



## 1. Actual Costs available through WIGs

In addition to the Standard cost capital items, financial support of up to 100% of eligible actual costs is available in respect of the following:

- Capital works required for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Natura features. These need **not** be restricted to the SSSI Regional Priority 09.
- Capital works for the eradication of rhododendron in all native and ancient woodlands. If the woodland is not native or ancient, then you will still be eligible for actual cost capital works if the area is covered by a Regional Rhododendron Control Strategy.

Actual Costs must only be submitted for operations and/or items that are directly related to the chosen WIG option and must meet the criteria set out in the guidance for [quotes & estimates](#) and [project expenditure eligible costs](#). Invoices and their supporting documents must be provided at claim stage.

**NOTE:** Actual Costs for designated sites carried out under agri-environment options are now restricted to set operations and payments are now capped to the rates detailed in the option guidance. Despite the SRDP website links incorrectly applying these rules over the last week in November to all options, **this does not apply to WIG options**. The website guidance and links are now correct.

## 2. Rhododendron activity within Ongoing Approvals

Rhododendron standard cost capital items are now available through the "Woodland Improvement Grant – Improving Woodland habitats and Species" and "Woodland Improvement Grant – Improving non-woodland habitats". To access Ongoing Approval eligibility, the applicant must enter through the forestry Regional Priorities of 14, 21 & 23. Through these WIGs, the applicant can then access the standard costs for rhododendron eradication **or** (if within the eligible areas at point **1**) enter actual costs for rhododendron eradication.

## 3. Contract Approvals prior to 31 December 2010.

The October RPAC round has now received Ministerial Approval and it is important that all cases approved have their contracts issued **before** 31 December 2010 in the IT system, if the contract includes Annual Recurrent Grant with claim year 2011. For forestry, this affects the Sustainable Management of Forests Options and the Farmland Premium and Maintenance elements of the Woodland Creation Options.

This also applies to all the FCS Ongoing Approval cases.

Case staff must ensure that the RPAC Decision is recorded on the Case file. For an Ongoing Approval case, the Conservator's approval must be recorded on the Case Notepad. In all cases the RPAC decision **and** the Ministerial Confirmation must be recorded on the I.T system

If the cases do not have their contracts issued by 31 December in the IT system, then we must ensure that all SMF options have 2012 as their first claim year. We can leave the Woodland

Creation Options with claim year 2011 as the initial planting can be claimed in 2011. However, you must keep a record of these cases and as soon as the Variations I.T program to de-couple the Farmland Premium and Maintenance claim year from the Initial Planting claim year is introduced in Spring 2011, a Variation to change the Annual Recurrent Grant to 2012 should be carried out.

#### 4. Variations for Woodland Creation cases Annual Recurrent Grants (ARG).

| <b>The claim year for the ARG must be the year following that for contract approval (even although you can claim your capital grant in the same year as contract approval). At present there is no function to capture a different year for capital and ARG ie an applicant cannot enter capital 2011 and ARG 2012]</b> |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| eg: Contract approved in 2010   | Capital claim payment as per contract claim year | ARG SAF claim payment as per contract claim year |
| Contract approved in the previous calendar year (or earlier) and WC planting carried out and the capital claim submitted before 30 June 2011  | ✓ for 2011                                       | ✓ for 2011                                       |
| Contract approved in the same calendar year as WC planting carried out and the capital claim submitted before 30 June 2011  | ✓ for 2011                                       | Variation Request Required *Δ for 2012           |
| If WC planting carried out and capital claim submitted between 30 June 2011 and end of year 2011  | ✓ for 2011                                       | Variation Request Required *Δ for 2012           |
| If WC planting not carried out until following calendar year 2012   | Variation Request Required * for 2012            | Variation Request Required * for 2012            |

\* - Variation requests are not guaranteed due to decisions required on funding availability as per RDC-RP Undertakings

Δ - IT have planned work associated with de-coupling the capital and ARG claim years. Until this is developed (estimated March 2011), applicants must claim their capital cost payments and receive payments before applying to vary their ARG to start in the following year.

**NOTE 1:** Failure of applicant to initiate a variation request may mean the loss of an ARG year as these requests will not be accepted retrospectively

**NOTE 2:** Please note that if you complete the SAF by 15<sup>th</sup> May to claim ARG in 2011 you must do this only with the proviso that you CAN complete the planting work by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011, otherwise you will not be paid the ARG for that year. If you are at all unsure about whether or not you will complete the planting by 30<sup>th</sup> June then you should request a variation for your ARG to the following year.