

**Property name :** “Bayley Springs”

**Owners:** Hedley, Robyn & Brett Fowler  
**Property size:** 1600ha  
**Average rainfall:** 550mm  
**Main enterprise:** Cropping, sheep & wool  
**Soil types:** Mainly forest gravels over clay.

As a relatively new area of farming land, problems with salinity and waterlogging are really just starting to appear. This property wasn't cleared until the early 70's and even with good clearing management there are still many problems with salinity starting to occur.

We bought the property in 1991 with no real salt issues confronting us, but by 1995 about 60-70% of trees in the main gully had given way to salinity. This was compounded by the fact that it was very hard to devise a strategy to combat a problem so unstable. Alternatives were researched and a plan was set out using a combination of fencing, drainage and tree planting, along with a greater lean towards contour farming. The first drains went in 1999 and work continued for the next two years. In that time adjustments have been made to the drains in order to better stabilise the drain walls.

The last two years have seen definite improvements in the areas concerned which allows us to plan with confidence for the future. Our goal is not only to re-establish salt and water affected areas, but to see these areas produce and contribute towards a sustainable future. It is in this area that a more united and practical attitude towards rehabilitation needs to occur.

Brett Fowler

June 2002