

## Stick Rake Lines (Contour Barriers)

### Construction Pointers



#### TO TREAT

Hillslope erosion by intercepting the downslope flow of water and soil particles

Gullies by slowing down the movement of water before entering the gully

#### MATERIALS

1. Level
2. Clinometer
3. Small logs, brush, sticks, old yard rails
4. Stakes

Stick rake lines 'check' the overland flow after rainfall events, thus improving infiltration of water and nutrients. They may be constructed on a large scale with a bulldozer, for example, after the removal of regrowth on sloped paddocks. Alternatively they may be constructed by hand in small areas, by laying old yard rails and smaller branches above gully heads.

Stick rake lines should be placed directly across the slope - on the level contour. Intervals between stick rake lines will depend on factors such as slope and the availability of construction materials. Consider leaving strips of live trees on the contour for numerous production and ecological benefits.

On the small scale, around gully heads 1 or 2 rows of brush or low logs/ rails about 5 m apart is a common design. Laying mulch between lines will provide a seed bed to facilitate rehabilitation of these usually bare areas.

**Find more information on other methods in the "Reef Trust Phase IV Gully and Stream Bank Toolbox".**

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