



Government of South Australia
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board







INCENTIVES IN THE SA MDB

Our success and weaknesses

April 2007



THE SA MURRAY-DARLING BASIN

-  The SA Murray-Darling Basin covers an area of over 70,000 km²
-  Ranges from the SA Border, to the Murray Mouth, from the pastoral region north of the River and the Murray Mallee south of the River.
-  The region covers a wide range of landscapes with many different management actions implemented across the SA MDB
-  Incentive programs targeted at improved land management and biodiversity outcomes are implemented across the region.



INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

The Board currently has 2 approaches to incentive programs:

- 🐟 Traditional incentives facilitated by local action groups through the Board's Community Grants program;
- 🐟 An auction/tender based approach is being trialed in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges.





THE “TRADITIONAL” APPROACH

- 🐟 The Board runs an annual Community Grant program;
- 🐟 Local community groups apply to the Board for funds covering a wide range of outputs;
- 🐟 These grants typically include incentive programs for land management and biodiversity outcomes;
- 🐟 Incentives typically cover:
 - » Perennial pasture establishment;
 - » Fodder shrubs and Windbreaks
 - » Farm forestry
 - » Watercourse protection
 - » Native vegetation establishment (blocks and corridors)
 - » Fencing



THE “TRADITIONAL” APPROACH (cont)

- 🐟 The Board currently does not set the rate of incentives to be offered;
- 🐟 Incentives therefore vary between local groups;
- 🐟 Budget limitations have meant that funds provided to groups have been reduced;
- 🐟 In 2006-07 the following incentives are available:
 - » \$50/ha for perennial pasture establishment;
 - » \$217/ha for farm forestry;
 - » \$1,000/km fencing windbreaks;
 - » \$400/ha for replanting watercourses and \$1,200/km for fencing
 - » \$500/ha and \$1,000/km for biodiversity outcomes





THE “TRADITIONAL” APPROACH (cont)

SUCCESSSES:

-  Good community ownership of incentive program;
-  Local resources involved in technical support and site visits.

WEAKNESSES:

-  No ongoing contractual obligation to manage works;
-  Compromise between consistent incentives rates and locally specific incentive rates







THE “NEW” APPROACH

-  The Board is currently contracted to the Australian Government to deliver the “Bushbids” program;
-  “Bushbids” is part of the Aust Govt’s Biodiversity Hotspots program;








THE “NEW” APPROACH (cont.)

-  Landholders interested in undertaking works on their properties are required to submit tenders;
-  Funding is identified through an auction system;
-  Successful ‘tenderers’ are required to enter into a 10 year agreement;
-  Ongoing payments are tied to the ongoing management of the works.





THE “NEW” APPROACH (cont)

SUCCESSES:

-  Payments are tied to clear biodiversity outcomes;
-  Long-term management of investment guaranteed;
-  Transparent assessment process.

WEAKNESSES:

-  Perhaps reduces local technical input and management;
-  The “legalese” of the process may put off some landholders.



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QUESTIONS

