

Rural Property Management

When it comes to integrated soil and water conservation, Soil Conservation Service offers rural landholders a complete package of land management services. For over 80 years we have been helping property owners to develop and implement solutions that ensure the sustainable management of their natural resources.

Broadacre erosion control

Reducing soil erosion is an essential component of ensuring the productive capacity of a property.

This may involve structural works such as banks and waterways, which are designed to allow excess runoff water to flow from paddocks without incurring soil erosion. Productive land is not lost because the low profile of broad-based banks allows the entire bank to be farmed, and does not restrict access around the paddock. The banks are slightly graded to carry

the flow to a natural watercourse or a constructed grassed waterway at a non-erosive velocity.

Soil erosion may also be reduced through management practices such as strip cropping, conservation tillage, crop rotation, contour ripping, stocking rates, vermin eradication, fire prevention and vegetation management. All these can be addressed by Soil Conservation Service in practical ways in a property plan tailored to your needs.

Property planning

Property planning is essential for successful land management. At Soil Conservation Service, we are trained to look at the existing physical characteristics of your property (both constraints and opportunities) and develop a tailored management plan.

The plan focuses on sustainable land use – addressing practical paddock layout that takes into account land capability, necessary soil conservation works and management practices, optimum location of water points, windbreaks, stands of trees and other features that improve both the aesthetics and productivity of your property.

Farm water supply and farm dam construction

Water conservation and proper distribution of watering points are essential facets of farm management. Soil Conservation Service is highly experienced in locating farm dams and watering points for greatest efficiency in providing water to stock and domestic purposes, as well as controlling erosion.



When properly located and constructed, farm dams greatly enhance the value and aesthetic appeal of any property, and are particularly useful in controlling erosion by:

- reducing flows by storing runoff
- trapping sediment on site
- blocking active gullies and diverting flows to a stable area
- drowning-out active gully heads with stored water.

Dam failure is likely to occur if there is a lack of attention to calculating catchment discharge, water supply requirements, proper site selection, and/or not adhering to high standards of design and construction. Soil Conservation Service has considerable experience working in all parts of NSW in locating dams to maximise water storage.

We have testing procedures to determine the suitability of the soil, and have developed and refined dam and spillway design programs to ensure adequacy of the structure. We employ the right construction technique for each situation.

Gully control structures

Concentrated water flow over denuded soils often results in the formation of gullies. Soil Conservation Service can help you to divert the concentrated flow away from the gully line, before filling the old gully to bring back unproductive areas and improve the efficiency of farming operations.

We can design and implement a solution to shape the sides of a gully where its size makes it uneconomic

to fill. By flattening the gully sides, slumping is prevented and vegetation can establish on the reshaped areas, resulting in a stable, aesthetically pleasing watercourse.

Polypipe laying

With water becoming an ever more precious resource, the increasing demand to replace open bore drains with polypipe is being met by Soil Conservation Service's highly efficient pipe-laying techniques. These pipes can be used for piping bores and reticulation of stock water around farms without wastage.

Rabbit control

A critical part of rabbit control is to follow up removal treatments with a ripping program to collapse the warrens. Soil Conservation Service's bulldozers are well suited to this application, as they are fitted with winged ripper boots to ensure the complete destruction of burrows.

Want to know more?

For more information on how we can work with you on soil conservation and land rehabilitation projects, please contact your nearest Soil Conservation Regional Manager.

Go to www.scs.nsw.gov.au for office locations and contact details.