diverting water around a gully

Landholder	Bruce King
Map reference	14
Land use	Grazing
Soil Erosion Solutions Grant	$2,200 (earthmoving, wire, seed & fertiliser)
Landholder's in-kind contribution	$2,500 (labour, supply rocks, supply tractor)

The site

The gully before works

An active gully head had developed in a transitional area where a broad depression carried flood overflow from a wetland into a defined creek line. The open country and very gentle slope of the site allowed the creation of a preferred flow line around the gully area.

The project

- Above the gully head a back push diversion bank was constructed. This ensured the diverted water ran along undisturbed ground and dense vegetation. The diverted water runs around the gully area and is directed back into the natural creekline further downstream.
- A small rock weir was constructed in the creek to dissipate the energy of the water flow discharging from the diversion bank. This leaky weir backs up water during high flows to create a temporary pond, slowing the water and reducing its erosive power before it travels downstream.
- The gully head and walls were reshaped and grassed.
- The diversion bank, reshaped gully and part of the downstream watercourse were fenced off to exclude cattle.

The benefits

- The back push bank was a low cost way to stop further gully erosion.
- The amount of sediment passing into the creek has been greatly reduced.
- Aquatic habitat in the creek has improved.
- Native vegetation is re-establishing itself in the fenced creek area.

Landholder's experience

What was the best thing about this project?

"We've stopped the progress of the erosion."

What was the most difficult aspect of the project?

"Trying to co-ordinate the earth works and the weather to complete the works in the time frame (and the paperwork)."

The diversion bank seen from upslope