



**Project Number:** 05N114-03

**Project Start Date:** 1/1/2007

**Project Completion Date:** 1/10/2008

## Project Description

The focus of the project is the adoption of high water use farming techniques in order to improve productivity and reduce recharge. Rising ground water is threatening the viability and productivity on agricultural land and is also impacting on biodiversity assets. We are using an integrated and targeted approach, using techniques that will boost farm water-use efficiency as well as productivity.

Some of the tasks the project is undertaking are:

- Developing landuse plans that include strategies to manage rising water tables;
- Installing monitoring bores to track groundwater and salinity;
- Improving the stability and vegetation along creeks and tributaries;
- Implementing demonstrations and giving assistance with issues such as perennial pastures, tree plantations, waterlogging, and weed, vermin and erosion control;
- Developing knowledge and information on the local soils, hydrology, landscape and biodiversity;
- Developing best practice management for the farms in the area.

Demonstrations with a productivity and water use focus are being conducted and a regular extension program focusing on field walks is being implemented. Establishment of deep rooted perennials is a key feature of the project. This includes pastures and fodder shrubs (for example sub-tropical grass and legume pastures, tagasaste, lucerne, rhagodia and saltbush) as well as tree species suitable for agroforestry (particularly eucalypts and pines).

**Delivery Organisation:** West Midlands Natural Resource Group now known as West Midlands Group

**Total IP2 Funding:** \$344,400

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