

# Case Study Series: Productive Perennial Paddocks

*'Perennial farming systems targeting wind erosion within the North Eastern and Southern Wheatbelt regions of WA'*

## Saltbush: The Living Haystack



Farmer: Robert Wilson

Farm Name: 'Braemar'

Shire: Quairading

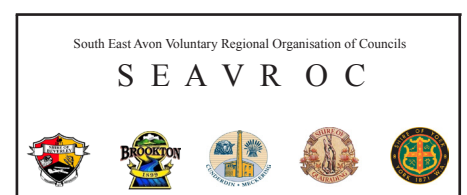
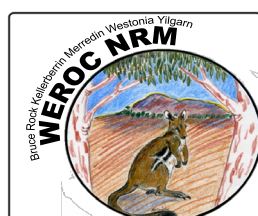
Farm size: 5000ha

Enterprise: Grains, Sheep and Wool

Annual Rainfall: 330mm



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*“Using saltbush to create a living haystack lifts grazing capacity and supplies Vitamin E to stock during autumn” Rob Wilson*

## Strategy & Establishment

**Species type:** Old Man Saltbush

**Position located in the landscape:** Upper valley floor

**Soil type:** York Gum/Jam

**Date planted:** August 2010

**Reason for planting:** To provide wind protection for the lighter soil type and to address signs of salinity that was appearing due to the site being water gaining. In 1992 Robert was cropping right up to the healthy stand of York Gums. A short gully feeds into the site and a decline in soil health has been observed over time

**Weed control:** Knockdown – 1L/ha Glyphosate

**Pest control:** None

**Soil preparation:** None

**Planting method:** Chatfields tree planter – ripping, mounded and scalped

**Fertilizer:** Nil but has a good fertiliser history with at least 30ppm of phosphate

**Planting design:** Planted across the water flow (east to west) to maximise water catchment at the site. Robert planted saltbush as a block planting with six rows and then a space wide enough to drive a utility through. This is to assist with stock management.

**Recommendations to other farmers wanting to implement the same strategy:**

- Pick a moisture gaining site showing signs of salinity to guarantee success
- Sites usually found on the change of slope where the hillside is flattening out
- Old Man Saltbush is the most productive per hectare

## Future Management

**Future plans:** Controlled sheep grazing in early winter to supplement feed.

**Weed control:** Nil but area is fenced and will be have controlled autumn grazing

**Pest control:** None

**Problems experienced at site:** None

## Relevant Industry Contacts

**QUAIRADING ENVIRONMENT OFFICER:**  
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**SALT LAND GENIE:**  
www.saltlandgenie.com.au



**FUTURE FARM CRC**  
www.futurefarmonline.com.au



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD**  
www.agric.wa.gov.au

## Outcomes

**Planting success rate:** 95% with 91mm growing season rainfall

**Infill planting:** Not required

**What improvements have you seen at the site?**

Good establishment of ground cover and the utilisation of excess water at the site.

*“We are making more productive an area that we would probably otherwise lose to salinity” Rob Wilson*

## Acknowledgements

**Author:** Cheryl Shenton    **With thanks to:** Robert Wilson

This publication has been produced and funded as part of the 2009-2013 Caring For Our Country Project ‘Perennial farming systems targeting wind erosion within the North Eastern and Southern Wheatbelt regions of WA’.

**Disclaimer:** The information in this publication has been compiled from personal experiences and views of the grower featured. NEWROC, SEAVROC and WEROC does not accept any liability for possible inaccurate information provided.

