

News from the CEO:

Well the weather has certainly challenged a lot of the region these past few months. However, I congratulate all those landholders who have undertaken NRM projects across the South West. To date there are more than 85 properties involved in projects through South West NRM. This sheer amount of work supported by the Queensland and Commonwealth governments can only result in a better landscape for the future.

On a positive front, it is showing that those early landholder groups that became involved in the cluster fencing model are now reaping the benefits. These results have spurred the Queensland Government to allocate an additional \$2.16 million in funding to increase the area under cluster fencing arrangements. This is a good result for the region and the landholders who are taking part.

Another good result for the region is the work by the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to develop the bug to attack the coral cactus surge that is across the landscape. The cochineal bug can now be grown out and spread across areas of large infestation and allow them to do their work. South West NRM is setting up a large growing facility at the Croxdale training facility to propagate these bugs in larger numbers to then make them available to landholders who wish to continue to spread them around. See page 12-13 for more information about this fascinating form of biocontrol.

Our staff are involved in a number of events aimed at assisting and supporting landholder practices to manage the competing interests on the grass and stock across the region. Be on the look out for some of these events such as paddock grazing practices, wild dog trapping, fence construction in flood plains and assessing pasture growth.

Additionally, if any landholders know of university students in need of somewhere to undertake project work as part of their course work, please contact us at South West NRM and we will do our best to help find appropriate placement.

Until next time,

Phil.



Phil McCullough

*Chief Executive Officer
Condamine Alliance and
South West NRM*

NEWS FLASH!

→ **APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN for the next round of cluster fencing funding opportunities: turn to page 22 for all the details!**

Don't miss out!