

Wild Dog and Kangaroo Exclusion Fencing – a case study at “Moorooka”, Morven

Why is it good for my business?

- The fence has been 100% effective in preventing wild dogs entering “Moorooka”
- Huge reduction in grazing pressure from kangaroos with improvements in the amount of pasture available
- Able to utilise all paddocks on the property without the worry of wild dog attacks
- Able to diversify into other enterprises eg. sheep and goats

Background

- Moorooka is 18,000ac (7,600ha), predominately soft Mulga, red sandy/loam soils
- Minimal floodways, creeks and washouts
- Currently runs sheep, goats and cattle
- The entire property boundary has been fenced, a total of around 40km
- The exclusion fence was erected to help control the wild dogs on “Moorooka” and to also reduce the number of kangaroos travelling through and therefore lowering the grazing pressure
- A trapper was consistently catching wild dogs
- There was evidence of stock losses and sheep/goat numbers had been reduced to just a few head
- Fence has now been erected and finished for around 18 months

Cost to Build

- The clearing and construction of the new fence was done by owner, family and some neighbours with their own machinery.
- Prices quoted are a guide and cover new fencing materials purchased only. Old fence materials used and the construction and clearing of the fence are NOT included in the prices quoted.
- The prices quoted are what it cost “Moorooka” and will vary in different circumstances and over time

Fence Type

- 3 different fences have been constructed on Moorooka, each fence has subsequently been improved in some way:

Fence 1 –

- **Materials used:**
 - Griplock™ wire which is 115cm high, with 11 horizontal wires and 15cm gaps between vertical wires.
 - 2 barbed wires
 - 180cm high steel pickets
- **Cost:**
 - Fencing materials cost \$2500/km
- One barb at ground level and the other on top of the steel picket
- Steel pickets are spaced 8 metres apart
- The total height of the fence is 125cm
- The new fence was constructed alongside the existing plain wire fence, these wires were left there for extra strength
- Every 2nd or 3rd steel post is a short post from the existing fence
- Barbed wire was used from the existing fence



Photo 1: Fence 1 – total height of fence is 125cm



Photo 2: A barbed wire has been put on top of the gates for extra height



Photo 3: Fence 1 - Existing plain wires were left to help strengthen the fence

Fence 2 -

- **Materials used:**
 - Stocksafe™ wire which is 115cm high, with 11 horizontal wires and 15cm gaps between vertical wires
 - 3 barbed wires
 - 210cm high steel pickets
- **Cost**
 - Fence materials cost \$3000/km
 - All materials used in this fence were new
- Used taller steel pickets, so 2 barbed wires could be put at the top and 1 at the bottom
- Steel pickets are spaced 8 metres apart
- The total height of the fence is 135cm



Photo 4: Fence 2 – total height of fence is 135cm



Photo 5: Fence 2 - 2 barbed wires at the top



Photo 6: Fence 2 - 1 barbed wire at the bottom

Fence 3 –

- **Materials used (in addition to fence 1):**
 - Old steels pickets that were cut and welded to the top of Fence 1 steel pickets
 - 90cm high ringlock added to the top of Fence 1 wire
- **Cost**
 - Extra fence material cost \$600/km
 - Total cost for this section is \$3100/km. It could be done cheaper, if the fence was initially built higher
- After constructing Fence 1, some pressure points were found alongside a main road, the pressure was forcing kangaroos over the fence.
- This additional height was added to the fence in these pressure areas
- An extra 45cm was put on top of the fence
- 90cm goat ringlock was cut in half and old steel pickets were cut into 45cm sections
- Welded steel picket sections on top of existing Fence 1 pickets and ringlock was wired to this additional post
- The total height of the fence is now 160cm



Photo 7: Fence 3 – additional height added to the fence



Photo 8: Fence 3 – total height is 160cm high



Photo 9: Fence 3 was constructed in high pressure areas

Maintenance

- Minimal maintenance has been required at this stage
- The majority of the pressure occurred in the first few months after construction until feral and native animals became accustomed to the new fence
- Plan to spray woody weeds and suckers once a year when they start to grow
- A spray rig has been made for the back of a vehicle
- Pig and kangaroo holes will have to be monitored; logs, etc have been tied in these spaces currently.
- Grading before the fence was built or close to existing fences, filled in most of the old holes



Photo 10: Logs have been tied in any spots where old roo holes existed

Effectiveness

- Since the fence has been completed there has been no signs of wild dogs on “Moorooka”, it has been 100% effective
- “Moorooka” has since been re-stocked with sheep and goats and will continue to be as appropriate
- The fence has provided the ability to choose the enterprise that best suits the property, instead of these decisions being dictated by the wild dogs
- It has reduced the amount of kangaroos passing through
- Reduced the grazing pressure from kangaroos, grasses have responded quickly
- Will be able to spell country effectively and potentially increase long term carrying capacity



Photo 11: Used Maxi posts in floodways to allow the fence to move with water flow

Challenges

- Maxi steel pickets were used in the flood ways. The fence is tied to top of maxi picket, allowing the bottom of the fence to swing out with the water flow
- An alarm/siren was initially installed in the driveway grid to distract animals from crossing the grid, but it didn't work successfully so an automatic gate has since been installed across the grid
- The gates that were used in the fence needed extra height, so short steel pickets have been welded to the top of the gates and barbed wire run between the posts



Photo 12: An automatic gate was installed on the driveway grid



Photo 13: Gates needed some extra height

Producer thoughts!

- If an exclusion fence was to be built again it would be:
 - A total height of 160cm, using 150cm high wire, have 1 barbed on top and use 210cm steel posts
- The fences constructed did not have in line strainer posts, the fence would be strained by the vehicle every 300-400 metres, while the vehicle had the wire tight it was tied to 10 steel posts and this kept it tight while the next section was built. This saved on time and materials.
- Had to increase the height of the fence in pressure areas, it is worth identifying these areas first and fencing these areas accordingly
- A cost effective fence when using some old materials, own machines and constructing it themselves
- The fence will pay for itself without a doubt
- Visited other fences in the area first to get an idea of what to build
- A neighbouring fence that was looked at only used a product with 8 horizontal wires and 30cm gaps between vertical wires, found kangaroos and pigs were pushing through. This is why an 11 horizontal wire product was on the “Moorooka” fence
- Two neighbouring properties have since started building exclusion fences since seeing the “Moorooka” fence
- Some kangaroos are still passing through Fence 1 but the numbers have definitely reduced. The higher the fence the better!
- The owners of “Moorooka” are very happy they fenced their property and have since started to fence their second property
- Still participate in coordinated baiting and are still doing individual baiting on property
- For further information contact Alex Stirton, DAFF (0746 544 212)



Photo 14: Small posts from existing fence were left and used



Photo 15: 15cm gaps between vertical wires were more effective than 30cm gaps