



UPPER RIVER TORRENS
LANDCARE GROUP

Data Sheet Electric Fencing

Adapted (with permission) from 'Electric Fencing - Smart Landcare Farming' by the Tungkillo and Harrogate Landcare Groups.

Electric fencing is all about efficiency and effectiveness - it is about using fewer posts, fewer droppers, less wire and cheaper gates; it is also about putting fences exactly where they are needed.

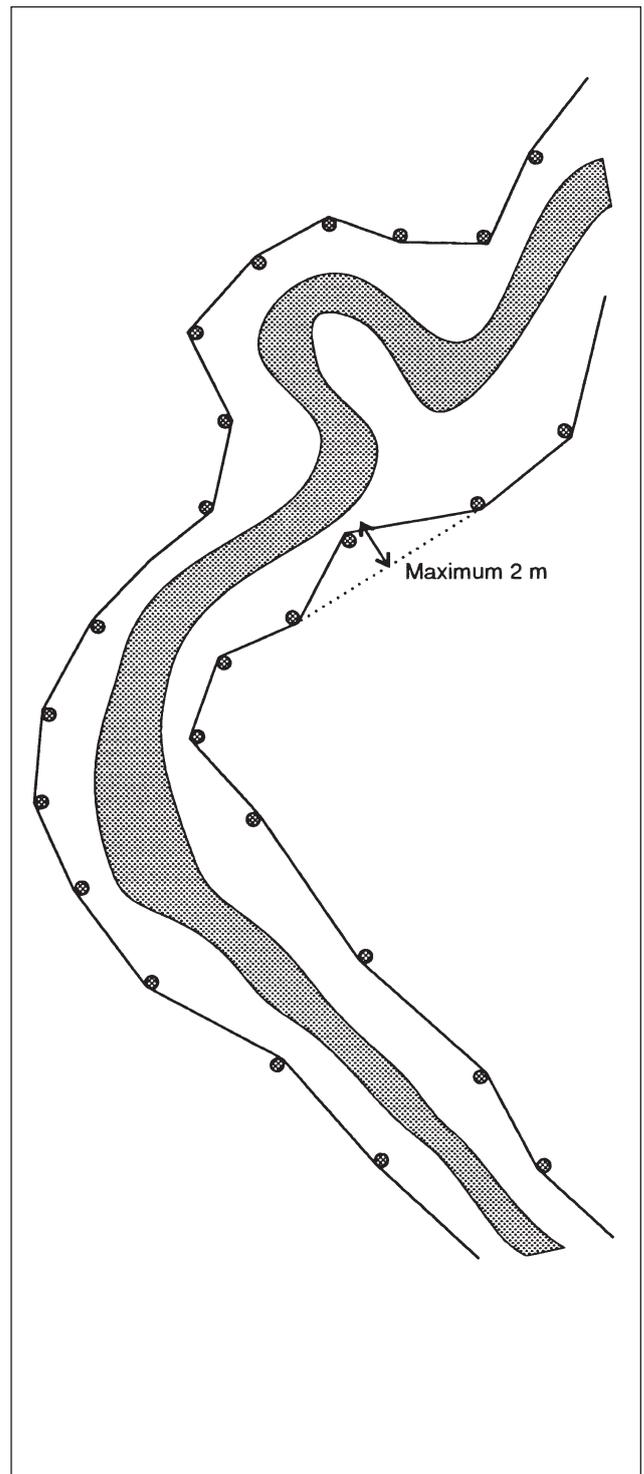
Why build the sort of fences grandad did? After all, he was just using the best materials and technology available in his day. Shouldn't we?

Watercourses, gullies, remnant vegetation, saline or waterlogged areas are all different from their surrounding land. So they need to be managed differently. Rarely are they defined by straight lines, so they don't fit into the traditional pattern of straight line fences.

Creeks, watercourses and gullies

Curves are beautiful

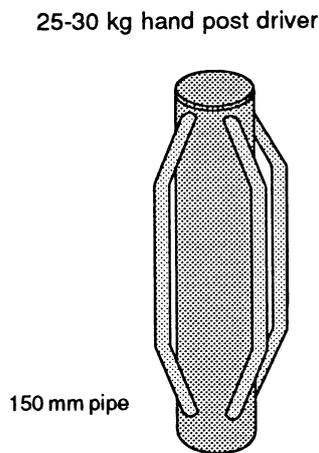
- Plan your fence on an aerial photo (Mapland or private supplier)
- Give as much land back for a buffer as possible
 - At least 5m from the high water mark helps management options
- Use a sound strainer post
 - no box frame or strutting needed
- Put 50% of the post in firm ground
- Keep curves less than 2 metres off the line between adjacent posts
- Avoid fences that cross creeks
- If fence must cross the creek, the flood gate must stand alone. (See "Electrified Floodgates and Watercourse Fencing datasheets")
- Tension to 1.0kN (bottom wires can be to 1.3kN)
- Use spacers as required (e.g. one every 10m)



Posts for curves

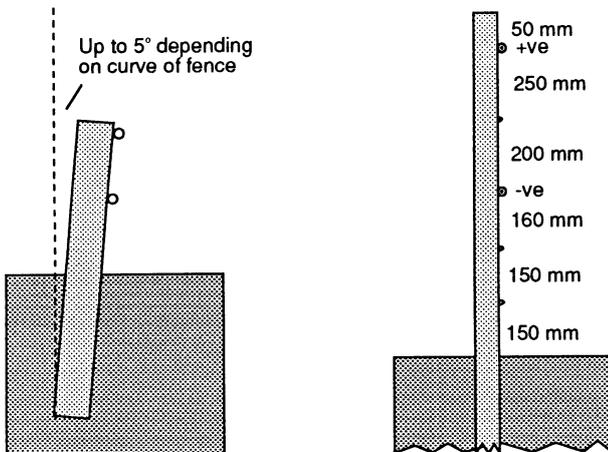
No strainers or struts

- Lean posts away from the curve when ramming into pre-dug holes and when hand driving
- Place the post hard up against the solid edge of pre-dug hole and pack behind it
- Lean may not be critical if posts are machine driven into ground
- A two-person hand post driver can be used with pointed posts in moist ground
- Pointed posts are unnecessary with a machine driver



Below left: Lean posts away from curve; 50% of post should be below ground level.

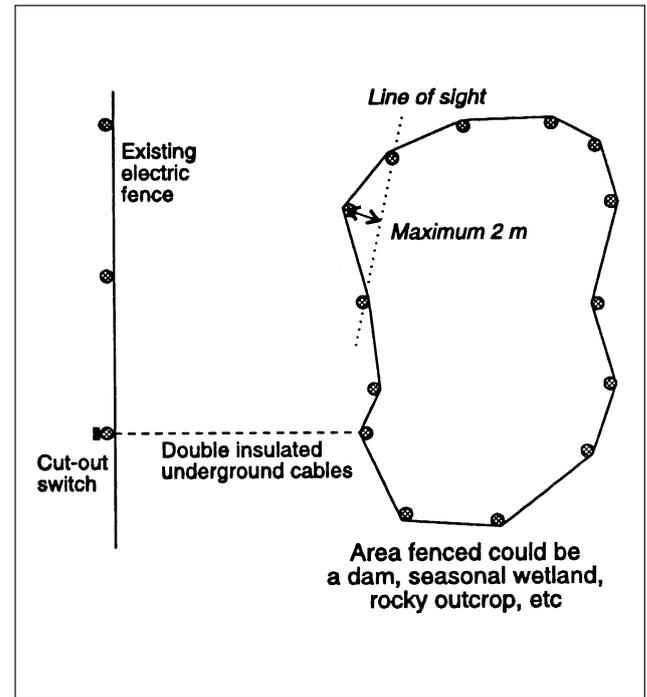
Below right: Wire spacings for mixed grazing



Dams (and other sensitive out-of-square areas)

Don't neglect it just because it's not square

- Use lift-up or lay-down gates for access when required, even if you don't envisage needing access.
- Use a cut-out switch to permit maintenance
- Gripples® allow easy tensioning
- If wire loses some tension, cut wire and re-tension with a Gripple®



See [Coopers Farm Supplies](#), of Mt Torrens or Mt Pleasant or other local suppliers for all your fencing needs and advice.