

EcoTender Demonstration 2007/08

Standards for management - Rabbits

Information Sheet No. 8

Introduction

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) require certain minimum standards for rabbit management be adopted for use under the five-year EcoTender Management Agreements. Where required, landholders will need to commit to undertaking any proposed management actions in accordance with the identified minimum standard(s) below.

An integrated approach, using more than one method, is recommended as different methods will pick up different sections of the rabbit population at different times of year.

Please consult your local EcoTender Field Officer if you have any queries.

Baiting

All landholders will be required to comply with the current legislation *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*.

- Free-feed to determine whether the rabbits are feeding in the paddock or native vegetation.
- Use only hand-trail baiting with due care taken to minimise impacts on non-target species.
- Appropriate precautions need to be taken to minimise risk to the user and others (including notification to neighbours, warning signage, minimum distances to dwellings and waterways, etc.).

Removal of harbour

Removal of harbour provided by some weeds (e.g. Blackberries, Gorse etc.). Staged replacement of weeds by native shrubs may be appropriate on some sites.

Burrow fumigation and hand collapse

Fumigate burrows to kill rabbits (refer to Landcare Note - *Methods for fumigating rabbit burrows* or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au for further information).

While the landholder may hand collapse burrows, no ripping of burrows will be permitted within the EcoTender native vegetation site or zone. Note that mechanical ripping of burrows may be allowed in some revegetation sites prior to planting.

Shooting

- Shooting (where rabbit numbers are low or as part of an integrated approach to control).

Fencing

Where there is a high risk of rabbit invasion from areas adjoining the EcoTender site, the EcoTender field officer may recommend the use of rabbit-proof fencing to ensure that the site is protected from rabbit grazing. In such cases fences should be:

- 105 mm width/4 cm mesh diameter/1.4 mm wire diameter rabbit-proof netting.
- Support fence to withstand stock or native animal forces. Rabbit netting fixed so that it reaches at least 900 mm above the ground.
- Netting buried (to 170 mm depth) or laid down and secured with pegs, rocks or timber.

Health and Safety

It is the responsibility of the landholder and any employees or contractors under their direction to ensure that all rabbit control works are conducted according to safe minimum standards and in accordance with relevant legal obligations.

Further information

For further information on EcoTender please visit the DSE website www.dse.vic.gov.au or CMA website www.cma.vic.gov.au and search under "EcoTender".



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