

# The Chronicle

## Farmers receive funding to improve land & water management practices

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FUNDING is now available to south east Queensland landholders for land and water management projects to help with sediment and nutrient management on their properties.

Applications are open for FarmFLOW Best Management Practice (BMP) Incentives in targeted catchments.

The FarmFLOW project is led by QPIF and funded by the Queensland and Australian governments' \$8 million SEQ **Healthy Country** Partnership program.

QPIF Sustainable Production Systems leader Brian Stockwell said applications were sought from primary producers in the Logan-Albert, Lockyer, Bremer and Pumicestone catchments who wanted to adopt best practices in sediment and nutrient management.

"Incentives funding are open to a range of farm types including graziers, horticulturalists and turf producers," Mr Stockwell said.

"Whether you are on a five hectare or 500ha property, if you are a commercial or semi-commercial farmer, you may be eligible for an incentive payment to improve farm management practices.

"This incentive program is aimed at improving and maintaining sustainable production by keeping soil and nutrients on the land while minimising the potential for off-site movement of sediment, and in turn protecting our waterways and wetlands."

Mr Stockwell said project applications should demonstrate an improvement in agricultural production as well as waterway health, which complemented existing Farm Management Systems (FMS), Grazing Land Management (GLM) or other Property Management Systems (PMS).

"The scheme will provide funding on average of \$3500 per property, however, larger projects or those with multiple properties may apply for up to \$10,000," he said.

"There are a range of incentives that could be funded. For example: fencing watercourses or wetlands; gully rehabilitation; establishing inter-row cover; canopy management; grassing headlands to create filter strips; improving nutrient efficiency through equipment upgrades; constructing sediment detention ponds; or enhancing the filter function of wetlands."

A new BMP 'ABCD' framework is now available for producers to assess their current practices and identify which of these may attract an incentive payment. QPIF extension officers are available to help with this process.

Applications open on August 31, and close on September 21.

To lodge an expression of interest for FarmFLOW Incentives contact QPIF senior project officer Sue Carstens on 5453 5813 or 0427 427 305 for an application kit.

For more information about **Healthy Country** visit

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