



## MEDIA RELEASE

November 1 2013

### **Convert unproductive land on your property**

Project Platypus is offering landowners in the upper Wimmera Catchment the opportunity to convert unproductive, cold and windy areas of their property into revegetation sites with free trees as part of a new three year revegetation project.

Project Manager with Project Platypus David Margetson said their revegetation programs were generally well subscribed to and that expressions of interest needed to be received by early November to avoid missing out on the next planting season held each July and August. The plantings are ideal to be used as shelter belts, to improve water quality, bind, protect and nourish the soil as well as create habitat for wildlife. "Revegetation sites are ideal for areas of low productivity or fence lines that can act as wind breaks or shelterbelts for stock" said Mr Margetson. As well as providing free indigenous trees species, Project Platypus also helps pay for the cost of fencing the site. Landholders are responsible for preparing the site, which usually involves spraying, ripping and fencing. Once this is completed, Project Platypus arranges for the trees to be planted.

The three year project is funded by the federal government and is designed to connect the Grampians and Pyrenees through a series of corridors. "This means that the project is specifically targeted at properties that fall between the Grampians and Pyrenees ranges, so we're particularly interested in hearing from landowners in the Jallukar, Rhymney, Crowlands, Eversley, Elmhurst, Frenchmans, Barkly and Moyston areas" Said Mr Margetson.

Project Platypus is a community based Landcare network working in the upper Wimmera catchment supporting landcare groups and landholders across the region to improve catchment health. For close to twenty years, Project Platypus has built a solid reputation assisting landholders with weed and pest management, erosion control revegetation projects and remnant protection.

To find out if your property is eligible to take part in this years revegetation program, and for further details call Project Platypus on 5358 4410.

### **Insert photo**

Image 7185

**Caption** "A Paradise farmer used the free trees available from Project Platypus to provide shade and a windbreak for stock earlier this year."

### **End of release**

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