PLANNING FORUM
Saltland Pasture Redemption Project  
20th of March 2018
PLANNING FORUM - Saltland Pasture Redemption Project Meeting

**ACTIONS** in red

**ATTACHMENTS** referred to in the minutes in orange

Wednesday 20\textsuperscript{th} of March 11am - 1pm - Coomandook Uniting Church Supper Room.

**In attendance:** Tony Randall (NR SAMDB), Kaye Zadow (Elders), Rob Christie (Seednet), Steve Hewitt (Landmark – Cooke Plains), Tracey Strugnell (CTLAP), Andrew Hansen, Bluey Roberts, Garry Hansen, Jon Forrest (NR SE), Paul Simmons, Felicity Turner.

**Apologies:** Michael Camac (Coorong Platinum Ag), Stewart Williss, Paul Ruchs (Landmark).

1. **What happened last year?**
   
   See presentation by Felicity Turner attached

   Felicity said key areas to still be explored are:
   
   - Oversowing Messina with puccinellia for enhanced feed value and palatability
   - Staggered germination
   - Waterlogging survival
   - Messina 8-30 dS / ECe
   - Target Messina establishment on ‘at risk’ areas
   - Seed soil contact – check with results this year.
   - Your ideas?

   Gary Hansen commented that the sheep grazed down the Messina very well on their site.

2. **Feedback and Discussion from the 2017 Farm Walk**

   - Seeding Messina into established Puccinellia pasture
   - Timed seeding of Messina after several rainfall events
   - Use of ground covers to stop salinity concentration such as; Plastic / Organic mulch /Groundcover
   - Messina palatability

More information on Finesse Q Fescue (provided by Kaye) below and attached.
• Messina response to nutrients and trace elements
• Use of raised seed beds or mounds
• Comparing inoculated vs un-inoculated Messina

3. Budget Update

Cash contributions:
Natural Resources SAMDB - $14,000
Natural Resources SE – Ag Knowledge Grant $4000

In kind contributions:
Very generous ongoing contributions have been offered from Seednet, Heritage Seeds, Landmark, Elders, Coorong Platinum Ag, and all of the participating landholders.

See attached projected working budget for 2017/18. This shows expected project costs of $15,500 and in kind contributions of $10,064.

4. Funding Applications

Regional Land Partnerships SA MDB
Smart Farms Small Grant
Mallee Seeps Application
SARDI Application – Hugh Drum

Is there funding available to carry out the digital elevation modelling looking at height above sea level? This would give us a landscape scale perspective for future planning, and could look favourable to funding bodies. Tracey and Tony to discuss sourcing this information at 0.01ha scale.

This discussion continued in earnest. The group are very keen to see this work done to gain insights into what areas may be at risk of becoming salinised. Decisions can then be made in regard to the best way to manage this country, and identify at risk sites. TONY RANDALL - NR SAMDB and JON FORREST NR SE will work to see if there is any funding available.

Rob Christie said the ‘Strava’ phone app will also show elevation

5. What is proposed for 2018?

Kaye Zadow / Whites 2018 L2
Kaye has sent through some more info re Finesse Q fescue. Below and attached.

Ten hectares north of the current site. ECe in the 300 – 400 range.
Will establish Persian Nitro and SARDI 10 lucerne, cross sown with a Fescue.
Messina and Puccinellia will be established in the scalded areas.

Nitro 4kg/ Sardi 10 Lucerne 5kg blend sown east west. Fescue 7kg sown North South.
50% of the site will have manure at 5 tonne / ha the other has nil.

Seeding knife point press wheel with seed hawk with 40kg 13:15:0:11 fertiliser.

**Requirements:**

**KAYE to request Rob Christie of Seednet for Messina seed via email**

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**Bluey Robert’s site Gypsum Road, Cooke Plains**

Bluey’s aim on this site is to establish cover.

Weeds have been sprayed weeds with paraquat.

Bluey then went over the Messina with a low mower.

Mulch was spread wherever there was no groundcover using the Tomohawk Bale Shredder in late February 2018. Spreading a variety of mulch thicknesses for comparison, and a control no cover area.
Tomohawk Bale Shredder

No Straw

Half Straw / No Half Straw

Full Straw
Bluey will now go over the mulch with a chopper chain to incorporate.

The aim is not to sow into the salt.

Bluey will sow the site to Messina @ 3-4kg late after rain. The seed will be spread, and will then go over it with a chopper chain.

Requirements:
Hay costs
FELICITY to enquire re Landmark soil testing regime with Paul Ruchs.
FELICITY ECe 1:5 monitoring staggered pre and post rainfall flushing events
Seednet able to supply Messina seed.

BLUEY to also consider whether he will include any of the other seeds available on the Heritage Seeds list attached. Please let TRACEY know your total seed requirements once finalised and she will place the order with Rob and Kirk.

Hansen’s, Wilson Road - Coomandook

Site grazed with sheep that have heavily grazed the Messina.

The plan for 2018 – do a couple of treatments.
Treat samphire with gramoxone, rollers, Connor Shea – no prickle chain or finger tyne harrows.
Seed rough on half the paddock, and leave it ridged.
On the ridges spread out the puccinellia and run over with a prickle chain.

Will do a comparison of leave / cultivator / chopper chain / and no working across the Messina seeded and Puccinellia seeded areas. Fertiliser strips will also be done on this site.

Requirements:
Gold Phos – N/P/S blend
FELICITY
Soil tests on high and low ground
3 @ $600 total soil test cost – sampling and analysis
ECe 1:5 monitoring staggered pre and post rainfall flushing events

HANSEN’S to also consider whether he will include any of the other seeds available on the Heritage Seeds list attached. Please let TRACEY know your total seed requirements once finalised and she will place the order with Rob and Kirk.

Stewart Willis, McIntosh Way

This site will be left as the Messina and Puccinellia mix and monitored.
Felicity will ask Stewart to consider running over it with a speed tiller to see if it aids germination.

Requirements:
Soil testing
FELICITY ECe 1:5 monitoring staggered pre and post rainfall flushing events
Paul Simmons
1 ha area along driveway, would like to try mounding. Using a ? machine.
Could use a tree planter. This might be at Ifould’s?

Requirements:
Soil tests
Messina seed.
Piezometer, stick, fix it!
TRACEY has made some enquiries about this. We really might need to make our own.
FELICITY ECE 1:5 monitoring staggered pre and post rainfall flushing events
PAUL to also consider whether he will include any of the other seeds available on the Heritage Seeds list attached. Please let TRACEY know your total seed requirements once finalised and she will place the order with Rob and Kirk.

6. Seednet seed work

Seednet would like to do some work comparing some farm harvested seed vs inoculated Seednet Messina seed. Seednet have the rights to BSF inoculant.
There is plenty of seed set from the Messina. Has anyone done a germination test on this seed?
ALL – I am not sure we resolved to do this. We should. FELICITY can you act on these two items?

7. Spring Field Day

Consider scheduling this day, the day after Hart Field Day. Wednesday the 19th of September. This would be ideal for Rob Christie who will be in SA at that time. ALL – let Tracey know if any clashes come up with this date.
**Other Business**

**Felicity Turner**

Will carry out on site monitoring and oversight of all of the sites with the exception of White’s / Kaye’s site. She will aim to carry out a number of staged 1:5 dilution salinity tests pre and post rainfall tests on all sites with the aim of monitoring any flushing effects.

**ALL** - It would be appreciated if you could keep Felicity informed of when you start carrying out activities on your sites.

**Liquid Soil Application**

At Keith some a using a soil application called ‘Biological Plus’ 13 litres / ha at $6 / litre. Felicity and Paul Ruchs to explore whether to use this in a strip on one of the sites.

**Finesse Q Fescue**

Finesse Q Fescue (which performed at White’s last season) is a summer active bit slow in the first 12 months but in the second year grows well with good water use efficiency. Prosper is a winter active and will perform through to November with good moisture, once it hits the dormant phase it just stops. The newer varieties have a softer leaf than these old varieties. We are looking at the Finesse Q Fescue to balance up the feed spring & summer and water use efficiency. *See fact sheet attached.*


**ACTIONS**

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<th>Role</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
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| All           | It would be appreciated if you could keep Felicity informed of when you start carrying out activities on your sites.  
Let Tracey know if any clashes come up with Wednesday the 19th of September, the planned day for our Spring Farm Walk. |
| Felicity      | Seednet would like to do some work comparing some farm harvested seed vs inoculated Seednet Messina seed. Has anyone done a germination test on naturally set seed?  
ECe 1:5 monitoring staggered pre and post rainfall flushing events on agreed sites.  
Hansen’s: Soil tests on high and low ground  
3 @ $600 total soil test cost – sampling and analysis  
Bluey’s: Enquire re Landmark soil testing regime with Paul Ruchs. |
| Tracey        | Collate total seed requirements and order from Rob and Kirk.  
Enquire re availability of replacement ‘Salt Watch’ Piezometer stick |
<p>| Bluey Roberts | CTLAP fencing at Tintinara still to be collected |</p>
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