

## **CASE STUDY: BREMER RIVER CATCHMENT – HIGH PRIORITY TARGET AREAS FOR REVEGETATION FOR SALINITY CONTROL**

Group: Land and Water Services – Salinity Team

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### **The Problem**

A community catchment group required information on priority areas to target incentives for landholders who were willing to undertake revegetation for tackling land and stream salinity.

In earlier collaborative work with CSIRO, Geoscience Australia and others, cutting edge technology airborne surveys had been employed to map potential salt stores in the form of scattered ancient clayey materials. Complementary work established relationships between regional rainfall gradients, landscape drainage, geology and where the salt was actually accumulating. However the problem remained for the local catchment group – how could they use this information to identify areas for on ground action?

### **Our Solution**

Bringing together information on the mapped potential salt stores and relationships between rainfall, drainage, geology and salt accumulation with local knowledge of groundwater flow systems, potential recharge areas and areas of saline discharge, a map of priority target areas was produced.

The key was to look at how the parts of the landscape interacted with each other and identify those areas that would most efficiently use the rainfall, before it could drain and mobilise salts in problem areas. The priority map also recognised that fresher water entering the catchment needed to be preserved.



### **Outcomes**

The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Group and Bremer Barker Catchment Group were provided with a map detailing priority areas for revegetation to tackle land and stream salinity, and an understanding of the issues, with which to take to landholders to offer incentives for remedial action.

### **Testimonials**

Thank you very much for your comprehensive presentation on Thursday night. It certainly gave the audience food for thought and has given Harry direction and also scientific backing when he visits landholders on the properties which can make a difference if they revegetate.

Your time has been much appreciated. By the way we are getting the map showing the "red" areas laminated.

