

Moving out of bananas

Landholders	Jeff Herdegen and Vanessa Crompton
Map reference	10
Land use	Bananas
Soil Erosion Solutions Grant	\$7,300 (surveying, clearing bananas, earthworks, grass seed, trees)
Landholder's in-kind contribution	\$7,740 (surveying, clearing bananas, earthworks, revegetation, building retaining walls)

The site

This banana farm was being taken out of production. The steep slopes were heavily eroded, with most topsoil long gone, making it increasingly difficult to revegetate. The bananas needed to be removed safely and the soil stabilised quickly to prevent further erosion and runoff into the creek.

The project

- > The site was surveyed to define the slope contours.
- > The bananas were cleared with ongoing management of weeds.
- > Contour banks were built to slow the flow of runoff water.
- > A dam was built to trap runoff sediment.
- > Rills and gullies were stabilised with rock fill.
- > Trees were planted in belts on the contour for long term stability.
- > Fencing was upgraded.



Steep slope planted out with natives

The benefits

- > An unmanaged and rapidly degrading banana farm is now a stable, manageable home site.
- > Soil is no longer actively eroding.
- > Less sediment is entering waterways.

Landholders' experience

What was the **best thing** about this project?

"Working with people who offered good advice and were very obliging to deal with."

What was the **most difficult** aspect of the project?

"Trying to co-ordinate things in the timeframe provided."



Bananas cleared