Landcare-led Landscape Resilience

Tools and data for restoration decisions

Whole Paddock Restoration

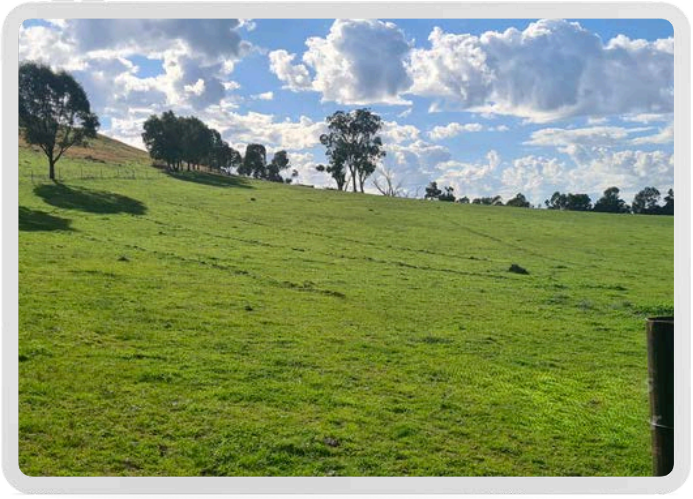
OBJECTIVES

In some circumstances, it may be more cost effective to do revegetation at the whole paddock scale.

If there is a change of land use, or the paddock is of low productivity, it may an advantage to take the whole area out of the production system for 3 - 5 years for natural restoration.

KEY STEPS

In this case the landholder ripped lines about 6m apart on the contour in areas where he would like to see trees re-established.
In this case the riplines were not sprayed and they were planted with trees, not shrubs as the intention is to graze the site again in 3-5 years.



Same paddock as above - can see the wide riplines that will be planted



Paddock near Holbrook - a smaller farm where the landholder has an opportunity to manage it differently. This paddock has been identified as needing more trees



An alternative to fencing was adding two small tree guard sites approx. 0.5ha total area.

COST CONSIDERATIONS

- Three - five years of lost opportunity cost varies depending on the land class and farm, and needs to be weighed up against:
- 50 trees with individual guards = $35 per cattle guard, 3 star pickets @ 10 each, tree approx $3325 in materials
- 50 trees in two tree guards approx 0.5ha - 300m fence @ $7.50 for materials approx $2310 in materials



A LOCAL NETWORK OF DEMONSTRATION SITES ARE BEING ESTABLISHED UTILISING 'BEST PRACTICE' RESTORATION AND REVEGETATION TECHNIQUES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE. THIS IS SHOWCASING OF THE POSITIVE ECONOMIC, PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF NATIVE VEGETATION RESTORATION, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR INCOME STREAMS FOR BUSINESS RESILIENCE.

KEY LEARNINGS FROM EXPERIENCE

- Think about the impact of native grazers as well as rogue stock
- Stock really need to be excluded for at least 3 years for sheep and five years for cattle .
- For unproductive paddocks, the long rest allows time to recovery and production may increase after the rest period



DON'T LET STOCK IN TOO EARLY!

Whole paddock restoration can be a way to combat increased land degration problems by restoring paddock health.

www.revegetation.org.au

Australian Government | Future Drought Fund | Murrumbidgee Landcare Incorporated | Holbrook Landcare Network