



managing native vegetation and biodiversity

improving farm profits through biodiversity

LandWater & Wool

Shaping the future



Australian Government
Land & Water Australia

australian wool
another innovation
limited

research project: MIDLANDS TASMANIA



Our reputation for quality wool in the Midlands of Tasmania rides on the sheep's back - and on the health of our native vegetation

Tasmania's Midlands has a reputation for producing some of the finest wool in the world.

The region covers 400,000 ha of central northern Tasmania and sheep grazing is the principle agricultural activity.

The wool-producing enterprises of the Midlands are largely based on native vegetation (including grasslands) that are of high conservation significance. A key issue in the region therefore, is the integration of biodiversity conservation into sustainable grazing systems.

The Midlands community has identified that presently there are few means or incentives available to protect intact natural areas on private land from agricultural pressures, such as grazing, logging and cropping.

This project, *Integrating Biodiversity with Sustainable Grazing Systems*, will address these issues by focusing on the grazing and natural resource management practices of wool growers in the Midlands of Tasmania.

Land, Water & Wool (LWW) is a joint investment between the wool industry's peak research and development body, Australian Wool Innovation Limited, and the nation's premier investor in natural resource management research; Land & Water Australia.

Native Vegetation and Biodiversity

is one of eight *Land, Water & Wool* programs. The others are:






-  Benchmarking and Evaluation
-  Sustainable Grazing on Saline Land (SGSL)
-  River management and water quality
-  Managing climate variability
-  Managing pastoral country
-  Future woolscapes
-  Sustainable Grazing Systems Harvest Year



Photo courtesy of Louise Gilfedder

Project origins and objectives

The Midlands research project comprises two separate LWW projects, *Integrating Biodiversity with Sustainable Grazing Systems* and *Sustainable Sheep Grazing Systems for Riparian Landscapes*. The project aims to take a ridgetop to river approach on how wool growers may better manage the natural areas on their properties. This strategy recognises that the many parts of the landscape are linked and that an integrated approach to management is more effective than a fragmented one. This project is one of four regional projects in the *Native Vegetation and Biodiversity* sub-program of LWW.

This project aims to develop and promote the adoption of viable sheep grazing systems to achieve ecologically sustainable agriculture and the protection of biodiversity.

Specifically the project aims to:

- **investigate** the status and condition of the region's grassy ecosystems;
- **work** with wool growers to assess the impact of current and changing land use on species and ecosystems;
- **develop** tools to produce a regional vision of a sustainable landscape;
- **identify** environmental incentives for wool growers, including accreditation for environmentally-friendly wool;
- **encourage** adoption of grazing regimes which maintain and enhance biodiversity; and
- **conduct** a Statewide survey of wool grower management knowledge.



Australian Government
Land & Water Australia

australian wool
another innovation
limited

The Region

About 60 percent of Tasmania's wool is grown on native pastures. Approximately 900 Tasmanian wool growers manage a natural and semi-natural area of more than 500,000 hectares.

Working with wool growers

Wool growers, representatives from the community and ecologists, are invited to participate in this project to ensure it delivers key outcomes for the wool industry. Industry representatives are also participating in the project.

fast facts on Tasmania's Mid North

Native country grazed:

500,000 ha

Average annual rainfall:

450 – 900 mm

Number of wool growers:

900

Soil types:

Sands, clays and loams and alluvium

Key outcomes for wool growers

- **improved** understanding of the impact of grazing systems on conservation and production;
- **best** practice guidelines for managing native vegetation to enhance and protect biodiversity and productivity;
- **biodiversity** landscape mapping, including an inventory of native grasslands and grassy woodlands within the project area;
- **active**, informative network of wool growers in Northern Midlands with key stakeholder involvement in workshops, focus groups etc;
- **strategies** to help the wool industry to improve wool quality, develop niche wool markets and industry accreditation; and
- **greater** protection of lowland grassy ecosystems and quality native vegetation in upland areas.

Study Area

Much of the fine wool grown in Tasmania is produced in the shaded area in the map.

The study area is located in the region and includes wool growers from Launceston in the north to Oatlands in the south, Fingal in the east and Cressy/Longford in the west.



For further information, contact:

Kerry Bridle

University of Tasmania

Private Bag 78

Hobart TAS 7001

Tel.:(03) 6226 2837

Email: Kerry.Bridle@utas.edu.au

Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick

University of Tasmania

PO Box 252-78

HOBART TAS 7001

Tel: (03) 6226 2460

Email: j.kirkpatrick@utas.edu.au

Order information about other Native Vegetation and Biodiversity *Land, Water & Wool* Projects:

- **Making more from your native pastures** PF 030 477
- **Profitable wool production and improved native vegetation - a healthy marriage in Victoria** PF 030 478
- **What do native vegetation, quality wool and healthy profits have in common in the Northern Tablelands?** PF 030 479

Order by telephone

Freecall 1800 776 616 or telephone (02) 6293 8383.

Order online

lwa@canprint.com.au,

Search our online catalogue at www.lwa.gov.au and follow the link to 'Our Products', where you can either order online or print an order form.

or post to

CanPrint Communications

PO Box 7456

Canberra MC

ACT 2610

Visit us on-line at

www.landwaterwool.gov.au

project partners:

