

## A NEED TO ADOPT REGENERATIVE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Landscape degradation is an issue of national and global concern. Precious resources of soil and water, necessary to sustain life, are continuing to be lost or degraded. The current state of the Australian natural landscape is further challenged by stresses from changing climate, unsustainable management practices, increased mining activity and urban expansion.

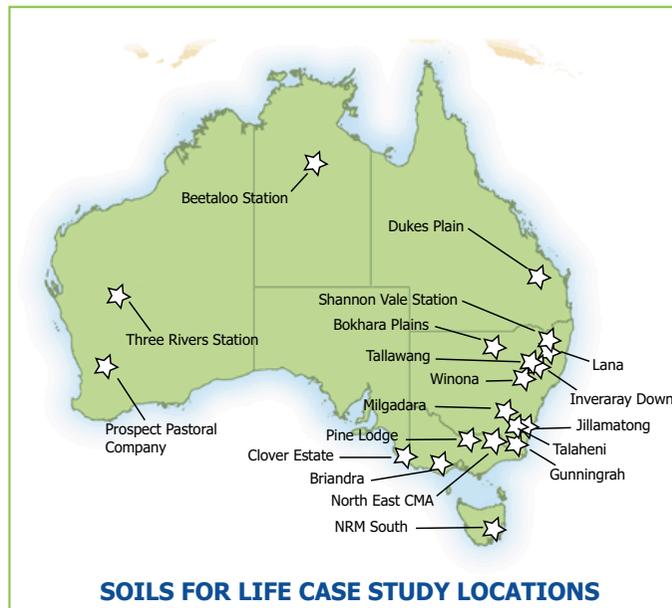
The Soils for Life Program recognises that these many environmental challenges will impact significantly not only on the productivity and viability of agricultural enterprises but also on the health of our environment and the wellbeing of every Australian.

The Soils for Life Program further recognises that the national and global challenges being faced are interrelated and can be best met through a comprehensive coordinated approach focused on improved regenerative environmental and landscape management practices.

The Soils for Life Program addresses the need for improved environmental landscape management through advancing our understanding of the current challenges and identifying leading practice in water use efficiency, building soil health, regeneration of vegetation, enhancing biodiversity, enterprise resilience and profitability and promoting sustainable land-use methods.



*Exposed subsoils along a river bank in the Gascoyne Ranges, WA, due to a lack of vegetation to protect topsoils - a breakdown in the natural soil-building cycle.*



### SOILS FOR LIFE CASE STUDY LOCATIONS

Read these inspirational stories at [www.soilsforlife.org.au](http://www.soilsforlife.org.au)



#### Contact Us

Email: [info@soilsforlife.org.au](mailto:info@soilsforlife.org.au)

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**SoilsForLife**  
AN OUTCOMES AUSTRALIA PROJECT

Soils for Life is an environmental organisation with the principal purpose of *enhancing the natural environment through the provision of information and education on innovative leading performance in managing Australia's natural environment, with a particular focus on the Australian rural landscape.*



#### PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

To facilitate positive and sustained change in how the Australian landscape is managed to ensure a thriving natural environment for the benefit of all Australians.

#### PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The current Soils for Life priority of effort goes to documenting, demonstrating and promoting leading performance in farm-based landscape and water management to encourage wider adoption of these practices.

In September 2012 Soils for Life launched its report *Innovations for Regenerative Landscape Management*. This report showcases 19 initial case studies of leading-practice farming across a range of regions and land use types.

These farmers, land managers and others like them should be seen as role models in landscape management and sustainable, profitable farming.

Join us, and let's make regenerative landscape management practices the norm across Australia.

Soils for Life is an Outcomes Australia Project and is Chaired by Michael Jeffery, Australia's Advocate for Soil Health

## THE SOIL- WATER - VEGETATION CYCLE

Together in a natural system, soil, water and vegetation - supported by a constant flow of solar energy - provide a regenerative cycle.

By restoring natural systems through improving landscape management practices, we can maximise water use efficiency, improve soil health, nutrient cycling and biodiversity of vegetation.

A properly structure soil, with good levels of soil organic carbon, allows greater infiltration and retention of rainfall.

### Every gram of carbon in the soil can retain up to eight grams of water.

Currently, approximately 50% of rainfall on the Australian landscape is lost to evaporation due to poor soil structure and insufficient groundcover. By improving soil structure - particularly carbon - through increasing organic matter in the soil, we will be able to better capture and retain any rain that falls, making it available to plants for longer.

Through revegetation, ground cover is improved, and subsequently so is the quality of the soil, enhancing water infiltration. In turn, improved soil health and efficiency in water use contributes directly to the ability to support a biodiversity of vegetation and species, supporting agricultural food and fibre production.

If properly supported, this regenerative cycle can continue to sustain and improve the natural resource base and therefore landscape resilience and productivity.



## FARMERS SHOWING THE WAY...

Findings of the Soils for Life case studies highlighted a range of regenerative landscape management practices being applied by innovative farmers.

Their stories revealed that no single technique is the answer, but to try a range of methods and adopt what works best for your landscape, production goals and lifestyle.

Practices used by our case study farmers include:

- ◆ Using organic composts, fertilisers and bio-amendments;
- ◆ Encouraging natural biological cycles and nutrient transfer;
- ◆ Implementing time-controlled planned grazing;
- ◆ Using grazing practices and animal impact as farm and ecosystem development tools;
- ◆ Retaining stubble or performing biological stubble breakdown;
- ◆ Constructing interventions in the landscape or waterways to slow or capture the flow of water;
- ◆ Fencing off water ways and implementing water reticulation for stock;
- ◆ Investing in revegetation;
- ◆ Pasture cropping;
- ◆ Direct-drill cropping and pasture sowing;
- ◆ Changing crop rotations;
- ◆ Incorporating green manure or under-sowing of legumes;
- ◆ Maximising species diversity;
- ◆ Reducing or ceasing synthetic chemical inputs; and
- ◆ Integrating farm-based enterprises.

As a result of using these practices, many of these farmers have increased profits, achieved sustainable production, and are improving the health and resilience of their landscape.

Read their stories on [www.soilsforlife.org.au](http://www.soilsforlife.org.au)

## HELP MAKE REGENERATIVE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT BECOME THE NORM...



### JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Support the adoption of regenerative landscape management practices.

Receive news and updates from our program.

Register Online at: [www.soilsforlife.org.au](http://www.soilsforlife.org.au)

Or complete the below and send to: Soils for Life, Unit 6, 24 Richmond Avenue, Fairbairn ACT 2609

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Name:.....

Address:.....

Town/Suburb:.....

State:..... Postcode:.....

Phone:.....

Email:.....

Preferred method of contact: Email / Post (circle one)

#### Additional Information (optional)

Enterprise/organisation (eg: beef, cropping, dairy, mixed farming etc./organisation name):

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Area/s of interest (eg: soil health, water management, grazing management, vegetation, biodiversity, etc.):

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How do you think we can support regenerative landscape management to be the norm? .....

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