

Project Report

Report on completion of Landcare Project
for which in-kind work was conducted:
National Landcare Program – NLP- CW-E0708/3



Introduction

This site was chosen because of the erosion developing below the ridgeline that was once (40 years ago) thick with trees. The depletion of trees was due to the presence of a sheep camp.



Peppermint eucalyptus existed on the lower part of the ridge but was showing signs of stress & dieback. The area, approximately 0.5 hectare, is fenced on one side with a track passing through the area. Shale reefs are predominant.

Project Initiation

The areas were to be replanted with the same species found in the area, predominantly Broad-leaf Peppermints. Candle Bark, Snow gums with wattles and Dogwood on the Westerly side to act as a lower wind shelter. The area was fenced off in conjunction with existing fencing. It was also connected to the nearby electric fence.



Earth works consisted of deep ripping (x3) in a contour pattern with 2-3 meters between rows. This was followed by forming channels where the trees would be planted as well as providing some water retention.

In June 2009 the trees were planted with water crystals into the base of the channels and watered once. Woodchips were spread around the base of the trees and plastic tree guards installed with bamboo stakes.



Three months after the trees were planted, cockatoos had destroyed about 30 trees. These were replanted and watered and a bird scarer installed.

Twenty months later the majority of the trees are doing very well particularly the trees planted into the reefs of rock. The average height of the trees is 1 meter.



Account of In-kind contribution

IN-KIND Contribution	Qty. Budgeted	Actual hours (@\$30/h)	Total
Labor			
Fencing	14	24	\$720.00
Earthworks	15	8	\$240.00
Tree planting/watering	30	124	\$3,720.00
10 years maintenance	50	\$30.00	\$1,500.00
Future costs			
		Total	\$5,220.00
Project funding	\$1,760.00		

Summing Up/ Evaluation

A series of timely rain events occurred after the trees were planted which meant that only two watering were necessary. It seems the reefs of rock have been ideal for the trees despite or maybe because of the lack of soil fertility. Certainly there is storage of water on the reefs of shale. The costly part of the project was the labour of planting trees. It may be wise to look at local tree seed harvesting to be broadcast.