



Queensland Murray Darling Committee

# 2005 Targeted Vegetation Incentives Pilot Project and “Bush Tenders”





Based on the premise that landholders can and will enter into voluntary agreements to protect and manage land for nature conservation values, with the best intentions.

That we don't always need title-binding tools.



Queensland Murray Darling Committee

# 2005 Targeted Vegetation Incentives pilot



The tender is designed to allocate funds to the applicants providing the best environmental outcomes at the most competitive price.

- **“The objective of this project is to maintain and improve biodiversity by retaining native vegetation in the form of native grasses and/or regrowth and unmapped remnant vegetation in different vegetation types.”**

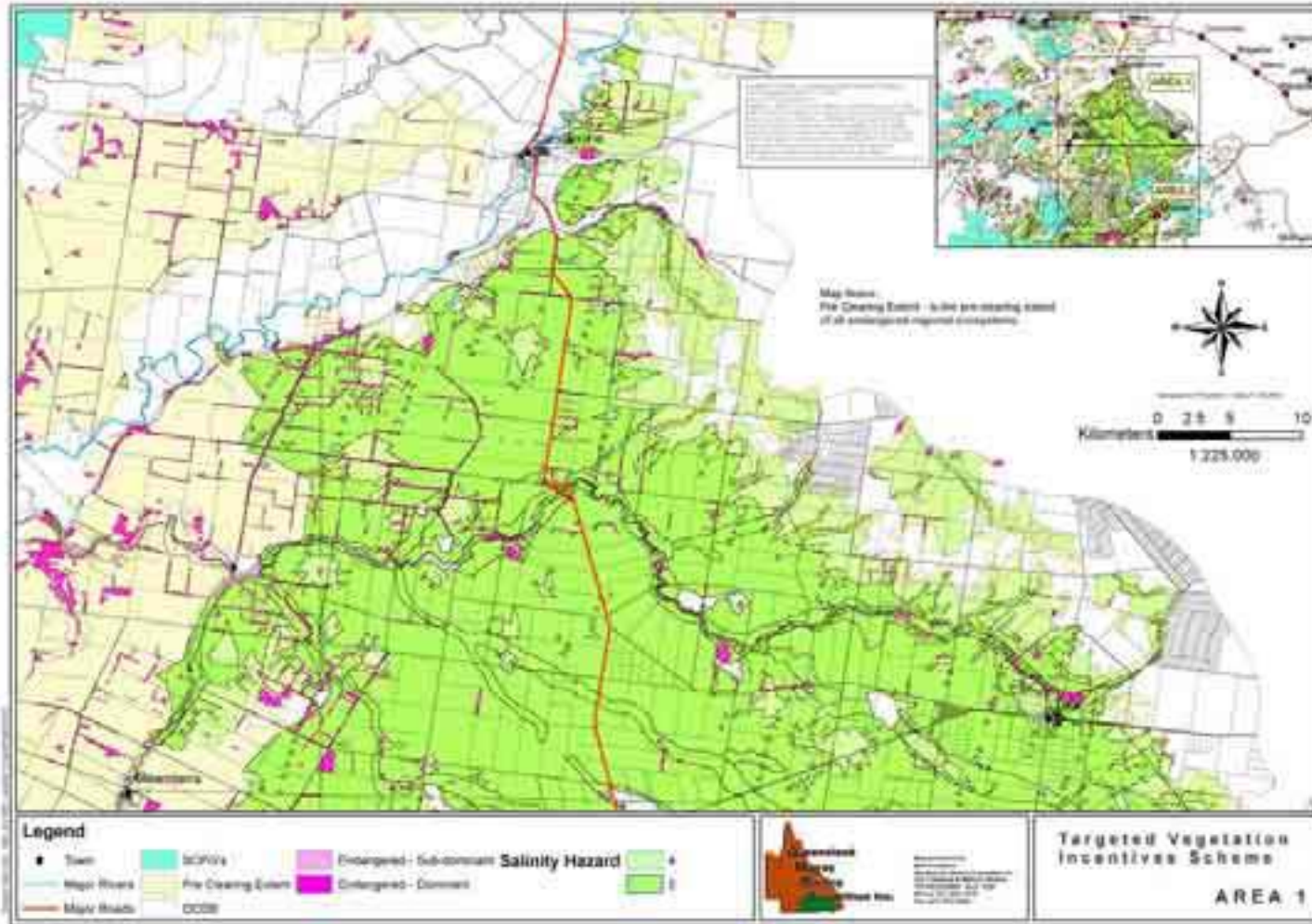


# Criteria used to define the targeted area:

- Area with less than **10% Remnant vegetation** - RE mapping
- Area with **moderate to high salinity risk** - Salinity mapping
- Existing **Landcare and Sub-catchment planning areas** were **excluded** to reduce confusion of program funds
- The areas were represented across **both catchments**.



# Queensland Murray Darling Committee





# Assessing Bids

## The process we used for the assessment included:

- Utilising Biodiversity/Habitat *condition scores* – undertaken by Technical Staff
- Assessing the *context* of the proposed project area against the whole property and landscape
- Assessing the *feasibility* of the proposed management arrangements especially over the longer term
- Assessing bids against known *land values* in the areas
- Assessing bids against known *past projects* e.g. devolved grants, NHT projects



# Value for Money

- 3 successful bids
  - 530ha
  - Adjusted total project value \$190/ha
- 
- Payment of **50% of Tender bid** is paid at contract signing, **30% paid on completion** of works and then the remaining **20%** following the first years **monitoring**.



The Urquharts intend to sustainably manage their grazing by replacing some of the farm's original fences that are no longer effective.

Outcome: With new fences in place, the Brigalow shadelines act as important wildlife corridors and will stay healthy for years to come.

“Warrova”



## Ongoing – 2006 “Bush Tender”

- To increase the extent, connectivity and condition of native vegetation throughout the specified region
- Marketing Strategy and Communications Plan
- Information package for prospective landholders
- Tender Process Guidelines
  - Bids closed Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2006



## Queensland Murray Darling Committee

QMDC Bush Tender 2006



### Supporting Information for the Tender Form

#### General Information

##### Tender Assessment

The tender is designed to allocate funds to the applicants providing the best environmental outcomes at the most competitive price. Your tender bid will be assessed against all the other bids received as a part of this tender process.

The assessment panel, composed of QMDC committee members and staff, will use the information in the Tender Form and from on-site assessment of the biodiversity value, to rank the bids. All bids and the results of their assessment will remain confidential.

##### Funding and Management Agreements

All agreements will be for a period of 10 years. The aim of the tender is to enhance biodiversity over the 10-year term and the agreement period reflects this.

You will be required to sign a funding and management agreement that clearly sets out the contractual terms between you and the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Inc. The agreement will specify the responsibilities of both parties and outline the basis on which payments will be made to you. It will also outline the conditions under which your progress may be monitored.

##### Payment Schedule

If your bid is successful, a payment schedule will be developed and specified in the Funding and Management Agreement. You will be paid 50% of bid on contract signing, 50% of bid on satisfactory completion of agreed works and progress report and the remaining 20% of bid on the satisfactory submission of the final monitoring results 12 months after contract signing. Advance payments will not be considered.

##### Reporting Requirements

You will be required to submit a progress report upon completion of the stated works. Reports must be completed within a 12 month period. A copy of the report form is included in Appendix A. Progress reports will need to be approved before payments are released.

##### Monitoring your progress

One of our staff may visit your property to monitor the condition of your management site/s. In such cases, you will be notified 5 days in advance of the site visit.



QMDC Bush Tender 2006



### Project Information Sheet

The QMDC Bush Tender aims to enhance the management of vegetation and biodiversity across specific areas of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin.

Funding is available to eligible individuals who can demonstrate management actions that have a positive influence on biodiversity of the landscape.

The project is run by the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Inc. (QMDC) and funded through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

#### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for assessment in the project the following criteria must be met:

- Property located within the target areas of Balance, Inflow or Wet Catchments
- Vegetation area nominated for inclusion in the project must not be currently protected under the Vegetation Management Act 03 or 'Mapped on Regional Ecosystem (RE) maps
- Vegetation included in the project area can be removed, regrowth and/or native grasslands
- Vegetation area nominated for inclusion in the project must be greater than 10ha in size
- If the vegetation area is less than 10ha, there must be demonstrated actions to increase the area to this size
- The vegetation management actions proposed must not already be funded under another program
- Collaborative planning with neighbours to whose outcomes will be linked upon favourably

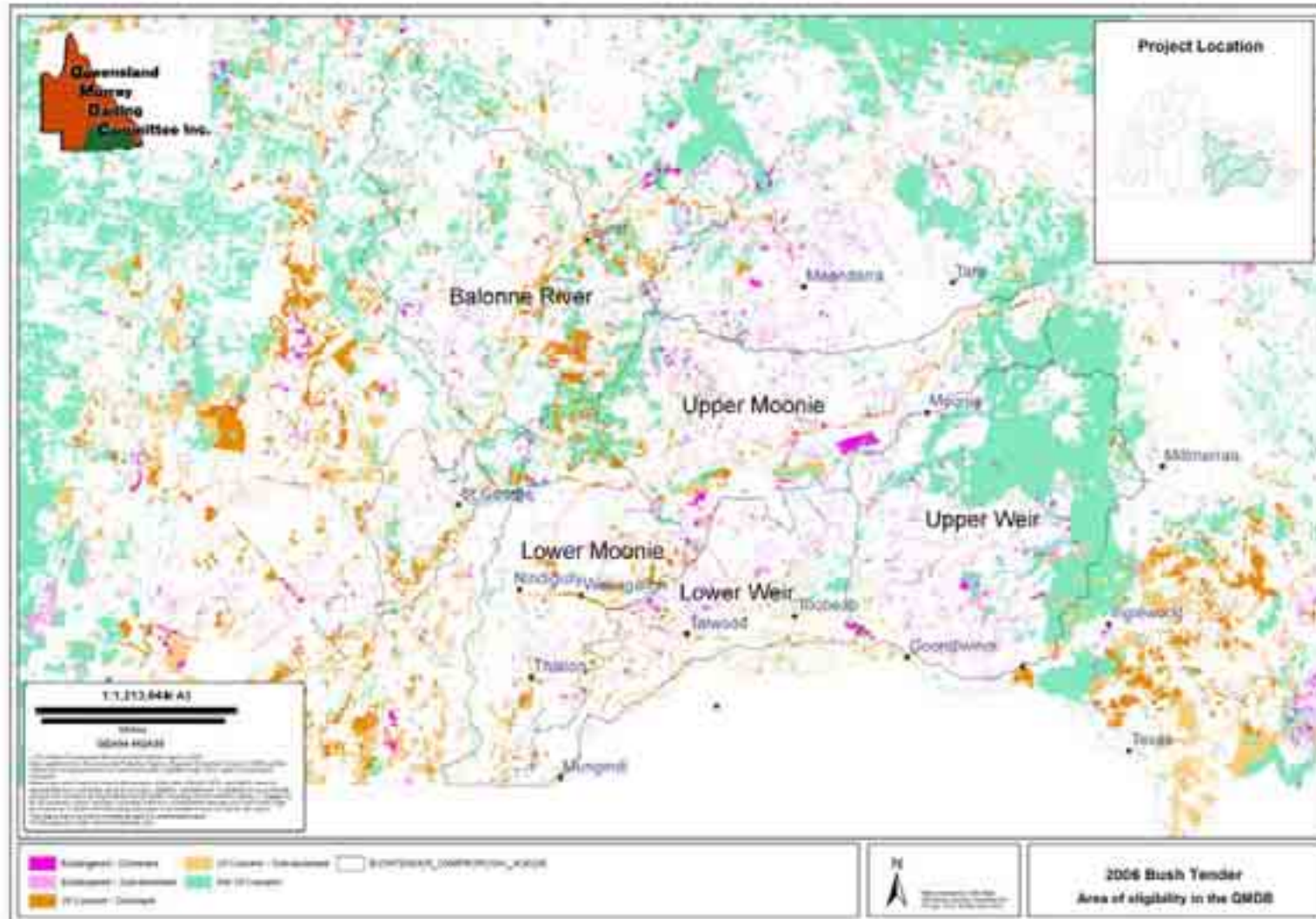
#### Management Principles & Activities

To maintain and enhance biodiversity across a landscape, it is important that vegetation areas are managed according to certain principles.

The principles that we believe are integral to achieving good biodiversity outcomes include:



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# In summary

- Importance of transparent and efficient process
- Building awareness and trust
- Positive Ambassadors
- Bush Tender another mechanisms to directly meet Nature Conservation Targets.
- Competitive “Bush Tenders” are cost efficient, and appeal to different landholders.
- Maintain links with other more ‘binding covenant’ programs

? What existence value nature?