

Paddock Trees

Trees for Life

Paddock Trees

are the remnants of once extensive woodlands and are often the oldest living things in the landscape.

Across our rural landscape, paddock trees stand out as an iconic image, providing shade and shelter for livestock and maintaining the productive capacity of the land.



Paddock trees also provide an immense benefit to biodiversity by providing food, shelter and nesting sites for a large number of birds, bats, insects and small mammals.

Landholders can make a huge difference towards the sustainability of their farm and to the broader landscape by protecting and encouraging paddock trees.

Research shows that unless the management of paddock trees changes, most will be lost from our landscape within the next 100 years.

Why are Paddock Trees Disappearing

Scattered paddock trees overlap with the most productive areas of our grazing landscape, making them particularly vulnerable to grazing pressures. These large trees are disappearing due to:

Senescence - Many large trees are at the end of their lifespan and if regeneration is not encouraged these trees, their genetics and their habitat value will be lost from the landscape.

Mistletoe and Insect Damage: Stressed trees are in more danger of being attacked by mistletoe and insects such as Christmas beetles, sawfly larvae and lerps.



Clearing - for firewood, fences and access for wider machinery.

Fertilisers and herbicides change soil nutrient levels and herbicide drift can slowly kill seedlings and mature trees. Seed germination is also significantly reduced in highly fertilised soil as it is unsuited to native species.

Livestock contribute to paddock tree decline by ringbarking rough-barked trees such as Stringybark as well as eating seedlings. Their impacts can also be indirect through camping under trees which changes soil fertility, causes soil compaction and degradation.

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How can paddock trees be saved?

In recognising the importance of paddock trees on farms, landholders can protect and encourage paddock trees through:

- Fencing around selected trees to prevent damage and encourage regeneration,
- Avoiding fertiliser and cultivation near trees,
- Avoiding herbicide spray drift onto paddock trees,
- Leaving fallen timber on the ground as habitat
- Including paddock trees when designing revegetation sites
- Managing grazing to help young plants survive, and
- Controlling herbivores such as rabbits and hares.

Who is involved in the project?

This project is a partnership between the Riverina Highlands Landcare Network, Riverina Local Land Services and the Australian Governments National Landcare Programme.



What incentives are available?

Up to \$1,000 per property is available to landholders in the Riverina Highlands to protect and reinstate paddock trees. The project will assist with the costs towards:

Protecting Paddock Trees - large hollow bearing trees mature or dead can be fenced to minimise livestock damage and allow natural regeneration. Fencing off from stock followed by revegetation will extend the life and the habitat value of these trees.

The project will provide \$500 per tree for:

- Reimbursement for fencing materials to construct a 25x25m stock proof fence around an existing tree/s.
- Tubestock and guards to plant additional native plants in the fenced off area.

Planting New Paddock Trees by planting locally native trees and constructing individual paddock tree guards to prevent stock damage whilst the plants are growing.

The project will provide \$100 per tree for:

- Reimbursement for individual guards to be constructed of a cyclinder of sheep mesh or equivalent, 18m high and 1m wide and to be secured with 4 steel pickets.
- Advanced tubestock using species such as Blakelys red Gum, River She Oak and River Red Gum.

How can I become involved?

Landholders wishing to participate in the project will need to complete the Expression of Interest application form below.

LAND MANAGER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Name

Address

Phone No.ABN.....

Email Address.....

I am interested in: ☐ Protecting Existing Paddock Trees ☐ Establishing New Paddock Trees ☐ Both

Are you a member of the Riverina Highlands Landcare Network?

Please return this section to:Riverina Highlands Landcare Network
PO Box 3 TUMUT NSW 2720
Email: cherie.white@lls.nsw.gov.au or Fax—02 69474339