



We're in the Cudgewa area on roughly 160 acres running Murray grade beef.

When we took over the place there was a decent amount of blackberry in the property, so all the deep gullies and the old fence lines there were quite large blackberry bushes. So to tidy the place up and make it more manageable and to subdivide it up into nice paddocks, manageable paddocks, we had to get rid of the blackberries so we did that through chemical means.

The toughest bit about managing his place would be initially wanting to get everything done as quickly as possible. It's taken me time to realise that you can't take it from zero to hero in a short time. Early on it would be a week spraying, these days it's half a day.

There's been good community support for control of blackberries. There was less cost to us in sourcing chemicals and even just recently the last two years, Upper Murray Landcare Network has been able to pay for a contractor to spray.

If the support wasn't there in the first place, it would have been a far more expensive outlay for me. I'd say there's really good control of blackberry in this immediately vicinity.

Lessons from blackberry control over the years have been that you need to do it year in year out, you can't just skip a year. There was one period there where I did skip a year and the effort required to catch up to where you were the two years before, outweighed the benefit of skipping a year.

It brings much enjoyment and fulfillment, weeks and weeks and weeks of planting thousands and thousands of trees, to sit back now on the higher parts of the property and look across it and know that there's birds and insects just having a great time in there and no blackberries coming up within those gullies. They're shaded out by the canopies these days.