

technical guidelines .

IS THE COST OF CONSERVATION TOO MUCH TO BEAR?

ECONOMIC losses, uncertain outcomes and a lack of available labour and skills often make it difficult for farmers to adopt ecological principles and practices to sustainably manage their lands. Barriers like this mean limited prospects for wide-scale private adoption of conservation strategies and beg the question 'to what extent should landholders bear the public costs of conservation?' In an attempt to resolve some of these issues, economist Neil MacLeod from CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems (NSW) has been testing the viability of ecological principles for different vegetation communities. His team has used economic modelling to define costs for specific management activities. They suggest that beef production and biodiversity conservation might co-exist if alternative solutions and realistic approaches to breaking the barriers and problem-solving are employed.

More info - download fact sheet PF020205 from www.lwa.gov.au/products