



JAKE Follett

Beef Farm, Nyora, 110 Acres

Protecting and managing the remnant vegetation and creeks on beef farmer Jake Follett's property in Nyora, is improving his stock control and the health of his farm vegetation.

Jake received funding from the Targeted Land Stewardship program for fencing materials, weed maintenance and tubestock to protect a patch of remnant vegetation on his property.

"The stock were ringbarking the trees and they looked like they were about to die" said Jake. Acting now has ensured the trees will remain as shelter belts for future years.

Jake is also planting supplementary vegetation underneath the existing patch to improve the health of the older trees, create a better shelter belt and to improve biodiversity on the farm.

Another bonus across the property is stock control, with Jake no longer having to chase stock from out of the trees.

Jake has previously also fenced off and replanted his creek, where he lost three cows in a previous year.

Although only planted a few years ago, vegetation has grown to a substantial size.

"There are stacks of production benefits gained from protecting remnant vegetation and planting out the creek, like less erosion along the creek and it just looks better for the farm."

"Already there's more shelter for stock, keeping them warm and out of the weather. Without funding from this program I doubt I would have had the means to undertake the project. This program was a really good incentive to get things done."



“ Last year I lost 3 cows in my creek - this year thanks to fencing it off I've lost none ”



What is the Targeted Land Stewardship Program?

Many landholders feel strongly about the land and about leaving it in a good condition for future generations. In some cases this means leaving it in a better condition than when they found it. Land Stewardship is having a sense of responsibility for the land and landscapes.

The Westernport Targeted Land Stewardship program provides support and funding to landholders to become a better land steward. The program is a partnership that encourages and pays farmers for land stewardship activities that provide ecosystem services that benefit the wider community (such as healthy waterways from revegetation) that are not rewarded in current markets.

This project includes:

- Funding for Revegetation and Remnant Protection
- Payment for Soil Improvement Works
- Subsidised Whole Farm Planning & Computer Mapping Training Courses
- Subsidised Soil Health Training Courses
- Discussion Groups and Field Days

How can the Targeted Land Stewardship Program help you improve your farm vegetation?

It is now widely accepted that looking after the waterways, remnant vegetation and natural resources on your property creates an asset that not only provides ecosystem services to the wider community, but also benefits the productivity of your farm. The Land Stewardship program currently makes payments to farmers for managing stream bank and waterway restoration, remnant vegetation and re-vegetation for the purposes of reducing sediment and nutrient inflows to Western Port. The program also supports maintenance of remnant bush sites.

In the 2009/10 project it was estimated that as a result of on ground projects there was a reduction of 18.15 tonnes of nutrient/sediment entering streams and waterways and the Western Port.

Protecting waterways, remnant vegetation and revegetating land also provides benefits to the productivity of the farm. Some of these include:

- Sheltered pastures lose 12mm of water less than open pastures during the spring growing season
- Cold stress reduces live weight gain in cattle by 31% over several weeks

(Source: DPI Develop a Whole Farm Manual)

Key Management Actions

- Fenced off his creek to exclude stock and replanted it with native vegetation
- Fenced off remnant vegetation and planted supplementary plantings

Benefits:

- Less erosion
- Reduction in stock loss
- Increased biodiversity
- Better stock control
- Makes the farm more attractive



Further Information

To take part in this project or for further details contact your local Landcare Network:

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■ **Bridgette McCallum**
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■ **Joel Geoghegan**
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