

# Using a Water Plan

**Location:** Cleve, eastern Eyre Peninsula

**Operators:** Warren and Ros Elson

**Enterprises:** Grain and sheep production

**Topic:** Water security and better water quality

**Key Outcomes:** Planning for success in securing quality water and reducing water costs.

## Background

Planning to avoid flood damage to water infrastructure and the cost and quality (mainly calcium build-up) of mains water were key issues motivating Warren and Ros Elson to consider which alternative water security options were suitable for their Cleve hills property.

## The Project

Warren Elson attended a Water Use on Farm workshop at Cleve (July 2015) and has since put several ideas into action. "I developed a farm water plan at the workshop, which included fencing a creek-line and planning the placement of troughs and tanks to carefully consider the environment," Warren said.

The timing of the workshop also coincided with a change of farming operation and the need to replace a main waterline to the homestead, which allowed for more scope for changes than usual.

Following suggestions from speakers at the forum, Warren laid new pipe, filling it with water before burying as this process puts less pressure on joint fittings and reduces future faults. "I used three kilometres of new 32mm white poly, taking advantage of a special price and having learnt that pipe colour doesn't relate to quality. Purchasing the best quality product at the best price definitely was an important key message," he said.

Installing new gutter and down pipes on an old shed was an obvious solution to "free water" on another property and Warren was surprised how much water has since been collected. The on-farm water quality now "is ten times better for spraying" and the "quick lock fittings allow access to a clean water source quickly".

## Outcomes

Many farm managers are considering water harvesting and the Elson's have shown this in a practical way. Their Water Plan allowed effective decision-making and assisted in setting the property up for future sustainable farming. Elson's farming enterprise became more resilient, through decreased dependence on buying water. The two 23,000-litre poly tanks purchased to catch runoff from sheds improved available water quality, particularly for use around the house and crop spraying. The Water Plan included fencing creek lines and placing pipelines and troughs on either side of the creeks, resulting in improved stock grazing and offering more protection to the watercourse, with no floodwater damage taking the pipe away.



**Strategically placed troughs assist in optimising grazing and protecting the creekline**



**New tanks, key water storage infrastructure part of the new Water Plan**



**Resiting troughs to protect waterway**



Government of South Australia  
Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board



Government of South Australia



Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula