



In-Field Ag Pty Ltd
ABN 74 127 523 620
10/24 Bridge Street
Balhannah SA 5242 Australia

Tel: +61 8 8388 4948
Fax: +61 8 8388 4984
www.infield.com.au
info@infield.com.au



Re-vegetation projects

GOOLWA

In December 2009, Infield was engaged by Rural Solutions SA to establish vegetation cover at the Goolwa regulator.

The regulator was a man-made structure designed to regulate flows and/or hold water in the Goolwa channel while water levels in the Lower Lakes were critically low during the drought. Establishing a vegetative cover was necessary to prevent damage to the regulator from erosion.

To carry out this planting project Infield used a one-pass system adapted from our vineyard planting system. Using a high pressure water jet lance to both dig the planting hole and create a suitably damp environment for the freshly transplanted root system, ensured a high strike rate.



LOWER LAKES

Following its successful bio-remediation work in 2008/09, Infield was engaged in the commercial planting of native species as part of the Lower Lakes Vegetation Plan for 2010.

This project was part of the DEH Lower Lakes Bio-remediation Project designed to protect the integrity of the local environment.



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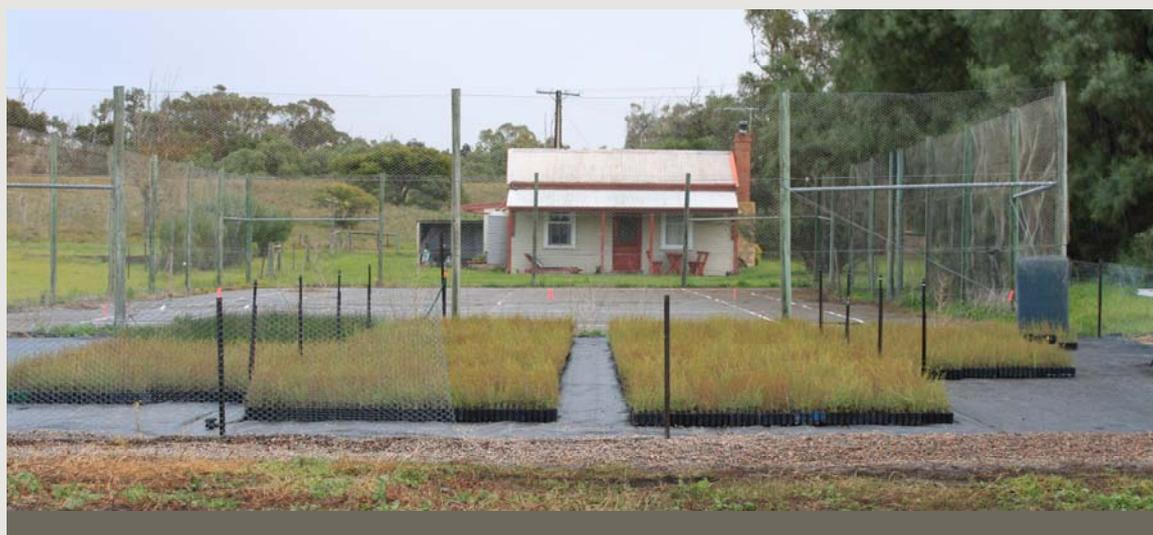
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This much published project involved both Federal and State Government funding as well as the active involvement of land holders and action groups from local communities along the lower reaches of the Murray. Various community and commercial nurseries, together with members of the Ngarrindjeri community were responsible for the propagation of planting material and manning the hold stations.

Because of the unexpected flows into the lakes over the winter months, Rural Solutions had to reconsider the planting density of various areas to reflect the likely effect.

Infield's involvement began in May 2010 with our induction at Poltalloch Station on the southern shores of Lake Alexandrina. A full day was devoted to doing a work-up of best practices for the planting operations.



Under Infield's leadership, our crew of six planters were responsible for planting 400,000 native seedlings. Using equipment especially designed for bulk planting the crew averaged around 10,000 plants per day. The project took five weeks to complete.

RIVERLAND AND UPPER SE

Further projects were undertaken at the Narrung Peninsula and in the Riverland's Noora Drainage Basin in 2011 with our crew planting over 200,000 indigenous plants. While the work in 2010 was mostly carried out on lake-bed sites, the 2011 plantings were carried out in more challenging terrain.



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The 2011 project also had a larger focus on weed suppression, protection from erosion, wild life habitat and protecting water quality.

2012 - 16 brought a different focus to Infield's environmental team, with on-going woody weed control (box thorn and other non-indigenous shrubs) and the erection of protective fencing around newly planted sites. These contracts for spot spraying and site preparation will ensure the highest possible strike rate for susceptible native species.

Infield is has also worked with private contractors to provide environment planting and fencing services in the Upper SE of the state.

