



## ▶▶▶ Benefits of biodiversity - economics

The Economics of biodiversity is relatively unknown and generally difficult to quantify. However some research in the area of economics has been undertaken and the following table outlines some broad benefits to landholders as a result of the conservation of biodiversity values on their properties.

BENEFITS OF BIODIVERSITY	
<p>Aesthetics was a private benefit of native vegetation retention recognised by most landholders. Most of the aesthetic benefits were expressed in terms of visual amenity. 89% of Victorian respondents and 93% of NSW respondents identified aesthetic benefits.</p> <p>The attitude of respondents was that the presence of trees improved the attractiveness of the landscape, that the look of bare treeless paddocks and hills was highly undesirable, and in some cases that the trees had a spiritual, therapeutic effect.</p>	<p>Miles, C.A., (1998). <i>An Assessment of the On-farm Economic Values of Remnant Native Vegetation in North-east Victoria</i>. Honours thesis, School of Environmental and Information Sciences, Charles Sturt University, Albury.</p>
<p>Farms with good remnant vegetation cover increase in capital value. There was a 15% increase in farm value in one survey in the central west area of NSW.</p>	<p>Clowes, A., personal communication in McMahon, S., (1997). <i>Farm Ecology (biodiversity conservation) in Property Management Planning</i>. Farming for the Future. National Parks and Wildlife Service,</p>
<p>The Valuer-general valued the best vegetated farm at \$140ha more than the district (Booroowa) average value in 1996. In the Orange district there was a 35% premium over average values</p>	<p>Reported at the Remnant Vegetation Conference Orange, 1996 in Anon. (1997) <i>The Economics of Landcare</i>. C.B Alexander Agricultural College, NSW.</p>
<p>Under current management, about 53% of Victorian participants and about 82% of NSW participants were gaining a net economic benefit from their remnant native vegetation.</p>	<p>Lockwood, M., Walpole, S.C. and Miles, C.A., (2000). <i>Economics of Remnant Native Vegetation Conservation on Private Property</i>, Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation Occasional Paper, No /00, Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation, Canberra.</p>



Funded by:



action Salinity & Water AUSTRALIA



Natural Heritage Trust  
Fighting Corruption  
Helping Australia  
Achieving Economic Success

Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry  
National Landcare Programme



FSBD09 Produced by: QMDC, 2006  
For further information, contact QMDC on (07) 4637 6201 or visit [www.qmdc.org.au](http://www.qmdc.org.au)

While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, QMDC accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document.