

Bass Coast Landcare Network

Fact sheet 2: maximising water

Capturing & storing more water

Issues:

- lower rainfall and run-off leading to low water supplies
- increased evaporation
- seepage and leaks from dams
- increasing cost of mains water

Actions

- calculate your farm water needs and match to your capture and storage capacity (see DPI fact sheets in 'resources')
- map existing water supplies & water use points—can water be redistributed to where it is needed?
- identify best performing catchments—can those dams be enlarged?
- construct new dams in good catchments (will need permit)
- instal rainwater tanks to catch water from all available roofspace
- consider installing a bore (no licence currently required for stock & domestic use; building licence may be needed)
- consider topping up fresh water supplies with saline water
- consider water conditioners for saline water
- consider evaporation and seepage control products (BCLN Fact sheet 3)

Contact:

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Costs to consider (*approximate, as at May 2009*)

- whole farm planning: *available through BCLN*
- excavators: min \$150 per hr
- bore (depends on soil type): min \$150 per metre
- pumps (electric/petrol/diesel): range from \$500-5,000
- pumps (solar/wind): min \$3,500
- water tank: min \$2,500 (20,000l)



Photo: Greg O'Brien, DPI

Benefits

- more secure water supplies
- cleaner water supplies
- reducing evaporation can help secure your water storages and free up water for the environment

Resources & links to other information

- *Thomas case study (BCLN)*
- *BCLN Fact sheet 3 (Evaporation & seepage)*
- *DPI fact sheets (www.dpi.vic.gov.au; ph136 186; customerservice@dpi.vic.gov.au):*
 - *How much water do I need?*
 - *Finding a dam site*
 - *Soil materials for farm dam construction*
 - *Construction and maintenance of dams*
- *Water efficient farming (www.dairyextension.com.au, ph 5624 2222)*
 - *Water efficient farming case studies*
 - *How to measure water usage in the dairy*
- *www.irrigationfutures.org.au*
- *www.readyreckoner.ncea.biz*