Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research

Applied Aquatic Ecology

Field Survey - Update
Riparian Intervention Monitoring Program

Location	Stoney Creek, via Cavendish, Victoria.
Dates	10-11 March 2026
Data collected and methods	Tenth year RIMP monitoring post intervention works. The intervention at Stoney Creek included livestock exclusion and revegetation.
Survey notes, dominant species and highlights	Ten years post intervention, there remains a clear contrast between the intervention site (Images 1 to 4) and control site (Images 5 to 8). Tube stock plantings and natural regeneration continue to establish at the intervention site, in contrast to minimal detectable change noted at the control site. In many areas of the intervention site, high natural regeneration of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* is outcompeting some of the original tube stock plantings (Images 9 and 10). As recommended previously, selective thinning of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* recruitment (immediate area around original tube stock planting) is advised to provide plantings the best opportunity for long term establishment and maturation. Little observable change has been noted at the control site, apart from a fire c. 2021 which destroyed fencing leading to the temporary removal of livestock access to the control site. This allowed germination of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* seedlings, some of which are still present in the current survey but have been consistently grazed. The scattered mature *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* visible in images 5-8, are producing sufficient seed to allow natural regeneration at the control site and this would continue if livestock were excluded from the riparian zone on a more permanent basis. The intervention site remains on a good trajectory. In the intervening years of the two most recent assessments, ownership of the property has changed hands and sheep have been replaced by cattle. Some cattle have infringed part of the downstream zone of the intervention area through the fencing across the creek and grazed this area (out of immediate assessment zone). Damage appears to be limited.
Survey team	Baseline monitoring (February 2016) Bryan Mole, Rob Addinsal, Jane Bradley Third year monitoring (February 2019) - Bryan Mole & Chris Wilson Sixth year monitoring (February 2022) Bryan Mole & Lyndsey Vivian Tenth year monitoring (March 2026) Bryan Mole & Di Crowther

Image 1. Stoney Creek intervention site, prior to intervention (February 2016).

Image 2. Stoney Creek intervention site, three years post intervention (February 2019)

Image 3. Stoney Creek intervention site, six years post intervention (February 2022).

Image 4. Stoney Creek intervention site, ten years post intervention (March 2026).

Image 5. Stoney Creek control site, February 2016.

Image 6. Stoney Creek control site, February 2019.

Image 7. Stoney Creek control site, February 2022.

Image 8. Stoney Creek control site, March 2026.

Image 9. Stoney Creek intervention site, 6 years post intervention (February 2022) showing *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* natural recruits crowding a tube stock planting of *Banksia marginata*.

Image 10. Stoney Creek intervention site 10 years post intervention (March 2026), showing further growth of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* natural recruits crowding an original tube stock planting of *Banksia marginata*.

Disclaimer – Please note these are field observations from a recent survey. This information will undergo quality assurance and analysis. *Please contact Bryan Mole for further details (bryan.mole@deeca.vic.gov.au)*	VICTORIA State Government | Energy, Environment and Climate Action Arthur Rylah Institute for environmental research