

# Agriculture Recovery Update

Stewarton, Lake Rowan and Creightons Creek

January 16, 2015

Edition 2

## Sediment traps have worked a treat!

In the last week there have been reports of 40 to 60 mm of rain falling across the region. Leading up to the rain there were concerns that heavy rains would lead to erosion events and debris getting into dams and water ways. Thankfully there weren't many reports of this happening as the rain fell fairly gently and over several days.

Leading up to the rain there were 2 demonstrations of sediment fencing set up to protect dams and water supplies, one at Mark Radford's at Creightons Creek and another at Doug James' at Boweya. Doug recorded about 30 mm of rain over the weekend so his traps weren't tested as much as at Mark's place where he received 50 mm of rain.

The traps were set up in a fish bone shape progressing up the slope and so the water running off the first trap would hit the second and so on, Mark's traps managed to collect around 50 mm of sediment in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> but not much in the 3<sup>rd</sup> which meant they coped really well with the rain over the weekend.

If you are interested in setting up some traps of your own and would like some assistance please contact Kerri Robson (Gecko Clan) 0418 140 710 or Greg Bekker (DEDJTR) 0417 340 236



## Fencing for the future

How to make your fencing faster, easier and safer were the key messages out of a fencing field day held at the Kelly's place at Creightons Creek on Wednesday Jan 14. The guys from Waratah showed some of their products as well as sharing a few tips and tricks on making fencing easier and safer.

There is more than one way to design a fence was a big message out of the day and taking a minute to stop and think about what you actually want that fence to be able to do is really important. There was good discussion on different designs for sheep, cattle, kangaroos and wombats.

From tying knots to installing end assemblies to how to use a pneumatic post driver, around 60 people came and participated in the day, building around 200m of fence in a couple hours.

There was discussion amongst producers about how following the fire is a perfect opportunity to re-design your fence lines. If you are finding yourself having to replace a large percentage of your fences it may be a good time re-think is that fence in the right place. It may be the opportunity to build in some laneways, change your paddock layout or subdivide some paddocks for easier rotational grazing. The team at DEDJTR can provide you with an aerial map and help you think these questions through.

Thanks to the guys at Waratah and Gecko Clan for organising the day, for more information on re-designing your fences contact Greg Bekker (DEDJTR) 0417 340 236 or Brad Costin (DEDJTR) 03 5784 0609



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## How much feed do I need to get to the Autumn Break?

Feed budgeting was the topic of conversation at Gooramab Hall on Thursday Jan 15. A small group of landholders and service providers got together to develop their own feed budgets from now to the autumn break.

Using a very simple one page template producers were able to answer a number of questions to help them with their decision making going forward. Questions such as how to prioritise animals, different ways of mobbing animals for feeding, how much energy and protein do they need, how much feed will they eat and how much is it going to cost me.

Within an hour everyone had a shopping list of what quality hay or grain they needed to buy, how many tonnes they needed and roughly how much it was going to cost them to feed through to the autumn break.

Everyone on the day made the comment that they had been thinking about it a lot and in many cases causing them stress or anxiety, but after putting it down on paper and talking through different strategies they felt much more comfortable about their decisions and plans.

The next session on feed budgeting will be held at Creightons Creek within the next 2 weeks. If you can't make it to one of these sessions or think you need help sooner please don't hesitate to call Ashley Paech (DEDJTR) 0408 562 983

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## Register with Blaze Aid

Blaze Aid are doing a great job in the area with helping land holders to remove and replace fencing burnt out by the fires. They rely heavily on volunteers to come and assist with the clean-up and restoration efforts which also takes a lot of time and coordination to run the teams of volunteers.

In order to make the planning and coordination easier producers need to register if they would like to receive assistance from Blaze Aid. If you haven't already registered and you think you would like assistance from Blaze Aid, even if you're not ready for them now but down the track you would like help please call Jamee or Christine (Thoon) 0447 252 931 or Barry (Longwood) 0488 018 624 to register your interest.

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