

Sustainable On Farm Waste Management

The Sustainable On Farm Waste Management Campaign is a partnership between Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW) and the Namoi Catchment Management Authority (CMA). The objectives of this campaign are:

- * Diversion of waste from the rural environment;
- * Encourage the remediation of eroded gullies and surrounding land; and
- * Provide the farming community with education on sustainable waste management practices

As part of the program, NIRW and the Namoi CMA worked with a local property owner who had recently purchased a property near Curlewis and had 'inherited' an on-farm waste dump. The rubbish was removed and the site has been rehabilitated and now serves as a model for this campaign.

The following is a series of before and after photographs highlighting the work which has been carried out.

BEFORE:



Fencing wire and posts, old gates and pieces of old farm equipment had been stockpiled in this eroded area of the gully for a number of years, possibly with the original intent of stopping any further erosion of the area. The larger gully area adjacent to the dump site was badly eroded and was not only an eye sore, but was also a danger to any cattle grazing in the area.

DURING THE CLEAN UP - STAGE ONE (Rubbish removal):



6 tonnes of scrap metal was removed from the gully area using an excavator (any non-recyclable residual material would be disposed of at the nearest Council landfill). The bucket was then used to batter down the sides to ensure the area was safe in the event that cattle entered the area prior to the remaining earthworks being carried out.



STAGE TWO (Earthworks):



After the clean up, the site needed to be rehabilitated. In order to ensure that the work was effective and to prevent any further erosion, the extended gully received a facelift and a gully block/silt trap was formed.

AFTER (Four weeks later):

The new gully block/silt trap will capture valuable water which can then be put to good use on the property. Grass seeds were planted and the area has been fenced off to prevent cattle damaging the area while the grasses are being established. Trees will also be planted around the area.



**For more information on this project, contact the
NIRW Project Coordinator on (02) 6767 5449.**