

# Paddock Tree Guard Information and Landholder Agreement

Protecting self-sown paddock trees seedlings – or planting new ones – is one of the best things you can do to improve the natural health of your property.

## *Old paddock trees don't live forever!*

Trees which naturally regenerate will likely grow faster than those that are planted. Be selective about which ones to protect and choose healthy individuals in suitable locations.

## What you need to do and know:

- **Materials** - you will need 3-4 star pickets and wire to erect each guard.
- **Carefully select** which trees to protect, for example: Where do stock need shade and shelter?
- **Consider** guarding a patch of 3 or 5 trees in a clump to provide greater shelter, with each tree 10-20m apart.
- **Help wildlife** connectivity on your property by planting paddock trees to form stepping stones between other patches of vegetation (roadsides, waterways or remnant patches).
- **Birds** will favour paddock trees where they are within 100-200m of a larger block of native vegetation like a roadside.
- **If planting seedlings** dig a good size hole and break up the soil before planting. Plant trees at least 10m apart, to allow them to develop full, branching canopies. You may need to use a small guard within the larger guard to protect your tree against browsing by rabbits, hares, etc. Consider mulching around the base of the tree (but not touching the stem) to reduce weeds and help conserve water. Water well upon planting.



Photos: S Day

**Send us a photo!** Please take a photo(s) of your trees/guards installed on your property, and email/text to [janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au) 0418316169

### **Terms of agreement:**

- **You will need to supply steel pickets.** Each tree guard requires 3 or 4 steel pickets which are the responsibility of the landholder to supply.
- **Guarded trees must be native species indigenous to our area.** The guards must be used to protect planted paddock trees or to guard regenerating paddock trees. These paddock trees must be locally indigenous native species. We can help if you are unsure of which species to plant and where to get appropriate plants.
- **Guards must be kept around trees until they are robust enough to withstand browsing by stock (approx. 2 years for sheep or 5 years for cattle).** Once the guarded tree is established the guard can be relocated to guard more new paddock trees on your property. Keep reusing your guards!
- **Your tree will require watering during the first summer.** Please ensure that your plant survives and that our investment and your effort are returned with the establishment of a new tree.

