

HARDEN MURRUMBURRAH LANDCARE NEWSLETTER

28 November, 2001

The Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Board (MCMB) has set certain salinity targets that they want to meet by 2010. To achieve this, all subcatchments in the Murrumbidgee were assessed and ranked in terms of priority. A targeted management approach has been proposed for those catchments that contribute high salt loads to the Murrumbidgee River, the five catchments that have been identified as high priority are Jugiong, Yass, Kyeamba, Tarcutta, and Muttama.

Within the Jugiong Creek Catchment, the Department of Land & Water Conservation (DLWC) using the rapid stream assessment method conducted an independent survey of the tributaries. This involved traveling around each subcatchment taking some 80 water samples, bottling and forward to their labs for analysis and measuring the salinity level on a given day. These sub catchments were ranked and the Douglas Creek was chosen as being highest priority.

The project to be proposed with support of the farmers within this Catchment, targets land classes

- Class VI&VII land (saline discharge—including permanently flowing streams that are saline)
- Class VI&VII land (drainage lines with gully or creek erosion located within 2km of Class VI (saline discharge)
- Class VI & VII land (steep terrain, rocky land considered to be sites of high recharge)

Works will include Best Management Practice for limiting the effects of salinity such as perennial vegetation establishment, management fencing, alternative water supply etc. Farmer contribution will need to match (\$ for \$) that applied for under Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) for Dryland Salinity National Action Plan (NAP) to fund the implementation of this project. The focus of this Douglas Creek application is to provide funds for individual priority areas that are part of a planned and integrated approach on a subcatchment level and will give the greatest return for the investment of NHT funds. This new approach to the funding of salinity amelioration is being followed in other sub catchments aiming to reduce the total salt load discharged into the Murrumbidgee River.

Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group (HMLG) Committee would like to offer this opportunity to other sub catchments within the Jugiong Creek. If you and your neighbours would like to meet and discuss the possibility of putting together a project, specifically targeting salt loads, biodiversity, water quality or soils please contact Louise 63868218.

Please be advised that this needs to happen sooner rather than later as a great deal of planning will need to undertaken to make this happen to prior to the closing of funding. The date or guidelines are not announced but anticipated to be December with a closing date for applications March.

HMLG's application for "**Greening the Grainbelt**" was unsuccessful this year '*Your project was recommended for funding by State Assessment. However, because it was not ranked sufficiently highly to fall within the funding allocation (ie money allocated to projects) it was not considered by the Minister*' - Charles Willcocks, AFFA. HMLG Committee has decided to apply for funding again in 2002 and will forward applications to each member once the guidelines are announced.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to follow up on planning a project.

Merry Christmas and successful harvest to you and your family and thank you for the support you have given the group through out the year.

Louise Hufton, HMLG Coordinator

Phone 63868218

Fax 63868212

Email: mlhufton@dragnet.com.au