

# Land Notes

## Natural Resource Management

### REPAIRING TRACKS, FIREBREAKS AND FENCELINES TO MINIMISE EROSION

This is a guide to the steps and techniques involved in repairing eroded areas on your property. Some of the benefits of repairing erosion along tracks and cleared lines are:

- Maintenance of pasture productivity – erosion alters the natural flow to pasture, reducing yield;
- Less harm to stock during road transport;
- Reduced road and vehicle maintenance costs;
- Ease of operations – time isn't wasted detouring around erosion along tracks and fence lines;
- Future erosion can be minimised. Gully erosion seldom ceases naturally.

#### REPAIRING AREAS NO LONGER IN USE

- Sweep windrows onto the cleared line or use them to fill in gullies.
- Deep rip the soil surface zig-zagging across the slope. Ensure that the rip lines do not direct water down-slope.
- Repair gullies by battering down the sharp edges.
- Divert water from the site using check banks and/or diversion banks.
- If available, lay dead trees/branches on to the repaired area. This helps trap sand and seed.
- Close the area to traffic and exclude livestock if possible.

**Treatments vary between sites.** For example, at creeks and river crossings:

- Do not rip;
- Shape track surface to the same level as the watercourse;
- Repair gullies on banks;
- Sweep windrows to the surrounding ground level or use them as fill.

#### REPAIRING AREAS IN USE

Sweep windrows away from the track, level with the surrounding ground surface or use them as fill for gullies.

Repair gullies and track surfaces as needed (without leaving windrows).

Add drainage as needed to prevent future problems.

#### CHECK BANKS

Check banks are non-trafficable earth banks that divert water away from repaired areas (see Figure 1)

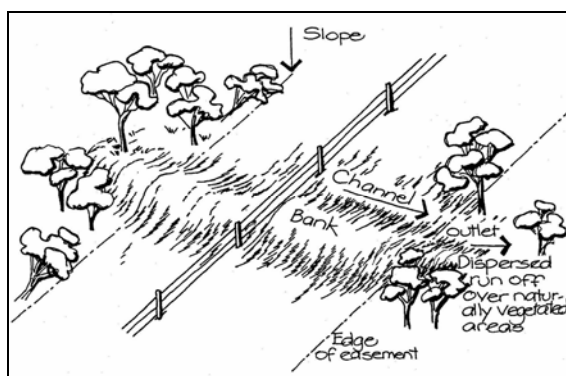


Figure 1 Check banks showing water diversion

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## DIVERSION BANKS

Major gullies need a diversion bank to divert water from the gully head and prevent further erosion. It may be necessary to build several banks (see figure 2 below).

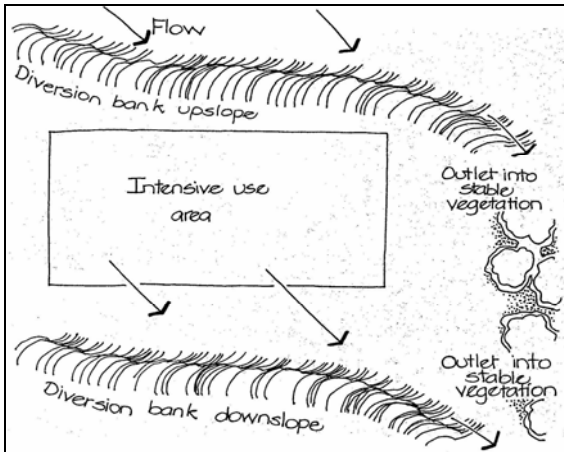


Figure 2 Diversion bank structure to promote water diversion

### POINTERS

- Driving around bank ends often leads to erosion of the banks, so don't drive close to banks;
- If a number of eroded tracks are next to each other, take banks across all tracks to be repaired.



Fence line erosion



Check banks across fence line



Diversion Bank



Windrows present – water unable to flow its natural path

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For further information about controlling erosion in the southern region of the NT contact Advisory and Regulatory Services or visit our website

[www.nreta.nt.gov.au/advis/land/soils.htm](http://www.nreta.nt.gov.au/advis/land/soils.htm)



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