

TIM FOX SHEEP & BEEF FARMER

Case Study

from the Kakanui
for the Kakanui

Farm details:

Located Gemmells Crossing Road.

310 ha pastoral property adjacent to the Kakanui River. Of that total area 74 ha of irrigated land on the south side of the river are leased out. The 236 ha on the north side currently includes 50 ha that can be irrigated.

Shares have been purchased for the NOIC expansion to enable an additional 75 ha to be irrigated in future.

Family owned and managed property since 1954.

This winter 400 ewes, 120 beef cattle and 120 dairy heifers are being run. Grass is grown for pit silage both on the home farm and for sale to local farmers.

Farm practices that have been used to minimise environmental impact over recent years:

- Direct drilling has been used almost exclusively in the past 20 years in preference to doing any cultivation.
- No spraying for thistle control in pasture has been done for 30 years.
- No superphosphate has been applied for over 20 years.
- Very little Nitrogen has been used except for strategic application in spring to boost growth for silage and in autumn to lengthen the grazing capacity in some paddocks.
- For the past 9 years applications of Functional Fertiliser Calcizest which combines calcium, reactive phosphate rock, sulphur, boron and selenium according to the needs identified by soil tests, were spread.
- Shelter belts (approximately 2.5 kms) comprising pines, blue gums, cedars and cypress (arizonicas) were planted with assistance from regional council schemes which operated many years ago.

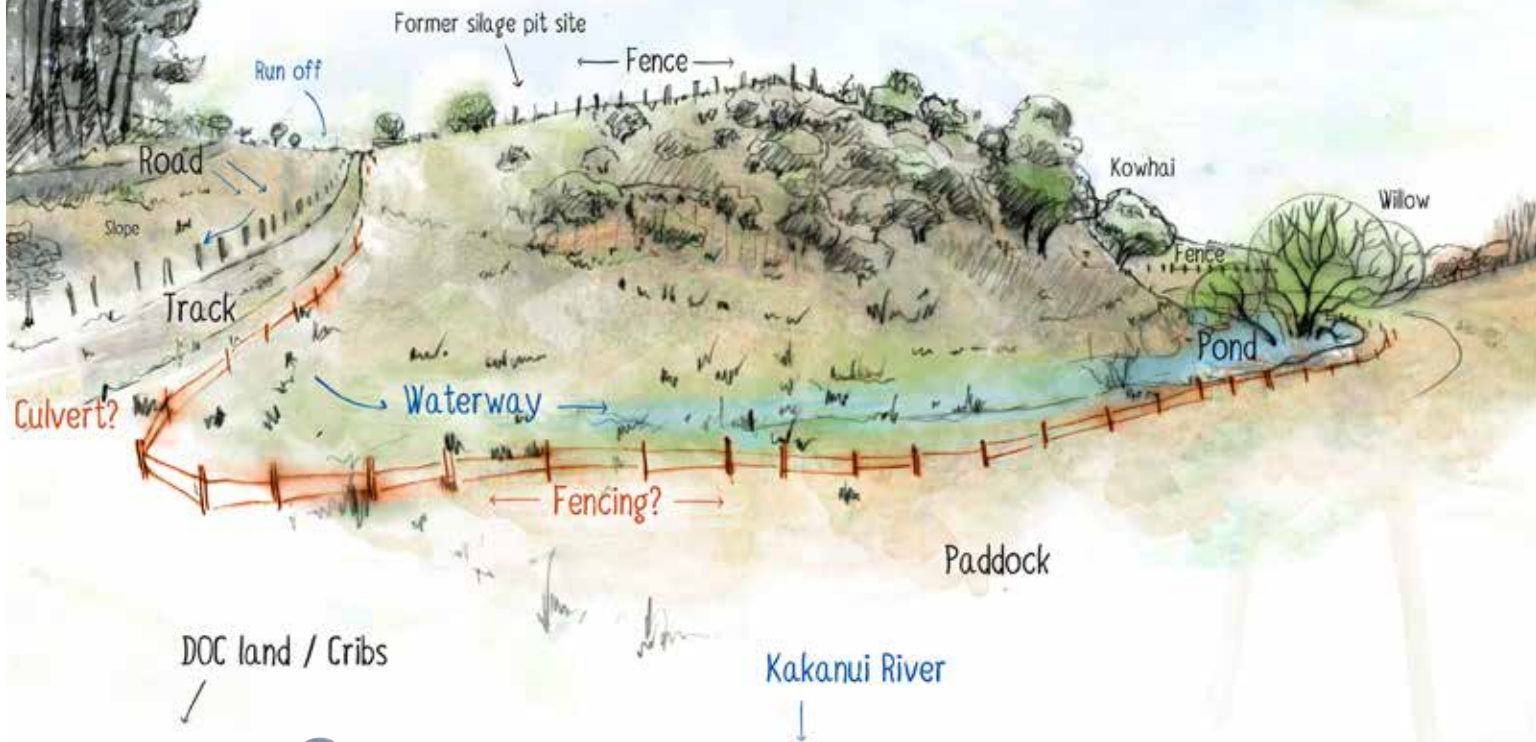
Farm plan completed:

- A Beef + Lamb New Zealand Land Environment Plan Level 1 (LEP1) was completed in May 2015.
- In the medium term Tim has found that undertaking this plan has been useful to record details for future reference and changes (as opposed to carrying the ideas in his mind). Identifying risk sensitive areas, deciding which old shelter belts need to be removed to make way for the irrigation, locations for new shelterbelts and more fencing have all been recorded.
- An Overseer report has been prepared for the farm, all of which lies within the ORC's 30 kgs N/ha/year zone. The report result is 4 kgs N/ha/year.
- A NOIC Farm Environment Plan will need to be completed when the expansion is completed and water begins to flow later this year.



POTENTIAL RIPARIAN PLANTING SITE

Tim Fox, 73 Gemmels Crossing Road



Next steps:

- Select areas for planting shelter belts and species that are fit for purpose on each site. May include Gums.
- Decide on budget available for planting to ensure the best outcome on the farm overall for the investment.
- Decide if a culvert will be installed to better manage run off from the road and farm on the track access to the flats beside the Kakanui River.
- Decide if riparian planting is to be undertaken and under what timeframe.
- Decide which specimen trees (eg Oaks, Chestnuts etc) could be planted.
- Over time, monitor whether the waterway flows when the Kakanui River is at, or below, median flow. Do tests to check water quality.
- Ensure new irrigation equipment is efficient.

