

# The Nuts and Bolts



# Corner Inlet Connections South Gippsland Landcare Project 2011/2012



### How do I get involved?

Arrange a time for the Landcare Project Officer to visit and discuss your project and details further by completing and returning the enclosed expression of interest form or call and speak with the Officer directly on 5662 5759.

### What is the management plan?

The management plan is a plain language document confirming your commitment to finish your project by the end of the funding arrangement. It is not meant to trip you, but simply outline what you want to do and when you will do it by.

### How long will the management plan last for?

The management plan extends until the end of the project, with an ongoing commitment by the landholder to maintain the work.

### How will I be paid?

After signing your management agreement, you will receive 50% of your funds. Once you have finished your project and it has been sighted by the Project Officer, you will receive the final 50%. You must also take a before and after photo of the project in order to receive this funding.

### How much will I get paid?

If your project is successful the South Gippsland Landcare Network will fund:

- Fencing (fencing rate to be negotiated based on project specifics)
- Tubestock - \$1.00/tubestock

Funding may also be available for weed control where it is deemed as an integral part of the project.

### What about my weeds?

The project requires that certain minimum standards for weed management be adopted for use under your management agreement. Weeds should be controlled or eradicated to the standard requirements of the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994. For more information go to the South Gippsland Landcare Networks weed website [www.southgippslandweeds.com.au](http://www.southgippslandweeds.com.au)

### What are the fencing requirements?

Fencing design and erection must be to a standard that is stock proof, permanent and acceptable to the inspecting officer, with well-constructed strainers and end assemblies. Examples of suitable fencing could include:

*Standard fencing*- 4 steel posts per 20m, 5 plain and 1 barbed or 6 line pre fabricated fence

*Electric fencing* - 2 treated pine posts and dropper per 20m, 5 plain wires (3 line, 2 earth)

*Beef*- 4 strand plain, with minimum 2 electrified

*Dairy*- 3 strand plain wire electrified

*Sheep* - 6 plain wire with any 2 electrified

*Other eg flood areas* - 3 plain wires electrified

Please read our fencing guidelines or talk to the Project Officer for further details.

### What are the tax implications?

Project payments are viewed as taxable income. Please contact your accountant to discuss and work through how to manage the payments as part of your overall property management expenditure.

### What if I change my mind?

Landholders can withdraw from the process at any time without obligation up to signing the management agreement. If the process is withdrawn from after this, the Landholder will not receive the second half of the funding allocation, and the first payment may have to be refunded decided upon by a case by case process.

### What are the vegetation requirements?

Landholders proposing to re-vegetate will be required to plant suitable local indigenous species. A list of suitable species will be provided by your Landcare Project Officer. This is in order to achieve the greatest biodiversity potential possible.

### What if I want assistance with works on a major waterway such as Agnes River or Franklin River?

Please contact the WGCMA Operations team; Alan McDonald on 0407 850 395 or Ken Holland 0429 144 959.

Information for landholders in the Corner Inlet catchment area



The South Gippsland Landcare Network is proud to be involved with the Corner Inlet Connections Program in 2011/2012. Funding is available for gully/drainage fencing and associated revegetation. Aiming to improve farm productivity along with the health of the Inlet. We are seeking willing landholders to take part in this project.

This Network project is part of the overarching *Caring for Our Country, Corner Inlet Connections Program 2010-2013*. The Program strives to improve the health of the Corner Inlet catchment through improved land management practices. It is also about strengthening links between the land, water and people in this unique and special landscape.



Information on this brochure sourced from ; Price. J. 2002. *Better Management of Surface Water in Intensive Grazing*. NRE/NHT Project. Department of Primary Industries Victoria

# Corner Inlet Connections South Gippsland Landcare Project 2011/2012



## What is the Corner Inlet Connections project?

Whether you live, work or visit here– you are connected to Corner Inlet. This project is about strengthening the links between the land, water and people in this unique landscape.

Corner Inlet itself is in relatively good condition, however there are community and agency concerns around the impact catchment practices are having on the health of the Inlet. Sediment runoff and nutrient loss through intensive farming impacts on the rare Broad-leaved Seagrass meadows that the Inlet's marine communities depend upon.

The Corner Inlet Connections project aims to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrient lost across the catchment by supporting private land managers to fix or prevent gully erosion. Areas will be identified on a case by case basis for fencing and/or revegetation using indigenous species and/or reclamation works.

## What area does the project cover?

The target area is the Corner Inlet Catchment (see map below).



The area in blue is the Corner Inlet Catchment. Land managers in this area are eligible to participate in this project.

## I do not belong to any Landcare group, can I still take part?

Yes. As this project is funded through the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) any landholder in the Corner Inlet Catchment area may take part.

To take part in this project complete and return the enclosed Expression of Interest Form or for further details contact Kate Williams, South Gippsland Landcare Network on 5662 5759 or 0428 317 928

## What projects will be preferably funded?

Priority will be given to projects that control active gully erosion and nutrient loss. In particular, gullies that feed into the following sub-catchments;

1. Agnes River
2. Franklin River
3. Stockyard Creek Bennison Creek & Far western tributaries.

Please note: From a *nutrient management* perspective Stockyard Creek, Bennison Creek & Far western tributaries are higher priority. From a *sediment management* perspective Agnes and Franklin Rivers are higher priority.

## Is there a minimum site size to be eligible for the Corner Inlet Connections Project?

Yes. The minimum width for revegetation must be at least 10m wide.

This is due to the 'edge effect.' Edge areas are where revegetated blocks interact with the surrounding environment and as they are exposed to wind, sunlight, invasive of exotic plants etc. Too much edge area is bad as it generally forms a uniform environment and does not form a diverse natural environment to support biodiversity. The wider the site, the lower amount of edge area there is and the more species it can support. Ten metres is the minimum width that promotes a low proportion of vegetation directly exposed to edge effects.

There is no required size for the total project area.

# Make the Connection ..... between on farm land management and Corner Inlet

## Better management of surface water in intensive grazing

Better management of surface water in intensive grazing can reduce the speed and improve the quality of run-off whilst providing the landholder with additional benefits such as increased production. For example, planting deep rooted vegetation not only slows water run-off but improves surrounding pasture and reduces stock stress. Therefore planting vegetation in areas that are often not productive anyway (e.g. drainage lines, gullies) can actually improve productivity rather than reduce it.

## What can happen if surface water is poorly managed?

Straight drainage lines or channels should be avoided; a straight channel leads to higher velocity as the water it picks up speed as it travels down the slope. This will increase the potential for gully erosion, land slips and decrease infiltration to surrounding vegetation. A lack of vegetation along drainage lines can also lead to erosion as there's no vegetation to help slow water run-off or bind the soil together. In areas of Southern Australia, the majority of phosphorus moves in a dissolved form. Increased farm run-off following fertiliser application can result in fertiliser loss to dams and waterways.

## How can I better manage surface water?

Each farming system is different and a management strategy that may be practical and economical on one farm may be unsuitable for another. The knowledge of a landholder/manager will enable the most suitable management ideas to be implemented. Land managers should look at all options or strategies to see what is best for their farm. Options may include various combinations of grassed waterways, fencing, re-vegetated drainage lines, sediment traps, wetland, water storages and track access improvements. Practices that reduce run-off also keep the phosphorus on farm for plant growth, and reduce losses into dams and waterways. Keeping in mind to avoid fertilising in or around drainage lines, waterways, dams, wet areas or low productivity areas (unless aiming to improve) - as you will not get returns for your investment.



## How does poorly managed surface water impact Corner Inlet?

The absence of strategies or options to cope with excess run off water moves quickly off the land surface in times of heavy rain. As the fast moving water makes its way from gullies to a river it is often at a volume that the river cannot carry leading to flood-outs, stripping topsoil from the floodplain, and accelerating bank erosion. The topsoil and eroded material is carried down the river channels into the Inlet where it builds up over time as sediment.

## Good reasons to keep and enhance native vegetation

An increasing number of studies are showing the benefits of wildlife and remnant vegetation. These are examples of some of the findings from these studies:

- Between 40-60% of crows and ravens diet consists of insects including pasture cockchafers.
- Sugar gliders eat massive amounts of insects. Where enough winter food (mainly from wattles) is available, they will eat up to 18 000 scarab beetles per hectare per season. These insects may be tree defoliators, and their larvae pasture root eaters.
- Owls, hawks and eagles help control animal pests such as mice, rats, hares and rabbits.
- A study suggests that in healthy eucalypt woodlands, birds eat about half of the insects produced annually.
- Sheltered pastures lose 12 mm of water less than open pastures during the spring growing season.
- Sheltered areas have increases up to 17% (estimated) in dairy milk production and 20% (estimated) in average annual pasture growth for meat producers.
- On a day of 27C, unsheltered cows will produce 26% less dairy milk than shaded stock

**Source:** Price, J., Stivic, N. 2002. *Land Management on Farms in South Gippsland and Westport*. Department of Primary Industries Victoria.