



sustainable
grazing on
saline lands

productive and sustainable
ways to use saltland

LandWater & Wool

Shaping the future



Australian Government
Land & Water Australia

another australian wool innovation limited



Projects and Products

Sustainable Grazing on Saline Lands (SGSL) aims to support the 41 per cent of woolgrowers nationally who have land already affected by dryland salinity*. It is the largest of the seven sub-programs in Land Water & Wool¹ (LWW), the only national initiative that addresses the productive management of land and water specifically for wool growers.

SGSL was established to achieve:

- improved production and profit from grazing saline land;
- better environmental outcomes from saline land; and
- more pride for producers who have saline land on their properties and are being proactive about applying new management systems.

SGSL is achieving this through a combination of activities that will help livestock producers better understand and manage their saline land.



Photo: courtesy Georgina Wilson



Photo: courtesy Kim Mitchell

¹Land, Water & Wool is a joint investment between the wool industry's peak research and development body, Australian Wool Innovation Limited, and the nation's premier investor in natural resource management research; Land & Water Australia.



Sustainable Grazing on Saline Land is one of eight *Land, Water & Wool* sub-programs.

The others include:



Benchmarking and Evaluation



Native Vegetation and Biodiversity



River management and water quality



Managing climate variability



Managing pastoral country



Future woollscapes



Sustainable Grazing Systems Harvest Year

Land Water & Wool is the first comprehensive natural resource management (NRM) research and development program undertaken by the Australian wool industry. It consists of eight sub-programs. SGSL has additional investment from Meat & Livestock Australia, the CRC for Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity, and in-kind contributions in WA; from the Department of Agriculture; in SA from the Departments of Land, Water and Biodiversity Conservation, PIRSA Rural Solutions and the University of Adelaide; in Victoria from the Department of Primary Industries; in NSW from NSW Agriculture and the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources, and nationally from CSIRO, the National Dryland Salinity Program and grower and producer groups across southern Australia.

*Land, Water & Wool Best Practice Survey (2003)



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PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ways to use saltland

DATE: SEP 03

SGSL aims to:

- link producers to regional and national networks;
- provide producer groups with financial and technical support to undertake some of their own local investigations;
- package the most up-to-date, 'best-bet' information about all aspects of productive and sustainable saltland pastures; and
- conducting state-of-the-art research to define the relationships between productivity, profitability and sustainability of the various options available for saline land.



Photo: courtesy Kim Mitchell



SGSL projects

Producer Network –growers talking to growers

SGSL is encouraging and assisting producer groups across Australia to undertake their own, local research. Such research will be relevant to their particular needs, appropriate to their local conditions, knowledge and experience. Groups undertaking these research projects are linked with some of Australia's leading salinity research experts who work together to investigate the issues. SGSL is looking to support 120 producer research sites nationally over the five years of the program. The results of these projects will be collected and the benefits from the considerable collective experience will be made available to livestock producers across Australia.

Where ever possible, SGSL is working directly with existing groups of growers already participating in local initiatives, such as Triple P, Prograze, Ag Bureau, land management or Landcare groups, etc. Network Committees have been established in WA, SA, Victoria and NSW and are made up of local growers with experience in saltland agronomy and a representative from lead agencies in each State. These committees review the proposed projects in their State and make recommendations about them. For information on the producer network please refer to the contact section on this information sheet.

National Research Sites – sharing our knowledge

SGSL has also established a series of major research sites across southern Australia. These sites will ensure strong scientific evidence about the relationships between saline land, pasture productivity, animal performance, system economics and environmental impacts. Five sites have now been established with different emphasis, while all maintain a core focus on productive and sustainable saltland pasture systems. This strong scientific base, combined with the practical reality of the producer sites, provides a great foundation for the SGSL sub-program of Land, Water & Wool to help livestock producers to better manage their saline land.

The sites are:

WA1 Site: Profitable and sustainable grazing on saline land in WA –

evaluating the gains in animal production, water management and biodiversity in saltbush-based pastures with the introduction of new plant species and better management systems. Sites are at Tammin and Yealering. The project leader is Dr Robyn Dynes from CSIRO Livestock Industries.

WA2 Site: Optimising the saltland pasture system for practical and profitable use –

the focus is on the practical implementation and optimisation of saltbush and understorey systems to provide the most effective inputs into livestock production systems. The focus is on whole farm management and profitability, and how to best utilise saltland pasture in a whole farm, whole year feeding system. Several sites are located through the WA wheatbelt, with a further site at Grong Grong in southern NSW. Dr Ed Barrett-Lennard (WA Dept of Agriculture) is the project leader.

Map courtesy NLWRA.
Map indicates high hazard or risk of dry land salinity by 2050.



photo: courtesy Kim Mitchell

NSW Site: Water, soil and salt movement from sustainable salt-tolerant pastures –

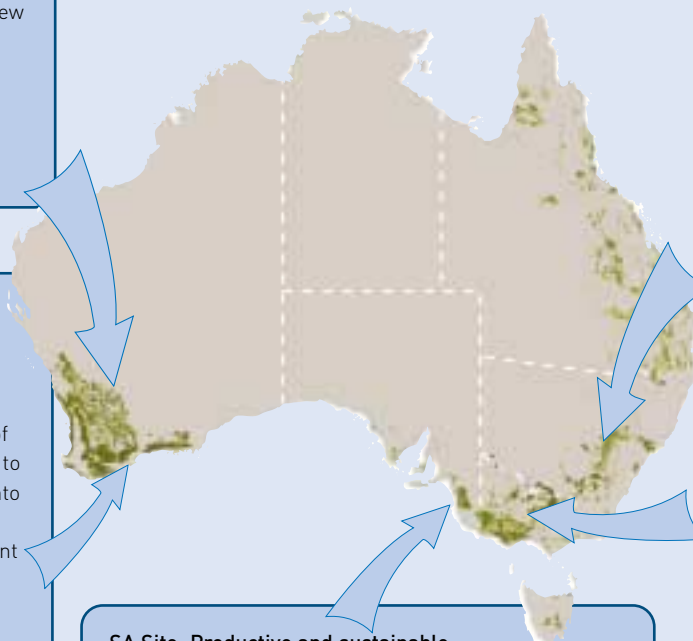
the primary focus in NSW is on the movement of water, salt, soil and nutrients from saline discharge sites to waterways, and the impact on these flows by productive saltland pastures. The primary sites are located near Young and Manildra in the upper Lachlan catchment, and the project leader is Dr Warren King from NSW Agriculture.

Victorian Site: Productive and sustainable salt-tolerant pastures for Victoria –

this project is closely aligned with the SA project, but the primary focus in Victoria is on tall wheat grass-based pastures. Additional effort is directed towards legume improvement, weed management and different pasture species options. The site is at Dunkeld in western Victoria, and the site leader is Dr Malcolm McCaskill from the Department of Primary Industries.

SA Site: Productive and sustainable salt-tolerant pastures for South Australia –

the saltland pastures in SA are dominated by puccinellia and this project focuses on improving their productivity through grazing management, fertiliser strategies and different pasture species options. The primary site is at Mt Charles in the Upper South East. Dr Nick Edwards (SARDI) is the project leader.



SGSL products

"Saltland Pastures in Australia: A Practical Guide".

Barrett-Lennard E. (2003).

RRP: \$25.00 + \$5.00 p&h

Product code: PR 030 563

Written by Dr Ed Barrett-Lennard, Australia's foremost authority on saltland pastures and winner of the National Dryland Salinity Program's 2002 W.E. Wood award for excellence in salinity research. This book brings together the very latest information on saline land and saltland pastures. Chapters include Farmer voices; Salinity and saltland options; Factors affecting plant growth; Pasture plants; Establishing saltland pastures; Grazing value; Productivity of saltland pastures; and Assessing the economic value of saltland pastures. This is the second edition of this book.

To order contact CanPrint, freecall 1800 776 616



Productive Solutions to Salinity Management (2003)

Free

Product code: PF 030 508

Presents a summary of some of the practical grazing solutions to salinity management for primary producers across Australia with detailed case studies, organisations and people that can help.

To order contact CanPrint, freecall 1800 776 616

SGSL Case Study series

Free

Available October 2003: These case study information sheets provide detailed information including economic data about nine wool growers across Australia of their methods to profit from their saline land.

To order contact CanPrint, freecall 1800 776 616

The EDGENetwork™ course "Making a profit from Saline land".

Available through the EDGENetwork™ delivery commencing in November 2003

Contact: www.edgenetwork.com.au



Further information – Network Committee

For information about the SGSL producer network projects, please contact the network committee project officer in your State:

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