

Flood Recovery Works Update

North Central CMA Region



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

August 2012

Key achievements

- Just 11 months after receiving funding through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements program (NDRRA), the North Central CMA has already worked with over **200 flood affected landholders** throughout the region replacing fencing, erosion control and revegetation works.
- The \$2.76M North Central CMA **Flood Recovery Employment Program concluded** on 30 June 2012. The fencing expertise of the crews greatly assisted the repair of flood damaged fences previously funded by the North Central CMA.

Flood Management Plans

- The North Central CMA, in partnership with local government and the community, is currently developing Flood and Drainage Management Plans for Charlton, Clunes, Carisbrook, Donald and Rochester as well as the Bendigo Urban Flood Study.
- Each of the four Plans and the Bendigo Urban Flood Study are on track for completion by the end of 2012.
- As well as producing information that will enable North Central CMA to assist Vic SES to provide more accurate and meaningful flood predictions, each of the Flood Management Plans will also assess and recommend a community supported mitigation option to reduce the risk of future flood events.
- Potential mitigation options for Clunes have been identified and a community meeting to discuss these options was held in early August.
- Community meetings were also recently held and well attended in both Carisbrook and Rochester to seek community feedback on potential mitigation options and for calibration of flood modelling results.
- Future meetings are planned for Donald, Charlton, Rochester and Carisbrook

Fencing repairs

- The majority of previously funded North Central CMA fencing that was damaged by the floods has been repaired through the NDRRA program. The remaining sites will be completed by October 2012.

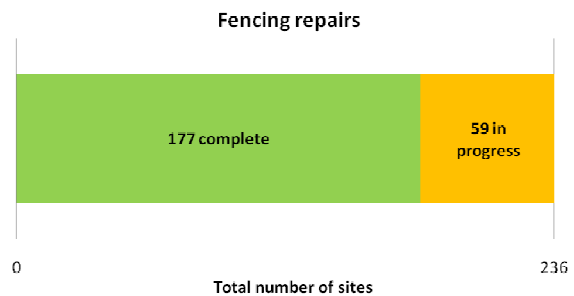


Figure 1: Progress with 236 fencing repair sites

- Landholders have welcomed this assistance: *Today the environmental fences are being restored along the river with the wonderful help from the North Central CMA and their staff. They have been a pleasure to work with and their enthusiasm for the future of our river and the environs is credit to them all. The future of our river is in good hands.* Jan Williamson, Carisbrook.

Erosion control repairs

- The roll out of the repair program is underway and to be completed by May 2013.
- Phase one resulted in 27 of 164 flood damaged erosion control structures have been repaired. Phase two is underway and will accelerate over summer as site conditions improve allowing access for heavy machinery.

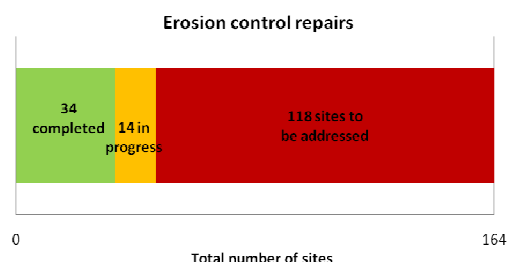


Figure 2: Progress with 164 erosion control repair sites

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Revegetation

- Replacement of approximately 200,000 seedlings has commenced on 55 properties. These plants replace previous North Central CMA plantings destroyed by floodwaters along waterways throughout the region and will also improve the resilience of repaired erosion control sites.
- Using locally collected seed, the plants have been propagated at five nurseries. Several local contractors and Conservation Volunteers Australia are currently planting according to best management practices.
- The revegetation program has been assisted by ideal planting conditions to date.

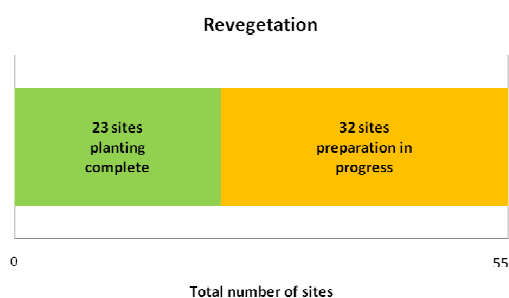


Figure 3: Progress with the 55 revegetation sites



Figure 4: Conservation Volunteers Australia planting around a repaired erosion control site at Heathcote

Levee breach repairs

- As a result of the 2010–2011 floods in Victoria, a number of levees in north central Victoria were breached or otherwise damaged. A number of these levees, which are located both on Crown and privately-owned land, are of unknown origin and ownership; however they contribute to the protection of public assets.

- On behalf of the Victorian Government the North Central CMA undertook almost 200 emergency and strategic levee repairs on the Loddon floodplain between February 2011 and July 2012.
- Each levee repair is currently being inspected by engineering consultants who will provide a brief report on the integrity of the repair works.

Levee assessment project

- A Victorian Government funded project to survey and assess the condition of 300kms of significant levees along the Murray River from Echuca to Tyntynder is currently underway.
- The project, awarded to Water Technology by public tender, involves detailed field surveys to plot long and cross sections of levees, capture geo-referenced photos and identify points of weakness and height.
- The outcomes will enable the North Central CMA to provide the Vic SES and the community with better information during a flood and will assist the DSE in the decision making process about long-term management of levees.
- The levee assessment project will be completed by December 2012.

Natural Disaster Environmental Recovery Program

- The Australian Government's *Caring for our Country* (CfoC) initiative injected \$400,000 into the region to support the community to undertake environmental flood recovery projects.
- Prior to completion on 30 September 2012, the program will also support other CfoC funded projects in the region, including:
 - *Connecting Country* - gorse, willow and blackberry control at several properties along Barkers Creek identified through the development of voluntary Gorse Management Plans.
 - *Enhancing values of Gunbower Ramsar site* – willow control along Gunbower Creek.