

Stock damage – Macalister irrigation District

What causes stock damage?

1. Stock regularly entering the channel at one point to drink, or
2. Where channel/drain banks are continually used as access lanes for moving stock around the farm.

The hooves of stock erode away that part of the bank where they enter the channel.

In more severe cases, where the bank is used for access, many kilometres of bank can be damaged, which will eventually need major works to reconstruct.

Who is responsible for ensuring stock don't damage channels and drains?

The landowner is responsible for ensuring stock do not damage assets owned by Southern Rural Water (SRW).

If SRW has taken an easement over privately-owned land, it is to ensure unrestricted access to our system. In this case SRW is not the landowner and legally has no right to fence along an easement. Only the landowner can take the necessary steps to ensure that cattle do not damage channel and drain banks.

Who pays for the damage?

In 1994, the Macalister Customer Consultative Committee recommended that all initial stock damage repairs be fixed and funded by SRW and that the cost of these repairs be reflected in water prices.

Any re-occurrence of stock damage or additional damage is to be paid for by the landowner.

Landowners can choose how they want to meet the cost of this subsequent work. They can:

1. Request that SRW completes the work on their behalf, or
2. Complete the work themselves or engage independent contractors to complete the work.

Any subsequent stock damage repairs must be approved by SRW.



What can be done to help reduce stock damage?

Stock troughs

By placing stock troughs in paddocks, your stock have a designated place to drink water.

Stock must not drink directly from a channel. All stock and domestic water should be pumped or piped from the channel into an on-farm dam, tank or trough.

Fencing

You can keep cattle off channels and drains by erecting permanent or electric fencing along the channel easement.

If you are planning to construct a permanent fence along a SRW channel or drain easement, contact SRW on 1300 139 510 to seek prior approval.

How does SRW monitor stock damage?

SRW has an ongoing maintenance program that includes monitoring channels, drains and easements for stock damage. We also rely on customers to advise us of any damage across the district.

More information

For more information, contact us on 1300 139 510 or visit www.srw.com.au.



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www.srw.com.au



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