# APPENDIX 1: Minimum Standards for fencing and revegetation

In applying for funding, landowners and managers must agree to undertake works in accordance with the following Minimum Standards for the Peel-Harvey Catchment. Note that these are minimum standards and some local conditions may warrant higher specification works.

## FENCING MINIMUM STANDARDS

Funding granted for fencing is at a set rate per kilometre as per the Community Environmental Grant Guidelines to contribute to the purchase of new materials. Any fence is required to be constructed in accordance with local laws/best practice in your relevant local government area. These fencing standards are designed for stock control. Consult with your PHCC NRM Officer where fences are required for other purposes.

**Ringlock** – stock proof ringlock to 7 strands with galstar posts at approximately 7 to 8m spacing. A top plain wire may be required to make it 7 strands depending on the ringlock. Note: A top barb wire is required for cattle fencing.

**Plain wire** – 7 strands, with galstar posts at approximately 7 to 8m spacing.

- Where fencing in undertaken along a waterway, the fence must be placed at a minimum distance of 15m from the high water mark on that bank. If the waterway runs through the property, both sides of the waterway must be fenced.
- If a contractor is used to install the fence, the landholder is required to oversee any works undertaken by the contractor to ensure that the proposed works are undertaken in accordance with the Project Application & Minimum Standards.
- Fencing of native vegetation refers to remnants patches that contain some understorey and is of an appropriate size and has the potential to create links in the landscape.

*Note: Any requested variation to these standards must be submitted with the Application Form for assessment.*

## REVEGETATION MINIMUM STANDARDS

### SITE DESIGN AND SET-UP

- Shelter belts are to be a minimum width of 15m.
- When undertaking revegetation within the riparian zone, the vegetation buffer on each bank must be at least 15m wide. Recommended width is 30m. Preference will be given to wider riparian zones.
- Revegetation sites on private land must be fenced to exclude stock.

### TUBESTOCK PLANTING

#### Site Preparation

- Site preparation, such as ripping, and/or mounding, should be undertaken when the site is dry.
- Site preparation should be undertaken once stock have been removed.
- Weeds **must** be sprayed before planting takes place and weed must be effectively controlled up to the time of planting. Where couch and/or kikuyu are present, at least two applications of herbicide are

recommended. Applications of a knockdown herbicide and a pre-emergent herbicide have given the best results, allowing sufficient time for chemical breakdown so as not to reduce native species growing success.

**Tubestock and planting**

- All seedlings must be locally indigenous to the area.
- Seedlings are to be selected and planted according to soil type and topography.
- Composition of seedlings to be a minimum of 60% shrubs and to include a diversity of species, except where this may not reflect naturally occurring vegetation communities on the site.
- Minimum planting density of 1,500 seedlings per ha (in areas where there is no vegetation). Where prior plantings and/or natural vegetation is occurring the number of seedlings is to be discussed with your PHCC NRM Officer.
- There is to be a maximum spacing of 3m between planting rows.
- Upper storey seedlings to be planted at a maximum space of 3m apart. Smaller shrubs and ground covers to be planted at a maximum space of 1m apart. Tree guards should be used where rabbits and kangaroos are likely to graze within the revegetation area.

## DIRECT SEEDING

**Site Preparation**

- Site preparation, such as ripping, mounding, and/or scarification should be planned and undertaken to create optimal soil conditions for seed germination and seedling establishment (e.g. when the site is dry or sufficiently moist, but not saturated).
- Site preparation should be undertaken once stock have been removed.
- Weeds **must** be effectively controlled as part of site preparation through to the timing of seed broadcast. Effective weed control methods include use of herbicide and topsoil scalping. Where couch and/or kikuyu are present, at least two applications of herbicide are recommended. Applications of a knockdown herbicide and a pre-emergent herbicide have given the best results, allowing sufficient time for chemical breakdown so as not to reduce native species seed germination rates.

**Seed mixes and seeding**

- Revegetation sites on private land must be fenced to exclude stock as required to enable establishment and maintenance of revegetation.
- All seed must be of species indigenous to the area, with preference for local provenance seed. Where revegetation is establishing an area of mixed native species fodder, non-local Australian native species may be considered. Please discuss with PHCC NRM Officer.
- Use of seed of known provenance and quality from an accredited seed collector/supplier is strongly encouraged.
- Seed mixes are to be prepared and distributed according to soil type and topography.
- Composition of seed species to be a minimum of 60% shrubs and to include a minimum of 20 species in most settings. Minimum seeding density is to be at least equivalent to 1,500 stems per ha (in areas where there is no vegetation). Where prior plantings and/or natural vegetation is occurring the seeding composition and rates are to be discussed with the PHCC NRM Officer.
- Revegetation areas are to be free of weeds and vegetative material prior to broadcast of seed.

## SITE MAINTENANCE

The landholder is responsible for all aftercare and maintenance of the project site(s).

If the Application for funds is successful the land owner/manager agrees that:

- Fencing will remain in place in perpetuity to meet these Minimum Standards.
- Pest animals and weeds within the fenced area will be controlled.
- Stock will be excluded from the revegetation site in the first three years to enable plant establishment, and thereafter only introduced for limited (crash-graze) periods to reduce fuel loads and weed growth at an appropriate time using best management practices (i.e. before grasses set seed, limited to approximately two days). These methods will allow for the natural regeneration of native vegetation and will ensure that revegetation is not compromised.
- Chemical (i.e. grass selective herbicide) and other weed control methods may be used in the first three years of revegetation establishment to reduce fuel loads. Please discuss this during the application phase with a PHCC NRM Officer.
- Alternative stock management practices can be discussed with PHCC Officers where revegetation is establishing an area of mixed native species fodder.

***Note: Requested variation to these standards must be submitted, with the Application form, for assessment.***