



Location: Berry, NSW

NRM Region: Southern Rivers CMA

Industry: Beef & Sheep farming

Issues:

- Erosion control
- Weed control
- Shelter for stock - wind
- Linking remnant vegetation

Landholder Vision:

- Create linking vegetation corridors across the property and provide shelter for our livestock

Funding:

- The Australian Government Envirofund is the local action component of the Australian Government's \$3 billion Natural Heritage Trust.



smallfarms.net.au
Small Farms and Rural Living Network

Southern Councils Group

The Project

This project involved the establishment of a 700m x 20m shelterbelt between two properties (1.4 ha with 1,200 tubestock).

The large shelterbelt will protect livestock from extreme winds, assist in wind borne weed control (fireweed) and improved pasture management.

Both properties, have de-stocked during the drought period, which has resulted in weed invasion and a decline in pasture quality.

Shelterbelt Design

The shelterbelt has been specifically designed to control wind borne weed species, and incorporates a small number of craft timber and bush tucker species, which the landholders can utilise in the future if desired. This project will be used to showcase the possibility of diversification of enterprises for small landholders on the south coast by incorporating multi-purpose plantings.

As part of this project both landholders will undertake on going weed control and will maintain their pastures with guidance from the local NSW DPI Extension Agronomist. The two main invasive weeds of concern are Fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*) and Croften Weed (*Ageratina adenophora*).

Planting

The planting of the shelterbelts occurred in two stages as a result of climatic conditions and available volunteer assistance. Unfortunately the area could not be ripped and prepared and individual spots were sprayed and dug using a portable posthole digger and shovel. While soil conditions were good, significant areas of granite rock self was discovered across the site, which made planting and on going survival of tubestock a challenge.

A Conservation Volunteer Australia (CVA) international team completed the majority of the planting and fencing in spring 2007.

Results so far

Initial survival rates have varied between 70-92% across the site. Majority of failures have been with the bush tucker species which struggled growing on the exposed ridgeline and in the northern area of the shelterbelt where wallabies grazed hard on planted tubestock. Follow up plantings will occur over the next five years as colonising species used for quick growth, will provide protection for the slower rainforest and bush tucker species.

Some of the original plantings in Spring 2006 are over 1.5m in height and quite visible in the landscape. On going maintenance of Kikuyu, Spear Thistle and Croften Weed are proving difficult, however both landholders are working hard to ensure the project is a success.

More Details

For more details about this project or to plan your own revegetation project, contact Andrew Britton, Small Farms Coordinator on (02) 4232 3200 or email abritton@southerncouncils.nsw.gov.au



A Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) team from the U.K. planting and fixing the boundary fence



Shelterbelt - 12 months after planting. Wallabies and secondary weeds have caused some problems for this project