



SPECIAL CONSERVATION SCHEME

For Primary Producers

The Special Conservation Scheme is an incentive-based initiative to assist farmers within New South Wales to protect the States biological and physical resource base by completing certain conservation works on their property which they may not have otherwise undertaken.

PURPOSE: Funding by way of a loan is available to carry out those works that will have a significant beneficial impact on the land, the local community and the environment AND are not purely productivity based.

(Examples of acceptable works)

- Soil Conservation**
- Woody Weed control**
- Control of noxious weeds - (As defined in Schedule 3 of The Noxious Weed Act)**
- Serrated Tussock**
- Stock and domestic water supply**
- Cap and piping of Artesian bores**
- Up-grading/improving existing irrigation systems**
- Exclusion netting to prevent flying fox damage to existing orchards with a demonstrated flying fox problem**
- Hail Netting**
- Livestock effluent control**
- Refurbishment and de-silting of ground tanks**
- Planting of perennial species such as lucerne and oldman saltbush**
- Hay, grain and silage storage facilities that are permanent fixtures**

AMOUNT: A loan of up to 90% of the net, **GST exclusive**, cost of the works to a maximum of \$150,000. The net cost is determined by deducting the amount of any other Government grants relating to the proposed works.

INTEREST: The rate will be that applying at the date on which the loan is approved and is fixed for the term of the loan.

TERM Up to 15 years dependent upon the amount borrowed and applicant's ability to repay. ***Works must be completed within 12 months from date of loan approval.***

REPAYMENTS: Half-yearly repayments of principle and interest generally in line with applicant's cash flow.

SECURITY: Statutory Charge and registered caveat over the land on which the proposed works are to be carried out.

COSTS: There are no establishment or account keeping fees, however, costs for registering security documents and Government Stamp Duty will be borne by the applicant.

As part of the assessment process, the Authority will obtain title searches to confirm ownership of the land offered as security. This cost will be borne by the applicant whether or not the loan proceeds.

Applications must be in the name of the registered proprietor of the land on which the work is to be undertaken, and must be lodged before the works are commenced.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE ?

To be eligible you must:

- Be the registered proprietor of the property where the work is to be carried out AND be in working occupation of the farm.
- Show the farm enterprise under normal seasonal conditions provides the MAJORITY of your total GROSS income.
- Not have net assets exceeding \$5,000,000.
- Demonstrate that the works have a significant beneficial impact on the land, the community and the environment AND are not purely productivity based.
- Show that the works will complement or improve the natural resource base of the farming enterprise.
- Demonstrate that your farm enterprise has long-term viability and has the capacity to repay the loan sought.
- Provide satisfactory security to support the loan sought.
- Demonstrate, for hay, grain and silage storage facilities only, that under normal circumstances the majority of GROSS income is derived from livestock production and not from cropping.
- For both Noxious Weed Control and Serrated Tussock, provide a copy of the Local Control Authority's Management Plan for plants to be controlled or eradicated

The above information is a guide for prospective applicants. Full details can be obtained by contacting the Authority

EXAMPLES OF WHAT IS NOT COVERED BY THIS SCHEME

- Farm machinery and all vehicles
- Portable Silos, Field Bins or Grain Augers
- Stock yards , fences
- Buildings e.g. woolsheds, machinery sheds etc
- Use of own machinery or own labour
- Any work which is considered to be purely productivity based

HOW DO I APPLY ?

Application forms are available from the NSW Rural Assistance Authority by telephoning:

(02) 6391 3000 or
Toll Free 1800 678 593

Calls to "1800" numbers from your home phone are free. Calls from a public phone and mobiles may be timed and attract charges.

Or visit our web site
www.raa.nsw.gov.au

Application forms are also available from your local Rural Counsellor

Send completed application forms to:
NSW Rural Assistance Authority
Locked Bag 23
ORANGE NSW 2800