

Riparian revegetation and weed control on Jerrara Creek, Jamberoo

Location: Jamberoo, NSW

NRM Region: Southern Rivers CMA

Industry: Beef / dairy farming

Issues:

- Water quality / nutrient runoff
- Animal health
- Riparian vegetation management

Landholder Vision:

- Improve the creek vegetation and keep livestock from entering and eroding the banks

Funding:

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



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Small Farms and Rural Living Network

Southern Councils Group

The Project

The purpose of the project is to protect the stream banks of Jerrara Creek and Terragong Swamp from (250 dairy / beef cows) stock, manage the amount of nutrients and sedimentation entering the Minnamurra Catchment area, remove environmental weeds and revegetate with local native tubestock.

Area 1: The project erected 600m x 5m wide 2-strand electric fence either side of Jerrara Creek, planted a mixture of local riparian species and removed environmental weeds through out the project site using an appropriate herbicide and control method.

Area 2: The project erected a 1.2km x 3m wide 2-strand electric fence along a significant drainage line on Terragong Swamp to protect and minimise erosion and nutrient loading of the swamp and Minnamurra Estuary Catchment.

Area 3: An addition to the project has been the establishment of a shelterbelt adjacent to Jerrara Creek, 184m x 3m wide. This was added to the project to provide shelter for livestock, weed control and create a link with riparian vegetation.

Planting and Results

This project has had some initial difficulties with fencing erected along Area's 1 and 2 greatly affected by a major flood in 2007. The landholder completed repairs to the fence and self-funded the replacement of some sections lost to flooding.

Planting in Area 1 and 3 were completed during Winter 2008 with local tubestock and mature rainforest species. This will ensure the project will be well established before spring / summer 2008-09 and allow species to respond to improved growing conditions.

On-going maintenance will be undertaken by the landholder to manage secondary weeds, kikuyu management and the hand removal of environmental weeds, such as Tobacco Bush, Lantana and Privet. Some damage occurred to the riparian vegetation during Spring 2009, due to livestock, however measures have been put into place to reduce the likelihood of this occurring again.

Additional Projects

Due to the results and flexibility of the Envirofund Project, the landholder will work with the Small Farms Network during 2009 to fence and revegetate 475m of Jerrara Creek north of the current project site.

Located on the main Jamberoo road, this project will demonstrate best practice and add value to other riparian revegetation work undertaken on nearby Fountaindale Creek.

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

