

## The Results

In 2013, the depth of the water table was 1.2 metres and generally falling mainly due to the young trees using the salty groundwater for their surprisingly rapid growth. The specially selected trees were planted in June, 2008 and have flourished despite the drought years of 2008 to 2010.

As the trees mature further, it is hoped that the roots will act as a pump and absorb greater amounts of groundwater, thus lowering the water table allowing the usual native grasses and groundcovers to re-establish.

The culverts and drainage works have successfully diverted the surface water, and the rock flume has slowed the run-off and stopped the gully erosion creeping into the road corridor.

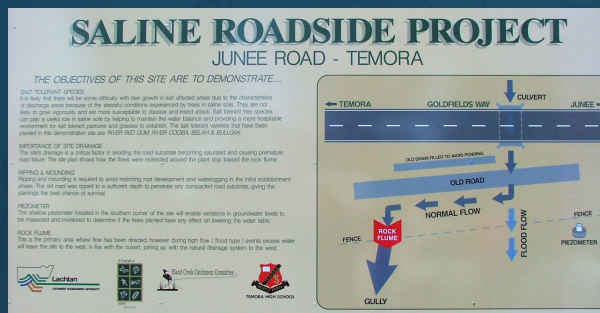
## Site Features

Visitors can take advantage of the excellent signage that explains the sites issues, the processes adopted, as well as identifying the tree species selected and why.

It is a great place for a rest stop or a place to have lunch with the family.

## Acknowledgement

Temora Shire Council would like to acknowledge the financial and technical assistance of the Lachlan Catchment Management Authority staff and Bland Creek Catchment Committee members in completing this project. Council would also like to thank the staff and students of the Temora High School, who have provided assistance with planting and maintaining the trees, site monitoring and the development of this brochure.



PROJECT

## Junee Road Salinity Education Site





# Junee Road Salinity Education Site

Temora Shire Council, with the help of the Lachlan Catchment Management Authority and local schools and Landcare Groups, has established a series of Environmental Education sites, to assist school students, budding environmentalists and visitors, to experience various ecological systems first hand, providing practical examples of local and unique land degradation issues and their best practice solutions.

The sites include:

- Hillview Park Native Botanic Gardens, Deutcher Street, Temora
- Jim Salmon Memorial Wetlands, Lake Centenary, Goldfields Way, Temora
- Old Combaning School Site, Combaning School Road, Combaning

## The Junee Road Salinity Education Site

At this site visitors can observe:

- A saline landscape
- Deep ripped and mounded tree planting technique
- A piezometer measuring groundwater levels
- Salt tolerant tree species
- Importance of site drainage
- Gully head intervention with a rock flume

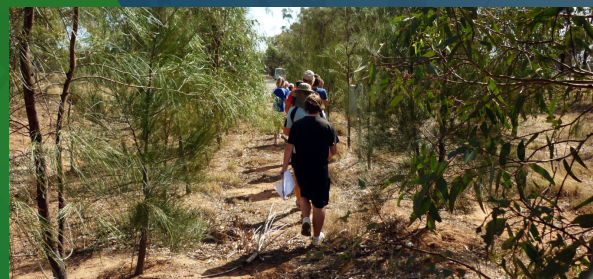
## The site issues

The site of 0.5 hectares was a highly degraded parcel of land, 6km south of Temora on the western side of Goldfields Way (Junee Road).

The roads construction seems to have caused an isolated patch of saline landscape, which is otherwise quite rare in the Temora Local Government Area.

The roadway intercepts the runoff and concentrates large volumes of water through the culvert on site. This has also led to significant gully head erosion which was creeping off the adjacent private land, onto the road reserve.

The combination of poor drainage and elevated ground water levels, left large salt scalds and little vegetation on the site as a result.



## The solution

Temora Shire Council, with the assistance of the Lachlan Catchment Management Authority and Bland Creek Catchment Committee, installed drainage to collect run off under the main road and divert it around the planting site towards a newly installed rock flume.

The planting site was deep ripped and mounded giving the trees the best chance of surviving the harsh conditions.

Local students from Temora High School planted a range of salt tolerant trees - Beelah, River Cooba, Bulloak and Casuarina.

A piezometer was installed to measure the impact of the trees as they developed.

