



Revegetation part of the long term plan



Project Snapshot

Land Manager Names:	Barry and Beverley Harrap
Location:	Koorda
Annual Rainfall (mm):	270 mm
Enterprise Mix:	Cropping and sheep
Soil Types/Vegetation Types:	Wodjil sand, clay and red clay/loam

Above: Tree lines
planted by the
Harrap's

Key Messages

- **Revegetation within paddocks does not inhibit normal crop and sheep production if planned carefully.**
- **Soil health is a key principle of sustainable farming.**
- **Landcare activities should be included in your farm plan so that steps can be made to ensure they are implemented.**

Areas identified and ready to be planted

If you travelled for three hours from Perth in a north east direction you would reach Koorda, a town situated at the south west corner of the Mount Marshall shire. The area was first settled in the 1880's and used for pastoralist holdings. Today the land is used by many broad acre wheat and sheep producing growers, like the Harrap's.

Barry and Beverley Harrap had been awaiting an opportunity like the Wheatbelt NRM Soil Conservation Incentives Program to assist them in implementing their farm revegetation plans. A couple of years ago they completed a farm plan and through this process they identified multiple areas where they would progressively like to revegetation. So in 2012 they applied to have three adjoining paddocks that were suffering from wind and water erosion planted with alleys of oil mallee (*Eucalyptus lox. liss.*). "These paddocks had poor soil health and productivity was below average", Barry said. "We wanted to plant alleys to protect the soil from wind blow, and also provide corridors for wildlife by connecting them to remnant vegetation and existing block plantings". Another reason alley plantings were the best option for the Harrap's was because they intended to continue conventionally cropping their paddocks.

Prior to seeding time areas across the three adjoining paddocks were marked out for the eight alleys and one block so they could be left unsown by the seeder bar. Once the seeding program was finished the Harrap's jumped straight into the revegetation project. They were very keen to see a component of their farm plan fulfilled. Barry explained, "Instead of continuously having to put off the revegetation projects the funding has allowed us to implement one". In total 9ha were sown with 9,000 oil mallees using a machine tree planter. They were sown into weed controlled ground with each alley comprising of three rows with a spacing of 1.5m. With good rains received around the time of establishment seedling survival was good and therefore no infill was required.

The family's vision

With the assistance of future funding the Harrap's would love to continue the restoration of other degraded areas on the farm and boost its biodiversity. "Alley's are a perfect fit when paddocks still have the potential to produce a crop and run sheep, though need management for water and wind erosion", Barry mentioned. "Before the Wheatbelt NRM project normal practice was to continue cropping across water and wind eroded areas just so they had some cover over them", Barry added. "It was less than ideal". Barry and Beverley get great satisfaction by improving the soil health on their property and see it as a way of supporting a sustainable crop and sheep farming enterprise.



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