



15th August 2016

Free trees for revegetation projects with Project Platypus

Project Platypus, the landcare network for the upper Wimmera catchment is asking landowners in the region interested in taking part in partially funded revegetation works to contact the organisation. Project Manager with Project Platypus Allistair Stephens said having an indication of landholders interested in improving their farm strengthens grant applications to fund revegetation programs across the upper Wimmera. “We are currently applying for a couple of major philanthropic grants to deliver revegetation programs in the region. We have been delivering revegetation projects since the inception of Project Platypus in 1994, which continues to receive high demand from landholders and is always well subscribed” said Mr Stephens.

“Despite popular belief that trees reduce farm productivity, studies actually demonstrate there are multiple benefits to planting and protecting remnant stands of trees. For instance, shelter belts provide increased shelter for stock, creating healthier and more productive animals. They can also improve crop yields by up to 25%, attract a range of birds which predate pest insects reducing a reliance on chemicals. Shelterbelts can also reduce chemical spray drift, increase plant pollinators, reduce salinity, water logging as well as wind and water erosion. Furthermore, shelterbelts and remnant trees increase the value of farms and improve aesthetic values and may be a potential source of income in the future for carbon and habitat off-setting” said Mr Stephens.

Mr Stephens said the Project Platypus revegetation projects fully fund the costs of trees and organise the labour required to plant the trees. Project Platypus provides partial funding for fencing costs; the greater the width of your revegetation project the more finance you receive. Landholders are required to prepare the site by spraying, ripping and fencing, with trees generally planted in July. “I’d encourage landowners in the Upper Wimmera landcare area to start thinking about areas of your farm that would benefit from shelterbelts, or areas of your farms that are of low production value that could benefit from trees” said Mr Stephens.

Expressions of interest close by mid-October. For further details, or to register your expression of interest call Project Platypus on 5358 4410.

End of release

MEDIA CONTACT:

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