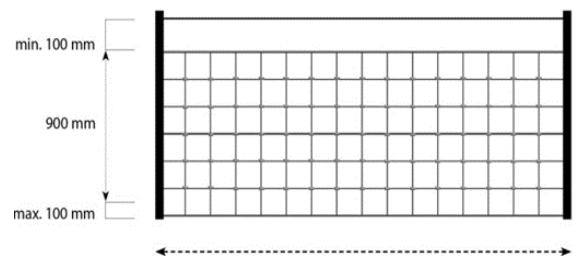
The landholder should avoid using barbed wire where possible. It is recommended that plain wire be used for the top wire and lowest strands to ensure safe passage of native wildlife.

Plain wire to be used for fencing of streams where there is a potential for flooding.

Boundary fencing is ineligible for funding.

Minimum fence standard description:

- Prefabricated mesh (7/90/30)
- Clipped 2.5mm high tensile top and belly plain wire supports to mesh
- 165cm star pickets at 8 metre spacings
- <500 metre strainer spacing



Option A <i>Strainer assembly</i>	Option B <i>Full box assembly</i>	Option C <i>Double Box assembly</i>

## Earthworks construction and maintenance

Earthworks must be maintained in a working condition for at least 10 years as per the signed agreement with Central West LLS.

- All ripping and riplines must be designed and constructed to the engineering standards set out in the Earthmovers Training Course, **Unit 8 Dozing and Ripping Principles 1991**.
- All contour banks must be designed and constructed to the engineering standards set out in the Earthmovers Training Course, **Unit 11 Contour & Graded Banks 1992**.
- All dams must be designed and constructed to the engineering standards set out in the Earthmovers Training Course, **Unit 10 Construction of Farm Dams 1991**.
- All waterways must be designed and constructed to the engineering standards set out in the Earthmovers Training Course, **Unit 14 Construction of Waterways 1992**.
- All gully control structures must be designed and constructed to the engineering standards set out in the Earthmovers Training Course, **Unit 15 Gully Filling & Shaping 1991**.

- All road or access track work must be designed and constructed to the engineering standards set out in the Earthmovers Training Course, **Unit 17 Access Tracks 1990**.
- All pipes in earthworks must be designed and constructed to the engineering standards set out in the Earthmovers Training Course, **Unit 18 Pipes in Earthworks 1991**.
- All water ponding banks must be designed and constructed to the engineering standards set out in the Earthmovers Training Course, **Unit 20 Special Earthworks 1991**.

## Pest plant and pest animal control

All pest animals and pest plants must be controlled on the site for the duration of the agreement.

Chemical control must only be with a registered herbicide and in accordance with the directions on the label. If spraying along riparian areas, only chemicals registered for use around waterways are permitted.

## General biosecurity duty

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* there is a general obligation on all landholders to be aware of their surroundings and take action to prevent the introduction and spread of pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants.

Read about your [general biosecurity duty](#).

## Cultural heritage survey

Project activities and ongoing site management must not cause damage to any known cultural heritage sites.

Central West LLS will coordinate a contractor to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey of the project site if required.

Cultural heritage sites identified within the project area will be maintained and protected, and recorded in the NSW Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System.

## Permits and approvals

All relevant permits and approvals for farm water supply dams must be obtained from or approved by appropriate government agencies prior to the commencement of any works.

## Legislative requirements

Applicants must comply with all legislative responsibilities imposed by any other relevant Act in developing and implementing the project.

## Native vegetation

Under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*, any land under this project area cannot be used as a set aside for the duration of the agreement term.

The project area may be eligible to undertake Environmental Protection Works in accordance with the *Local Land Services Act 2013* and will require an approved project variation.

## Monitoring and evaluation

Applicants are required to adhere to and maintain monitoring records for the duration of the agreement, as per the LLS monitoring program.

Staff will establish monitoring sites and methods appropriate to your project.

## Field day activities and access to the project site

The project site is to be made available for Central West LLS to conduct educational field day activities, provide information for case studies and allow access to LLS staff and any associated contractors for the purposes of on-ground scientific monitoring for the duration of the project.

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## How to apply

Applications close **Sunday 3 December 2023**

To apply, complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) form and submit:

1. In person: hand deliver to any Central West LLS office
2. Via email: submit as a PDF attachment to: [incentives.centralwest@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:incentives.centralwest@lls.nsw.gov.au)

Once all the details have been completed, and the application form returned, an LLS officer will contact you to discuss your project and organise a site visit.

Any incomplete applications will be returned to the landholder.

Funding availability is limited and offered based on an LLS team review of the environmental services ratio score and cost per hectare of all proposals.

Unfortunately, applications received after the closing date cannot be considered.

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## For further information:

Jasmine Wells, Senior Land Services Officer - NRM

E: [jasmine.wells@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jasmine.wells@lls.nsw.gov.au)

M: 0417 058 322

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### **Disclaimer:**

Funding is limited, which may mean some projects will not be funded.

Central West LLS reserves the right to refuse funding for projects or components which provide insufficient environmental benefit for their cost. Assessment of environmental benefit is at the sole discretion of the Central West LLS

The funding amounts listed are GST exclusive.

Funding amounts, activities and project standards are subject to change without notice.