NORTHERN RIVERS CMA

Guide to Landholder Agreements

Understanding your NRCMA Agreement

The Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA) is delivers State and Australian Government investment into regional Natural Resource Management priorities through a range of on-ground projects and funding progams designed to help Northern Rivers landholder to restore, maintain or improve our natural resources. Often this support is provided under an Agreement.

What is an Agreement?

An Agreement is a written document for on ground works signed by the landholder and General Manager of the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA). The Agreement documents the funds invested, the works to be undertaken, the environmental objectives, the reporting requirements and the responsibilities of each signing party. Agreements usually include a map showing the area the Agreement covers.

Are there different Agreements?

There are three different Agreements depending upon the amount of funds the NRCMA is investing on the land.

1. Small Project Agreement: This is an entry-level agreement between you, the landholder and the NRCMA. It applies to project works up to the value of $5,000. It does not include a map, unless specifically requested by Landholder. Maintenance of the project for a two year period is required under a Small Project Agreement. Payment of funds usually occurs at Agreement signing before works commence.

2. Landholder Management Agreement (LMA). This is an Agreement between you, the landholder and the NRCMA for project works where CMA investment is valued between $5,001 and $15,000. Only the current land owner can enter into these agreements. When the property sells the new owner is encouraged but not obliged to continue. LMA's run for five years and maintenance of funded works is expected during that term. Payment of funds under an LMA may be staged and linked to key milestones or tasks.

3. Partnership Agreement (Property Vegetation Plan - PVP). This is an Agreement under the Native Vegetation Act 2003 between you, the landholder, and the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. The General Manager of the NRCMA signs the Agreement on behalf of the Minister. Partnership Agreements are triggered when NRCMA investment exceeds $15,001. In general these Agreements continue with the land for the term of the Agreement (called registered on title), providing greater security for management and protection of works. The standard PVP term is 10 years, however terms of 20 years and in perpetuity can be requested. Maintenance of project works is expected and payments of funds under a Partnership Agreement will be staged and linked to key milestones.

Why do we need Agreements?

The NRCMA has the responsibility for the management of natural resources in the catchment. Through investment with landholders, the NRCMA ensures that valued assets such as soil and native vegetation are protected. Agreements serve two main functions. They:

i) clarify exactly what the funds are for, the responsibilities of each signing party; and the actions and effort required to maintain the outcomes; and

ii) provide confidence for the community that funds invested are being used for the long term protection and maintenance of the environment.

What happens if my circumstances change and I cannot deliver what was agreed?

The NRCMA recognise there are many variables, such as extreme weather events, sickness and change of ownership, that can interrupt progress and affect a projects outcome. The NRCMA will work with you to fix any problems.

What happens if NRCMA investment on my land keeps accumulating?

If you have been successful in receiving NRCMA funds for several years and the total amount is greater than the dollar range prescribed for the Agreements above, you will be asked to enter into the next highest Agreement.

What support can I expect from the NRCMA?

The NRCMA will contact you from time to time to discuss how your project is going and to see if you need any technical or other assistance. You are welcome to call the CMA anytime.

Need more information?

- Go to www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au
- Email northern@cma.nsw.gov.au
- Phone the Northern Rivers CMA on:
  - (02) 66420622 Grafton
  - (02) 6676 7390 Murwillumbah
  - (02) 6627 0170 Alstonville
  - (02) 6653 0150 Coffs Harbour
  - (02) 6771 3450 Armidale
  - (02) 6561 4960 Kempsey

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Northern Rivers CMA CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Maintaining our catchments – Sustaining our future