

# Property Management Plan – The ‘Big Picture’

Does not have to be done all at once – gradually build up and refine the plan over the course of months.

## Advantages of a Property Management Plan:

- Summarizes property information in one place.
- Shows long-term goals.
- It is a living/evolving document.
- Articulates priorities.
- ‘Ready to go’ if a grant round becomes available.
- Focuses on the broad picture, your aspirations and resources.
- Demonstrates you have thought deeply about your property, its infrastructure and environment.

## Priorities might include:

- Economic (cropping/animals).
- Environmental (regeneration and restoration):
  - Are there slip areas or critical erosion areas?
  - Are creek/riparian areas in good health?
  - Is there existing natural vegetation under threat?
  - Have historic practices caused problems eg soil compaction?
- Infrastructure items:
  - To support the business.
  - To support lifestyle (eg install solar hot water system).

## Example of Contents:

- 1. Site Description and History**
  - a. Landowner details and property location
  - b. Maps
  - c. Topography
  - d. Soils
  - e. Vegetation
  - f. History
- 2. Farm Action Plan**
  - a. Current land use
  - b. Future land use
  - c. Identification of priorities
  - d. Implementation strategies (funding & timing etc)
- 3. Legislation**
  - a. Chemical use
  - b. Occupation work and safety
  - c. Threatened species
- 4. Restoration Strategy**
  - a. Natural regeneration
  - b. Restoration work
- 5. Monitoring of Restoration Activities**
  - a. Log of in-kind work and expenses
  - b. Photo points
  - c. Monitoring bush restoration (species recording)
- 6. Education**
  - a. Courses/activities to improve my skills
  - b. Field days to showcase property to community
- 7. Appendices** (eg flora and fauna lists, weeds present, control techniques, threatened species on property)

## Some Resources:

- Mapping: eg <https://mapping.lismore.nsw.gov.au> and <https://www.google.com/earth/>
- *Subtropical Rainforest Restoration* (Big Scrub Landcare Group) comprehensive introduction to restoration techniques, native species and weed species. ISBN 0 9585439 2 5 eg <http://www.brushturkey.com.au/education/reference-books/>
- *Australian Rainforest Plants* (N & H Nicholson) Illustrated introduction to rainforest species and useful for identification of plants. ISBN 0 9589436 0 5 <http://rainforestpublishing.com.au>
- *Noxious & Environmental Weed Control Handbook* (DPI) includes list of many weed species and their control by chemicals. <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/weed-control/management-guides/noxious-enviro-weed-control>
- Short videos of woody weed & lantana control: <https://www.envite.org.au/useful-links/>
- Revegetating Streams in the Richmond Catchment (Landcare Australia, Land & Water Conservation). Brief planting guide to riparian vegetation. ISBN 0 7313 0314 8
- *My Native Garden* (LCC & Rous) free booklet from Tourist Information Centre, Molesworth St. containing useful planting lists for different domestic situations.
- *Bush Regeneration Recovering Australian Landscapes* (Robin Buchanan) Illustrated book of

# Site Action Plan – Defined, individual projects

Matching goals with resources/funding to result in identifiable outcomes.

- Identification of work site (eg for bush restoration.)
  - What are the objectives? Congruence with property goals.
  - What resources are available? (eg financial but your time as a resource)
  - What is the time frame? (eg one off or annual commitment.)
  - How much follow up will you do to a regeneration site? (eg if on-going commitment then good access to site and convenient location may be important.)
  - Do you have flexibility to do the work (kill weeds/plant trees/follow up maintenance) at optimum time?
  - Is the work supported by a grant? (If yes, select site/project that will show tangible outcomes within the time frame of the grant.)
- Monitoring



Large rock used as reference for these photos.

- Select photo points and take before photos and *set* intervals for follow up photos.
  - Use an enduring, recognizable object to reference photo.
  - Keep detailed records of in-kind hours, herbicides & equipment used.
  - When applying for a grant it is impressive if you are able to show a site you have worked on with associated records.
- Timeline for implication

## Example of Timeline:

- Tree planting by contractors – **May**
- Photos at 6 month intervals – **Jan, July...**
- Site preparation (eg spray weed grasses) – **Feb, April**
- After care (eg weed control) – **June, Aug, Nov**
- Field day – **Sept**

