Landcare-led Landscape Resilience

Tools and data for restoration decisions

Revegetating waterways

Waterway fencing improves:

- nutrient management
- erosion management
- habitat and biodiversity value
- Water quality

Here are three sites that demonstrate some of the considerations

CONFIGURATION

Streams naturally meander and don't necessarily lend themselves to straight fencing.

The more bends, the more strainer assemblies and the more cost



This is a demonstration site at 'Goolahbah' Little Billabong

MANAGEMENT

Seek advice before ripping and spraying complex planting sites to avoid potential erosion and impact on cultural values and check requirements for permits around waterways. Spot spray for weed control to avoid contaminating streams and creeks. Planting shrubs may be required for the top of banks as well as using aquatic plants for instream plantings, these need to be planted by hand. Long-stem planting may be used in sandy banks.



This is a demonstration site at 'Lockerbie' Little Billabong

HOW WIDE IS WIDE ENOUGH?

Wide buffers for fencing waterways/creeks are best. Aim for at least 20m from the banks edge on either side, this will help stabilise banks and reduce bank erosion. Consider fencing materials that can manage potential flooding or inundation – avoid mesh, hinge-joint and ringlock, which catch debris and are hard to repair if damaged.



This is a demonstration site in the Upper Jerra Jerra Creek, Cookardinia

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

- 100% groundcover (even if it is Phalaris or other exotic grasses) will help to stabilise erosion and filter run-off
- Revegetation on the top of the bank is great for terrestrial species and shading the creek
- revegetating the fringing vegetation along the toe of the bank is desirable
- We will see how this demonstration site progresses



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.



COST CONSIDERATIONS

Including the in-kind estimates

- 'Lockerbie' total costs were around $4000/ha
- Upper Jerra Jerra costs around $10500/ha
- 'Goolahbah' costs were around $8200/ha

WIDER IS MORE COST EFFICIENT

Of course cost efficiency is only one of the factors in deciding how to configure creek fencing - all decisions need to be balanced with production needs

The buffer around waterways is known as the 'riparian zone'. These are the most productive areas in the landscape for farming, but are also for wildlife – they have higher productivity for biodiversity than the hilly areas with poorer, drier soils

www.revegetation.org.au

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