



## Ground cover incentive project - Confinement feeding

Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) incentive funding supports our community to improve and manage the health of our landscape and build a sustainable future.

### About the project

This ground cover incentive project will assist landholders to prevent degradation of natural resources by ensuring that adequate ground cover is maintained across their property during periods of drought and adverse seasonal conditions.

The project provides training and financial assistance to land managers to construct farm infrastructure

(confinement feeding areas) that will improve grazing management and ground cover outcomes.

Confinement feeding areas are carefully selected spaces set up to hold, feed and water livestock at high stocking rates. These areas enable maintenance or improvement of groundcover levels and reduce environmental degradation.

### What sort of assistance is available?

Funding is available to contribute towards the construction of confinement feeding areas.

Landholders are eligible for a maximum funding amount of \$7,500.

The following activities can be funded:

- Water troughs, pipe and fittings, fencing materials, non-portable feeders, shade cloth shelters and trees (other infrastructure may be approved upon application and negotiation with LLS staff).

The following activities will not be funded:

- Bores, dams, pumps, labour, storage infrastructure (ie, hay sheds, silage pits, silos), tanks, portable feeders and earth works.

Funding will be delivered in two instalments:

- \$4,500 will be paid on commencement of the project
- \$3,000 will be paid on satisfactory completion of the project

Due to the anticipated high level of interest for funding, landholders applying for funding who meet the eligibility criteria will be placed into a ballot for the funding.

All successful applicants must watch the two pre-recorded webinars as part of their training, or have completed the StockPlan course in 2019 or 2020:

A-Z of confinement feeding -Webinar -Part 1

- <https://youtu.be/8nOQ1Jts3a0>

A-Z of confinement feeding -Webinar -Part 2

- <https://youtu.be/7A6nyK8zhjo>

Also referred to as 'droughtlots' or 'stock containment areas', confinement feeding areas are used for short term production or maintenance ration feeding.

Feeding stock in a confined area allows producers to provide full rations and for pastures to be rested.

It is a valuable drought management strategy providing many benefits.

Successful confinement feeding relies on good site selection, appropriate mob size and provision of nutrition.



Local Land  
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## What is in the package?

Successful applicants will receive \$7,500 in funding to assist in construction of confinement feeding areas and associated farm infrastructure that will improve stock management on their property during dry seasonal conditions (as planned in the workshops).

## What is the application process?

1. To be considered for funding, all proposed projects must meet the relevant project standards listed on page 3 of this factsheet.
2. Submit an online application for funding. Links to the application form are found below in the 'How do you apply' section.
3. Applications for funding will open on **Monday 5 September 2022** and close on **Monday 10 October 2022**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.
4. All applications received will be collated and assessed against the project standards.
5. Due to the anticipated high level of interest for funding, landholders applying for funding who meet the eligibility criteria will be placed into a ballot to be shortlisted for funding. Priority will be given to producers who have previously completed the training in 2019 or 2020.
6. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by **Friday 16 December 2022**. A Central Tablelands LLS officer will undertake a property visit to verify shortlisted applicants prior to funding being approved.

## How do you apply?

Complete the online form available on our website:

[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/central-tablelands/financial-assistance](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/central-tablelands/financial-assistance)



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Want to know more? Visit: [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centraltablelands](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centraltablelands)

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## Project standards - to be eligible for funding:

Your property must be at least 200ha.

Mixed farming enterprises must have a minimum area of 200ha of permanent pasture.

All participants must be up to date with LLS rates and any other financial and contractual obligations.

**Previous funding:** Landholders who have previously received funding relating to confined feeding programs will be ineligible for funding, however, are welcome to participate in the training.

**Current contractual arrangements:** Landholders with current Central Tablelands LLS agreements or previous Catchment Management Authority agreements must have completed their contractual obligations (including monitoring) to the satisfaction of the Central Tablelands LLS.

**Appropriate training must be completed:** Landholders must have attended one of the confinement feeding workshops run by Central Tablelands LLS or have completed the online training.

**10-year management agreement:** Landholders will be required to sign a 10-year management agreement that identifies the location and management of the confinement feeding area and other farm infrastructure improvements.

**Design:** Confinement feeding areas must be designed and constructed in accordance with guidelines set out in the Confinement Feeding Manual which will be provided to successful recipients.

Confinement feeding areas must be able to accommodate the property's core breeding stock, and must not exceed an area that is more than 5% of the total property area. Off-site water quality must be protected, low lying areas and drainage lines must be avoided to prevent runoff from entering creeks and waterways. A 500 metre buffer is recommended.

**Minimum groundcover:** Applicants must agree to retain all stock in confinement feeding areas until groundcover on the property/project area is greater than 70% i.e. if groundcover falls below 70%, all stock must be removed from existing pastures and stubbles and placed in the confinement feeding area until groundcover is increased to 70% on all paddocks to be grazed.

**Operation:** Confinement feeding areas must not be used as a commercial feedlot operation that is intended to rear or fatten more than 50 cattle or 200 sheep or goats – refer to the NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

**Water:** A permanent water supply must be available to secure water supplies to the site. Creeks, dams and rivers etc. within the confinement feeding areas are not acceptable.

**Earthworks – banks and sediment control:** Whilst earthworks will not be funded, any earthworks should be undertaken by a suitably qualified person.

**Troughs:** New troughs must have a gate valve to allow control of water. All valves must be covered to prevent stock from interfering with them.

**Polyethylene pipelines:** Any polyethylene pipeline laid must be buried to prevent destruction or damage from fire or UV light.

**Fencing:** All fencing needs to be constructed and maintained in a stock proof condition. Permanent conventional fencing must be a minimum of five lines.

**Completion of on-ground works:** All on-ground works must be completed by 30 May 2023.

**Maintenance of on-ground works:** All on-ground works constructed under this project must be maintained for the purpose intended for the duration of the agreement (10 years).

**Liability:** The landholder accepts full liability for stock health, workplace health and safety, public safety and all other risks associated with confinement feeding areas.

**Field day activities:** The landholder must make their project site available for either educational field day activities or case study promotional material. Any field days or case study material will be organised by Central Tablelands LLS.

**Monitoring and evaluation:** Applicants may be required to participate in annual monitoring programs in consultation with Central Tablelands LLS.



Want to know more? Visit: [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centraltablelands](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centraltablelands)