

River Rehab Case Study

Revegetating land for the survival of the local Dunnart population



Work undertaken in 2020

- 3km fencing installed
- Stock excluded from 18Ha
- Site prepared for planting through ripping and mounding
- 12,800 stems hand planted

Why was the project undertaken?

We wanted to rehabilitate the drainage lines as we believe they have the most to contribute to regeneration throughout the landscape. We can turn a wasteland into something productive and create ribbons of green for wildlife.

Were there any challenges?

The site was planted in August 2020 into moist soil. However following some Spring rainfall the summer was dry with 5-6 months of little to no rain. We were quite worried about the survival rate but it has turned out well.

Community Awareness

I remember seeing dunnarts as a kid but some of the younger generation and those who have recently moved to the area were not aware that they were here.

After 6 months of no success in trying to capture evidence of dunnarts through the State NRM Project, I managed to take a photo of a dunnart under a piece of tin in a paddock during seeding. The sighting and photo created a lot of interest and talk. It also led to those involved in the project to reassess where they were placing motion cameras.

Working with MIG and Ian Pulbrook, of Greenoil Tree Nursery, we have created a template which seems to be working and would like to continue throughout the property

Rod Quartermaine

Rod & Jaqui Quartermaine *Green Brook Catchment Irwin River*

Property Name: Alstan

Achievements:

Reduced Erosion

No sediment lost from site since planted

Improved habitat

80%+ survival of stems planted

Natural regeneration of riparian vegetation



The Quartermaines have observed Dunnarts and Black Cockatoos among the wildlife in the area



natural resource
management program



The Revegetating Land for the Survival of the Local Dunnart Population Project was supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program through the Community Stewardship Grants 2019 - Small



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Learnings from the Project

The earlier in the season the site can be planted the better. It can get too wet in mid winter and we had to wait until later in the season.

We are aware of the need to protect the site from fire. The mounding process to create beds has done a good job of increasing the survival of seedlings but it does

limit vehicle access throughout the site. We have left a fire break inside the fence but going forward will give more consideration to access throughout in case fire suppression is required.

Something to also watch going forward is that we have found some well established and apparently healthy plants die. We wonder if a lethal dose of salt from the soil surface was washed down to the root zone during a storm. Prior to the storm they were looking good and died after.

We have given consideration to food species for local wildlife and look forward to seeing the plants mature.

The Project was definitely a success. A key is species selection and including lower, middle and upper storey species.
Rod Quartermaine



**Natural
Regeneration
Volunteer riparian
vegetation**

**Small-leaved Bluebush
Bladder Salt Bush
Spiny Flatsedge
Samphire**



Photo Point 1



Pre work



March 2022

Unfortunately the Ice Plant in the foreground of the Photo Point does not do justice to how great the site is looking in March 2022