



Project RENEW

Regenerate Environment Nurture Engage Wellbeing

Project RENEW Report 1-2013

Overview:

Momentum is building for Project RENEW. Significant progress has been made in the last few months. A Strategic Plan has been developed and published on the Northern United Forestry Group website. A work plan has been drafted along with fact sheets for both farmers and corporate audiences. A work site has been identified (located at Dunluce through the Wiseman family) with gully erosion being the main issue to work with. We are currently working with these very cooperative farmers to develop the next steps of this project which includes getting the local community interested to a point where participation is a given.

Specific activities:

A strategic plan detailing the things we want to do and think about how we might work together through a collaborative approach has been developed and published on the Northern United Forestry Group website (<http://www.nufg.org.au/Project%20RENEW.htm>).

A fact sheet for farmers and an investment prospectus document for potential investors have been drafted and are close to finalisation. These will be used to raise awareness of the project, explain what we are about and to be used as a reference for potential investors after funding conversations.

Project RENEW uniforms (business shirts and jumpers) have been ordered for the Project Manager as well as Steering Committee members.

A site visit to the Wiseman property at Dunluce took place on the 16th of October. Project RENEW was discussed and opportunities for learning, sharing and problem solving with a particular focus on gully erosion. This has progressed to Project RENEW's first worksite, a very exciting development. As a starting point for work on the Wiseman property, SWEP have agreed to offer 30 standard soil tests completely free of charge - we get electrical conductivity, pH, cation exchange, total organic carbon etc. Soil testing will commence shortly.



A further meeting with the Wiseman family occurred on the 21st of November to discuss restorative options and provided an opportunity for both parties for further understanding of the RENEW project including the social aspect.

A business case is currently being developed for investment into finding and implementing a new and long term solution to gully erosion across Victoria. This will be distributed among the steering committee for comment.

Colin Seis (pasture cropping guru) and Graeme Hand (establishing perennials-STIPA native grasses association) have been contacted to seek knowledge/ideas for solutions to gully erosion. Further discussion will occur with these men or their recommended contacts.

A request for a member of the HMST to be a part of the RENEW steering committee has been made. A lengthy process is involved for this to happen and may not be as soon as hoped.

The Project Manager has been having regular meetings with John Martin and Brad Jorgenson of La Trobe University to discuss many items in regards to Project RENEW, primarily the integration of social research into the works program.

Jenny Pendlebury, James Williams and Joel Spry attended a meeting with Sustainability officers from North West Victoria earlier in the year. RENEW will present on the project and progress at the next meeting of this group in Castlemaine on the 15th of November. Potentially, there are many opportunities for project partnerships within this group.

Applications have been made to the Maldon and Inglewood Community Banks for funding for on ground works. The Maldon Community Bank has advised Project RENEW that the bid was unsuccessful and we are still awaiting a response from the Inglewood Community Bank.

Financial:

The North Central CMA is yet to invoice La Trobe University for any payments for project management. This will happen shortly. HMST has provided 2 of 3 payments for the project.

Issues for discussion:

Funding strategies

Reporting frequency

Projected activities for next period:

Continued community relationship development

Business case finalisation

Funding approaches

More sites identified

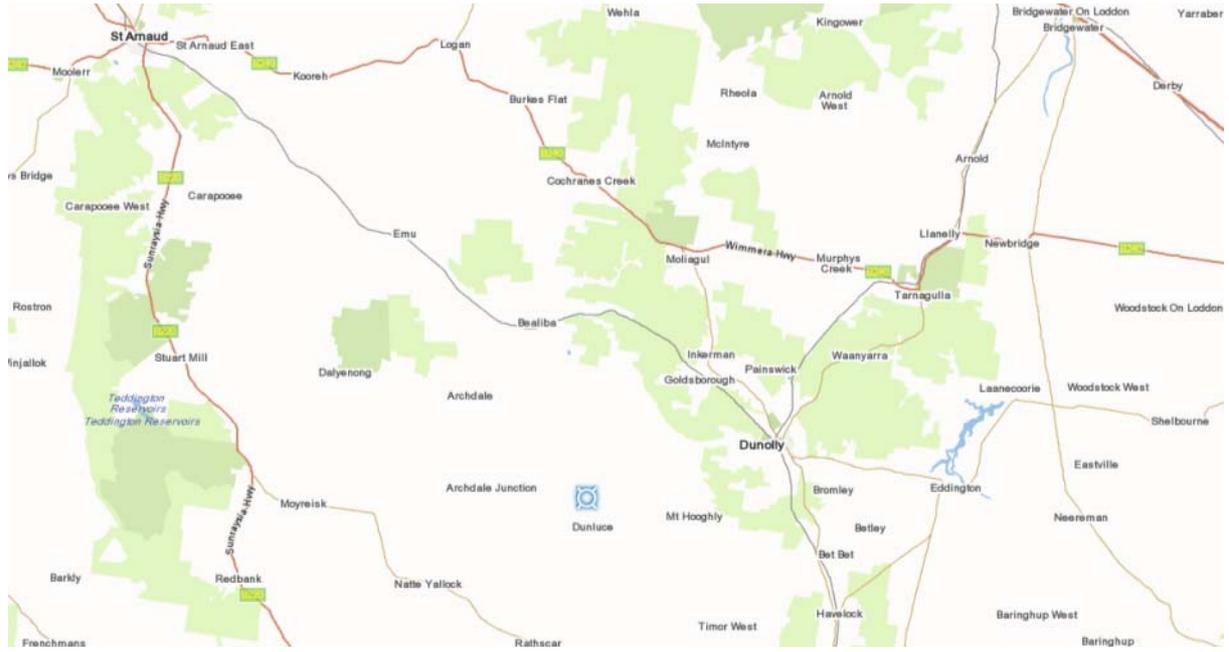


Figure 5-Map showing location of Dunluc



Figure 2-Potential land use change to eliminate gully erosion



Figure 1-Alex Wiseman (right) and Dan Mullins



Figure 4-Gully erosion damage on Wiseman property



Figure 3-Previous attempts to minimise gully erosion damage