

# Track Maintenance Know-How

In each issue we will focus on a different aspect of Track maintenance. You might learn skills relevant to your section, or get some perspective on tasks that occupy other volunteers...

## Focus on ... Erosion Control and Water Bars



Water is one of the most difficult issues to manage. Poor drainage, steep slopes and high use can lead to a range of problems including pooling of water, tread instability and erosion channels. The effects of erosion are minimised by correct track construction techniques. A range of track construction, compaction and drainage techniques (water bars, culverts, etc.) have been applied to ensure a well-drained, stable surface on the Bibbulmun Track.

If water damage or erosion is evident on your section, report these problems in your Track inspection report, giving a brief description of the issue.

Water bars have been installed on various parts of the Track to minimise erosion. They are angled across the Track on sloping ground so that the water is channelled off the Track into the surrounding bush. Water bars may be made of wood or of the local soil (earthen).



## Maintenance of water bars

Look for...	Maintenance Tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water running around the top end of the bar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Either trench the ground to redirect the runoff, or replace with a longer bar</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water running around the bottom end of the bar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Either trench the ground to extend the runoff, or replace with a longer bar</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water running over the top of a wooden bar – due to soil build up on the high side</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear away the soil on the high side of the bar so water can run along the bar into the bush. Extra soil can be built up against the lower side of the bar to prevent it moving out of place</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water running over the top of an earthen bar – due to soil building up in the trench, or foot traffic wearing down the bar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drag soil up onto the top and compact with a rake hoe</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debris building up at the downward end of an earthen bar – allowing water to gather in the trench</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean out with a rake hoe ensuring the water can run off freely</li> </ul>



## What is the problem here?



The angle needs to be steeper, so that water is routed off the track. Regular clearing of the upper soil is necessary.

**Don't forget to check! Take a [maintenance checklist](#) with you on your visit to make sure you don't miss anything. It's based on the sections in the online reporting form.**