

Repairing flood damage in the Lower Hunter

The challenge:

Repair significant damage to a Vacy property caused by the April 2015 flooding in the Lower Hunter, including reinstall fencing, address riverbank erosion, weed management and re-establishment of riparian biodiversity.

Work undertaken:

- Remove debris and litter scattered over the property
- Mulch damaged tree remnants
- Weed spraying
- Site preparation for tube stock planting
- Planting of 1000 native trees along the riverbank to prevent further erosion
- Reinstall 1.3 km of new fencing

Benefits:

- New fencing relocated to improve resilience for future flooding events and keep stock out of the riverbank

- Erosion issues managed on the riverbank addressed
- Controlled invasive environmental weeds
- Remnant vegetation protected
- Improved biodiversity of native vegetation on vulnerable land
- Increased overall flood resilience of the property

Overview:

The April 2015 Hunter flooding resulted in significant damage to the Horn family's 120 hectare property on the Paterson River in Vacy.

The flood took out some 1.3m of fencing and established trees. Areas of the landscape were left almost unrecognisable and parts of the riverbank were also scoured. The flooding also generated infestations of weeds including giant reed and lantana along the riverbank.

The family applied for a grant to repair the damage, and protect and restore the property.

Weed spraying was undertaken, soil reshaped and mulch laid. Fencing was relocated and replaced with electric fencing to better withstand future flooding. A variety of native trees including casuarinas and eucalypts were planted for ground control and along the riverbank to help prevent further erosion. Gum trees were planted to create a barrier and for energy dissipation to slow down the water in the event of another flood.

The project has restored the property and remnant vegetation, and ensured it will be more resilient for future flooding events.

Grant program:

Lower Hunter Biodiversity
(Grants of up to \$15 000)



"We've been able to not only repair and restore the property but also make it more resilient to ensure it can survive future floods," – Mike Horn.