

From bananas to bushland

Landholders	Gerard McKosker & Johanna Kok
Map reference	9
Land use	Abandoned banana plantation
Soil Erosion Solutions Grant	\$10,000 (earthworks)
Landholder's in-kind contribution	\$25,300 (earthworks, revegetation costs and labour)

The site

This 10 ha property on the steep slopes of the Korora basin is prone to highly erosive intense rainfall events. It was no longer viable as a working banana farm because of its small size, steepness, access difficulties and weed infestation. There were three large gullies within the property, and many of the farm's access tracks had collapsed, so the farm was losing soil rapidly. The main access road was also eroding badly.



Gully before works

The project

- > The main access road and network of old banana tracks were redesigned to prevent further erosion and improve safe access to the property.
- > Robust pasture grasses were hand-seeded on the tracks and steep slopes to provide permanent groundcover.
- > Weeds were removed by hand from the three very steep gullies and replaced with extensive plantings of native vegetation to stabilise the eroding soil.

The benefits

- > Gullies are no longer actively eroding.
- > The owners can access their land safely.
- > It is now easier to control weeds and maintain native groundcover on the slopes.
- > There is less sediment and nutrients flowing into Pine Brush Creek and Solitary Islands Marine Park.

Landholders' experience

What was the **best thing** about this project?
 "Native plants have replaced weeds."

What was the **most difficult** aspect of the project?
 "Ongoing maintenance, but it is becoming less of a job as natives become established."



Onsite field day showing trees planted



Gerard McKosker amongst the newly planted trees