



Yumali/Netherton Fire Recovery Erosion Control

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- Look after yourself and your Family – its easy to get overwhelmed with competing priorities
- Take a break if you can – get away and re set
- Seek Advice – Local Agronomists, PIRSA, etc., are all here to help.
- Make a Plan- Include estimated costs/break into small steps.
 1. Short term/Immediate – eg stock/water/feed/containment
 2. Medium Term- Drift mitigation/Asses pasture/cover crops/2021 Seeding
 3. Long term – Fencing (fence to land class)/water/Tree planting/Buildings

First steps

- Remove all livestock from Burnt Paddocks – even only partially burnt, remaining vegetation will help slow wind speed & trap soil
- Avoid vehicle disturbance
- Observe and assess individual paddocks for drift and potential wind erosion. Has a crust formed? Are plant roots still below surface?
- Stable areas – leave alone
- Deep sands – likely to drift
- Sandy Loams - Susceptable

Mitigation options

- Delving – Deep sands with clay 350 – 600 mm, also giving long term benefits to fix water repellency and improve water holding capacity. Cost @450/ha. Leave rough to prevent erosion
- Ripping/delving – Bednar ripper sand over shallow clay cost @150/ha
- Clay spreading – leave clay unincorporated. The rougher the better
- Deep ripping/cultivation leaving clods on surface.

- Sowing cover crops – waiting for rain event best bet to avoid additional wind erosion. Oats good strong stubble, rye, Barley, Millet all options
- Spreading seed before rain event– Cover a large area quickly with less disturbance, barley 50kg/ha, millet 4 kg per ha
- Allowing weeds to grow more than normal before control may also help provide enough cover. You will need a robust knockdown strategy to control later in summer before seed set.

Pasture recovery

- Depending on how hot the fire was/ wind erosion and pasture type will determine loss of seed reserves
- Testing of seed reserves prior to season break is advised
- Consider watering a few small areas to predict what will come back with Autumn rains.
- Recovery of stocking rates will be slow and most likely will not recover for at least 12 months. Adjust stock numbers to suit.
- See Farm Recovery Resource Manual for assessment techniques.

Cropping 2021

- Cereal crops will provide more early growth and cover bare ground quicker. They also require less \$ outlay/less risk
- Cereals more resilient to sand blasting than pulse/canola options.
- Beware of pre-emergent herbicide rates due to low stubble/cover on surface and higher wind erosion risk as damage may occur
- If sowing burnt pasture country consider sowing Clearfield Wheat or barley without pre-emergent herbicides. This will give option for weed control in crop.

Cropping 2021

- Consider what seed you will need and how much
- If sowing pulses or canola consider adding cereal as a cover crop and spraying out with grass spray.
- Sow crops with minimal soil disturbance, eg direct drill narrow points, to reduce erosion risk.
- Lack of organic residues may mean a higher Nutritional requirement

Contacts and Links for Resource material

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- Matthew Howell – 0458277546 – mhowell@platinumops.com.au
- Tim Dunstan – Delving contractor – 0418891727
- Simon March – Bednar Ripper – 0428411118
- The following are excellent resources for information
- https://grdc.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/98437/technical_resource_manual_for_farm_fire_recovery.pdf.pdf
- https://www.sepwa.org.au/phocadownload/Publications/SEPWA%20fire%20book_v7.pdf
- <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires/what-to-do-after-a-bushfire/pasture-recovery-after-fire>
- <https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/resources/fire-resources>