CASE STUDY
September 2013

# Successful Rehabilitation on Steep, High Rainfall Terrain

*Drilling on steep but highly productive farmland requires careful negotiation with the landholder, as well as extra attention to establish stable and permanent rehabilitation of access tracks and drill pads. Alkane Resources Ltd successfully undertakes exploration activities in sensitive landscapes.*

## Background

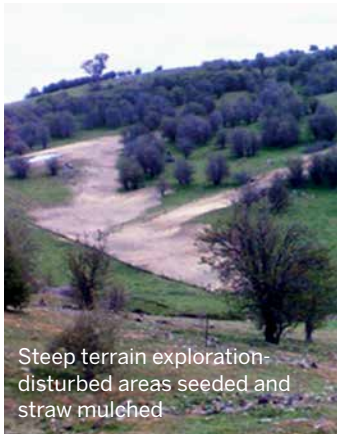
Drilling in steep, high rainfall terrain (particularly in winter months) can require significant disturbance to established pastures to create safe access tracks and level work areas.

## Preparation for Drilling

Alkane's top priority in planning a drilling program in difficult terrain was to discuss the issues honestly with the landholder. The anticipated level of disturbance was clarified and the timing for the drilling program and rehabilitation plans were communicated clearly from the outset to ensure the landholder's expectations would be met.

The landholder's local knowledge was critical when planning access and rehabilitation. Farmers know their land intimately and understand which pasture species establish in their district under specific seasonal conditions and usually have clear preferences.

Finally, all relevant approvals were obtained for each program prior to site preparation commencing.


Steep terrain exploration-disturbed areas seeded and straw mulched

## The Drilling Program

Safe access was created by stripping pasture and topsoil to one side of the access track. Alkane established erosion and sediment control structures, which were appropriate to conditions and terrain.

## Rehabilitation

Prompt site clean-up and re-establishment of final landform was essential to minimise disturbance and meet the landholder expectations.

In consultation with the landholder, the preferred pasture seed and fertiliser were spread as required. Inoculants and seed protection coatings were used, as recommended, to minimise insect attack.

Alkane has worked on other projects on certified organic farms, which have very stringent standards controlling what chemicals can be used on their land. When operating in these environments careful discussion between the company, the landholder and the contractor ensures all products brought onto the property comply with their certification. These standards must be carefully explained to all personnel.


RC drill rig on steep, high rainfall terrain

Straw mulch and hydro-seeding of steeper areas were carefully considered. Although there was a higher initial cost, these methods proved to be the lowest risk method of pasture establishment. Temporary fencing was established around rehabilitation to prevent livestock damaging the pasture regrowth. Solar powered electric tape fences were quick to erect and highly portable and so were used repeatedly.

The landholder was promptly compensated following completion of the exploration activities, including lost production of disturbed areas until the rehabilitation was mature enough to take stock. Compensation payable for the period of lost production was equated to the rate for agistment of livestock at $/head/Ha/day.

Good practices in initial drilling programs built the trust necessary to ensure access to farming and grazing properties for later operations.

Temporary electric fencing protects the rehabilitating areas from grazing animals

Rehabilitation progress on access track two years after disturbance