Iron Pot Creek

stabilising a gully head

Landholder	Margaret Duffield and Peter Stackhouse
Map reference	3
Land use	Grazing
Soil Erosion Solutions Grant	$3,900 (earthworks, pipes)
Landholder's in-kind contribution	$4,050 (labour tractor, mulch, technical consultant)

The site

A deep gully had formed, running from highly erodible land into Iron Pot Creek. The head of the gully was dangerously undercut. A constantly wet track and stock access at the gully head encouraged further erosion and threatened productive cropping paddocks.

The gully head before works

The project

- The area was fenced to exclude stock.
- A large concrete pipe was installed to deliver water from a collection sump behind the gully head to a concrete-lined 'stilling basin' on the bottom of the gully floor.
- The area around the stilling basin in the base of the gully was lined with concrete cores to protect the soil from turbulent water and to roughen the surface, reducing the speed of the water flowing from the basin.

Installing the concrete pipe

Flood waters leaving the stilling basin

- Groundcovers were grown between the cores to further stabilise the soil.
- The sides of the gully were reshaped and planted with trees to halt further erosion.

The reshaped gully head area

The benefits

- The gully head is now stabilised.
- The collection sump and stilling basin have reduced the erosive potential of the water coming through the gully.
- Less soil is washing into Iron Pot creek.
- The revegetated areas will help to link local vegetation corridors.

Landholder's experience

What was the **best thing** about this project?

"Peter developed a plan that he invented – it worked – he used recycled goods, the old septic tank and concrete cores that we had on the farm. Now the dam (at the pipe inlet) has developed a little micro-ecosystem developed with fish, lilies, water dragons etc."

What was the **most difficult** aspect of the project?

"Carting all the cores to line the gully."

The end result; mostly grass to look at