

Implementation

The town of Heathcote was the logical centre on which to base a planning and works force. Office and depot facilities were established there under the field control of a District Conservation Officer.

As much as possible, the policy is to have erosion control works carried out by contract. This particularly applies to reinforced concrete structures and to earth works requiring bulldozers and other large earth-moving equipment.

However, many erosion control works require the development of special skills and experience. Works teams were therefore recruited from local men. These teams have become skilled in the construction of small gully control structures such as silt traps and groynes, the building of grassed chutes, erection of protective fencing, tree planting and other vegetative works and the construction of earthworks within the range of specially equipped wheel tractors.

The contribution which chisel seeding is making towards the success of Eppalock cannot be over-emphasised. There is therefore, a constant orientation in works execution throughout the year towards intense activity when seeding conditions are suitable over a few short weeks each late autumn. It is necessary to ensure, for instance, that landholders plan management and arrange delivery of recommended seed and fertiliser in time to enable areas to be worked and sown.

Because chisel seeding is carried out on the contour guidelines must be carried out in advance or, or simultaneously with, seeding.

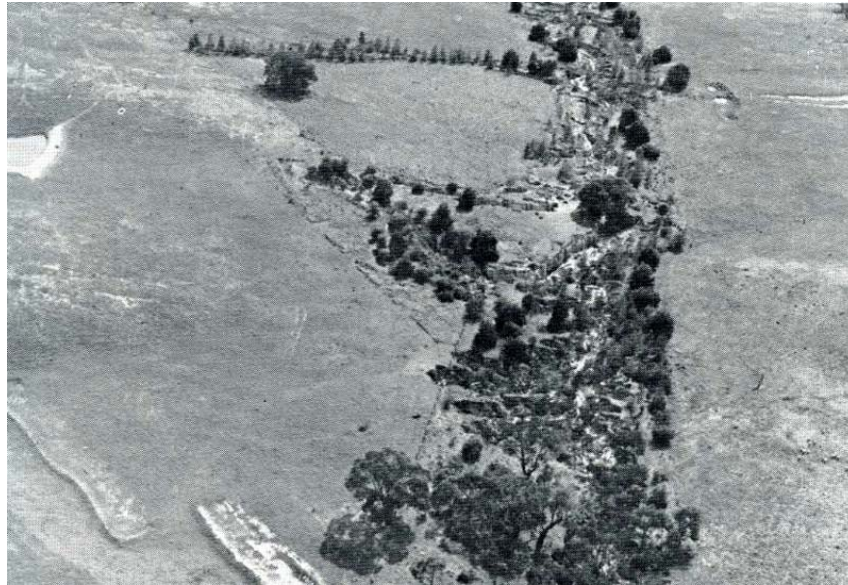
The operation of chisel seeding is carried out by the landholders themselves (being reimbursed the cost of the working by the Authority to an amount not exceeding \$3 per acre), by contractors engaged by the Authority or by the Authority using its own equipment on special areas. By far the largest area is sown by contractors to the Authority, as many as twelve separate contractors being engaged over the sowing period.



This is typical of the silt that was either directly entering the reservoir, Lake Eppalock, or directly entering main streams to the Lake

Many erosion control works require surveillance and maintenance during the initial setting-down period. The terms of Eppalock planning require that the landholders assume responsibility for maintaining protective fencing immediately upon erection and all other works installed by the Authority after a period of three years from the date of completion. Works teams have an important role in maintaining such works and seeding that they function in the manner intended.

While the Authority is carrying out a wide range of erosion control works on freehold land every endeavour is made for these works to be done in co-ordination with catchment improvement works. If a landholder is not producing a reasonable performance in the carrying out of his works, then the Authority defers the carrying out of its work on that property.



A formerly large actively eroding gully as seen from the air. It has been fenced out from stock and thickly planted with trees; diversion works can be seen in the lower left of the picture.

Care is taken to impress on landholders that while many of the works done by the Authority are at no cost to them, they are in fact works which belong to them and that their purpose and maintenance are understood. To impress this fact, as parcels of works become due for handing over future responsibility to the landholder, inspections are arranged to discuss each item of work in the field and to complete a Works Maintenance Statement.

A measure of material things achieved in actual works done can be gauged from the following statement:-

AREA PLANNED (SQ MILES)...320			NUMBER OF LANDHOLDERS...373		
Works Item		Total Works Completed	Works Item		Total Works Completed
GULLY STRUCTURES - Concrete Chutes	No.	373	TREE PLANTING - (in and around gullies) Tree planted	No. Ch. Of Gullies	112, 639 4, 284
Drop and Weirs Groynes and Silt Traps	Cu. Yd No.	3, 255.5 896	Seed/Mulch	Ac.	761
Grassed Chutes	No. Sq. Ft.	202 46, 278	PASTURE IMPROVEMENT - Chisel Seeding	A. L/Hs.	45, 048 283
FENCING -			Aerial T/Dress'g	Ac L/Hs	9, 096 42
Protective	Miles	156.2	Land Clearing	Ac. L/Hs.	43, 830 285
Farm Subdivision	Miles L/Hs	175.5 160.0	FARM DAMS -		
EARTHWORKS -			Survey construction	No. L/Hs	280 171
Diversion Banks	Chains Cu. Yd.	4, 119 109, 472	Capacity	Cu. Yd.	309, 689
Grassed Waterways	Chains Acres	10 1	SURVEY -		
Gully Plugs/flood Detention	No. Cu. Yd	27 22, 395	Contour Cultivation	Ac. L/Hs	39, 410 268
Head Batter	No.	1, 362			



Soil salting follows removal of vegetation in the Catchment. On the right can be seen one of the experimental areas of the Soil Conservation Authority.



A liability has been turned into an asset by the building of a gully plug dam. Erosion in the surrounding paddock is being minimized as improved pastures become established.