

## RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TO DAMIEN\_COOK\_Q&A Report for 30 July Webinar SER-NRN

**Qu 1: Do you think that the Eremophila seed came in the floods?** (Question from Maggie Wheeler)

**Answer:** Yes that is extremely likely. There is a large remnant of native vegetation upstream on the Lodden River that supports extensive populations of the Eremophila species

**Qu 2: Did you do any plant species-fauna matching. If so, how?** (Question from Justine Mwanje)

**Answer:** Yes, we know that Growling Grass Frogs are fond of submerged and emergent aquatic herblands, as they use the plants as basking platforms and cover from predators. We selected species such as *Vallisneria australis*, *Cycnogeton procerum*, *Myriophyllum pappilosum* and *Nymphoides crenata* as we need they formed the type of habitat favored by the frogs. Similarly we selected tall reeds, sedges and rushes such as *Juncus injens* and *Eleocharis sphacelata* for planting as we know these species are used as nesting habitat by Australasian Bitterns. (these are just two examples of many).

**Qu 3. Other than allowing natural flooding, and fire, what techniques were used to assist natural regen?** (Question from Bill Young)

**Answer:** Carefully timed delivery of environmental water, targeted and carefully timed weed control and control of grazing pressure

**Qu 4. In our restoration efforts we have a big problem with native mice/gerbils/jirds that eat our newly planted seedlings. You mentioned you control hares, how do you do that?** (Question from Mariska Weijerman)

**Answer:** Physical guards around vulnerable plants. There are also products you can use that deter grazing

**Qu 5. In the before and after photos, one is shown with a grassy area, the after photo showed a waterscape, was bentonite clay added to area to retain water? If not, how was water retained?** (Question from Laura Salazar)

**Answer:** No bentonite was required. The area supported clay hydrosol soils as it was historically a wetland before it was drained by Europeans. When the natural sill level of the wetland was restored and environmental water was delivery the cracks in the soil naturally closed and the wetland retained water very well.

**Qu 6. Prior to the restoration, how would you define a failed ecosystem when examining your area for possible restoration?** (Question from Dennis Potts)

**Answer:** Former wetlands that were dominated by terrestrial vegetation composed of predominantly exotic species that had limited fauna habitat value could be defined as a failed ecosystem. By restoring hydrology the seedbank of native wetland species in the soil was stimulated to germinate and appropriate delivery of environmental water ensured these germinants flourished and reached sexual maturity, allowing the native ecosystem to regenerate.