



managing native  
vegetation  
and biodiversity

improving farm profits  
through biodiversity

# LandWater & Wool

Shaping the future



Australian Government  
Land & Water Australia

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## Making more from your native pastures

Sheep and woolgrowers manage more than 85 million hectares of Australia's land and water resources, from the high rainfall areas to the wheat/sheep belt and pastoral zone<sup>1</sup>. More than three-quarters (77 per cent) of all wool growers have areas of native bush, scrub or native grasslands on their properties, according to a national survey of 1500 wool growers.

The survey, which was commissioned by the *Land, Water & Wool* (LWW)\* initiative, also found that 68 percent of wool growers with native vegetation on their farm believe it is useful for production.

Considering these facts, the wool industry's long-term future depends to a large extent on balancing wool production with sustainable management of native vegetation. Achieving this balance is the challenge facing wool growers.



### Native vegetation can enhance wool production:

- Native grasses are a major production input (more than 60 percent of the pasture base on many properties).
- Native vegetation is an integral component of supporting clean and healthy waterways, creeks and streams.
- Deep rooted, perennial native vegetation prevents deep drainage, lowering the risk of dryland salinity from rising water tables.
- Native vegetation and biodiversity enhance environmental values of wool growing areas.
- Native trees, grasses and shrubs add value economically and socially.

In some situations, maximising wool production while using native vegetation sustainably means developing and adopting a different approach to natural resource management.

*Native Vegetation & Biodiversity* is one of LWW's major sub-programs, which aims to identify options to manage wool production profitably while helping to protect, sustain and improve native vegetation and biodiversity.

It will combine the practical experience of wool growers with scientific expertise to enhance the environmental values of wool growing areas, providing both economic and social rewards.

\**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* sub-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

<sup>1</sup> Australian Natural Resources Atlas: [www.environment.gov.au/atlas](http://www.environment.gov.au/atlas)



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Specific objectives of the *Native Vegetation & Biodiversity* sub-program are to:

- **improve** knowledge of the impact of grazing systems on native vegetation and biodiversity;
- **develop** best practice guidelines for managing native pastures and bushland in wool production landscapes in the high rainfall and sheep-cereal zones;
- **identify** incentive mechanisms to encourage public and private investment in biodiversity conservation on sheep-grazing properties;
- **contribute** to the development of accreditation schemes for 'environmentally-friendly' wool growers to build on the 'clean green' image of the industry;
- **provide** authoritative data to support the environmental credentials of the wool industry; and
- **seek** to identify native vegetation management practices to **reduce** the 'ecological footprint' of wool production on the environment.

This information will enable wool growers to maintain and enhance their native systems for the next generation.

### Working with wool growers

Project sites have been established in Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

These sites bring together local researchers and leading wool growers who are keen to combine their experience in native vegetation management. These projects will provide practical and cost-effective approaches to managing native vegetation systems with wool production.

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### Order information on other *Land, Water & Wool* Native Vegetation and Biodiversity projects:

- **Profitable wool production and improved native vegetation - a healthy marriage in Victoria** PF 030 478
- **What do native vegetation, wool quality and healthy profits have in common in the Northern Tablelands of NSW** PF 030 479
- **Our reputation for quality wool in the Northern Midlands rides on the sheep's back - and on the health of our native vegetation** PF 030 480

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