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IMPROVED WATER QUALITY HAS A FLOW ON EFFECT

Outside of Bathurst, Janet and Doug Moore manage a mixed farming enterprise on their property "Bidgeeribbin" and they have embarked on some major environmental works to increase water quality and address the serious erosion problems on their land.

Land manager, Janet Moore said, "When we first arrived over nine years ago we were horrified with the massive soil erosion and gully problems."

"We were successful in receiving funding from the Central West Catchment Management Authority (CMA) in 2006 and commenced on ground works under the helpful guidance of CMA Catchment Officer, Clayton Miller who works from the Bathurst office."

The environmental project aimed to improve water quality as sand and soil would travel down the gullies when it rained and cause serious erosion problems.

The project involved 1.8km of riparian fencing which excluded grazing from 5.4km of gullied area, this created 36 hectares of riparian corridors that was managed for erosion and sediment control.

Four Gully Control Structures (dams) were constructed with concrete drop inlet spillways and trickle pipes. These structures improved the water quality by alleviating active soil erosion/gully heads therefore trapping sediment and regulating down stream flows.

To revegetate the site over 3000 native trees and shrubs were planted, creating a significant riparian corridor down two drainage lines with effective wind breaks that established shelter for bird movement.

"Since fencing of the area we have achieved full plant cover which has addressed the erosion problems and when it rains there is no sand run off, which ensures that the water entering the river is clean," Janet said.

In summary the environment project certainly decreased the amount of sediment and nutrients travelling downstream into the Campbell's River which helped to improve Bathurst's water supply. Other project benefits included an increase in vegetation and biodiversity outcomes that maintain habitat values and create a wildlife corridor linking existing remnants across the property.

"The works undertaken have been successful in achieving the projects environmental objectives by reducing the sediment in the water which has resulted in improving the overall health of our natural resources with a flow on affect downstream," CMA Catchment Officer, Clayton Miller concluded.

For more information on the Central West CMA on ground environmental projects visit our website: www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

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