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## **Bourke, Goodooga and Collarenebri landholders in stock and waterways publications**

Western Catchment landholders interested in improving their management of stock and waterways for environmental and financial benefits should take advantage of two publications which feature local landholders from Goodooga, Bourke and Collarenebri.

The publications, "*Management of stock and waterways in the Western Catchment*" and the accompanying case studies booklet were produced by the Western Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and will be launched tomorrow at the Bokhara Plains Field Day near Brewarrina.

Chair of the Western CMA, Rory Treweeke, said the publications are designed to assist landholders in the long term management of waterways and river frontages.

"The booklets will help landholders manage and maintain their stock water supply to benefit their farm business and their land and waterways in all conditions, including drought and floods," Mr Treweeke said.

"There are important financial and environmental reasons for graziers to manage their riparian land well and the publications provide practical tips to help them to identify the issues and trade-offs that occur in managing riparian land.

"The guides use real-life stories from local landholders to show how production and profit can be increased while maintaining the land and water's natural resource base and improving its capital value," Mr Treweeke said.

Featured in the case studies publication are Lindsay and Rob Newton of Bourke, Donald and Fiona Grant of Collarenebri and Michael Eckford and Jutta Eckford-Sapotnik of Goodooga.

Father and son, Lindsay and Rob Newton manage 'Summerville', a 31, 500 hectare property east of Bourke with both Bogan and Darling River frontages.

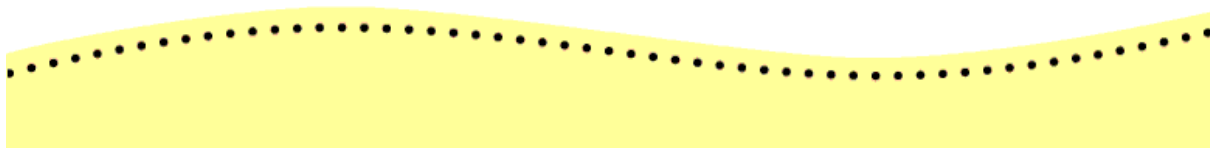
The Newtons had observed that their stock prefer to drink clean water from a trough even if they have access to unfenced stream water.

They used an Envirofund grant to fence approximately 5km of Bogan river frontage to control access to riparian areas and protect river water quality and additional funding from the Western CMA to develop a reticulated stock watering system to provide high quality water to all paddocks.

"Stock previously had unhindered access to the river, resulting in erosion, reduced water quality and difficulty mustering due to stock wandering in and out of the River," said Mr Newton.

Their improved infrastructure has enabled Lindsay and Rob to improve the health of their stock and of their riparian country.

The Grant family of Bundabarrina, near Collarenebri, are also featured. Fiona Grant and her brother, Donald, with the support of other family members, run the property which has 10km of Barwon River frontage that had been the main source of stock water for the past 100 years.



# MEDIA RELEASE



Following concerns about the degradation of the riverfront the Grant family, with advice from the Western CMA, are fencing a two km section of the River to restrict stock access and are installing a solar pump, pipeline and troughs to supply water to off-river stock watering points.

Fiona said they will see how the trial goes before deciding to fence the rest of the river off but we are confident that results will occur.

“We believe that nature is its own band-aid if you give it a chance,” she said.

Michael Eckford and Jutta Eckford-Saptnik of ‘Mogila’ near Goodooga says they can see improvements already from fencing 15km of Bokhara River frontage following concerns that damage was occurring to the riparian zone.

“In dry times you could notice fish numbers drop in the waterholes and we could see that in 20 years from now there would be no trees left on the river bank,” commented Jutta.

The River was previously used to water stock and as a border for eight paddocks, however, most of the River is now fenced and stock water is delivered off-river by artesian bore water supplied through pipelines and troughs.

The project is 66% complete and Michael and Jutta are already seeing results.

Tree growth is reoccurring and water birds such as pelicans and herons are increasing in number which indicates the presence of fish.

“Today we have a terrific river system that supports stock, wildlife and fish, as well as the management of the River fitting into the whole property management plan,” Michael said

The two publications are available from your local Western CMA office, or by visiting [www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au)

## ENDS

For further information contact:

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Caption:

- Rob Newton of ‘Summerville’ near Bourke.
- Fiona Grant on the Barwon River at Bundabarrina Station near Collarenebri.
- Michael Eckford and Jutta Eckford-Sapotnik of ‘Mogila’ near Goodooga.

