



# South West NRM

## On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

### AUTHORINGA FENCING SPINIFEX Paddock

**Landholder Name:** Cornford Grazing Company

**Property Location & Lot on Plan:** Parish of Authoringa - County of Ross. Lot 4 on Crown Plan R 588  
(Property & project location maps attached at the end of the document)

**Property Outline:**  
(E.g. Property description, size in hectares, enterprise, annual rainfall, and current management practice)

Cornford Grazing Company is a profitable & sustainable beef cattle enterprise at Authoringa Station, 50km SE of Charleville with an 18 inch average Rainfall. Current management practices found on Authoringa involve a 1000 cow breeder operation, mustering quarterly & selling the weaners off at 250kg. We experimented with rotational grazing & found the results disappointing as the macropods chewed the paddocks out before the cattle were returned to them.

Authoringa is 20,700 Hectares and is principally 50% of deep soft red loamy Box Sandalwood soils interspersed with large areas of deep Coolibah country and the remaining 50% soft loamy low mulga country and only 8% of hard Mulga ridge.

Authoringa includes 23km, double frontage to the Angellala Creek providing permanent waterholes, with principally Mulga Mitchell, Blue Grass, other native grasses and some improved pastures.

Each year we aim to spell 20% of the property over the summer wet season to provide the country with the best chance to rejuvenate. With further development we would hope to increase our carrying capacity to 1500 breeders, this may be achieved when we look further into methods of rotational grazing.



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## Project Description

There is a 13,000 acre paddock that is currently poorly watered, with only a trough in each corner creating immense grazing pressure around these waters. There is currently no utilisation of the feed that is available in the central areas. The project is to fence the paddock into 3 smaller paddocks with a 3 barb divide fence, steel framework, corners and gateways. A cattle grid will also be erected on the Noorooloo Road. An additional 4 troughs will be added at new watering points with 6km of poly pipe. There will also be 2 x 3000 gallon poly tanks added for water storage purposes.

## Project Aim

The aim of this project is to spread the grazing pressure more evenly across the paddocks, thus making better utilisation of the feed available, and constantly have 2 of the 3 paddocks locked up and being spelled.

This project, in conjunction with a rotational grazing system that will rest paddocks during active growth periods, will encourage a more uniform grazing pattern of our cattle which will enable them to make better use of the productive pasture species, while taking pressure off the less productive pasture species in this area of the property.

## Project Outcomes

The outcome of this project is to have the grazing pressure spread more evenly, reducing pressure on the currently heavily grazed areas, and utilising pastures that are not being grazed. Ultimately the project outcomes will improve ground cover and the end result being a healthier ecosystem. This project will aim to increase ground cover, biodiversity, pasture quality and quantity through increased pasture utilisation and a system of rotational grazing.

## Outputs

### 14.5 Ground Cover Management

An area of 5260ha of land where improved groundcover management practices will be implemented within this project proposal.

P5.1 Biophysical, economic or social plans.  
Monitoring & Evaluation plan developed

CB1.2 Publications. 1 Project Fact Sheet developed for Division of Spinifex application  
Authoringa delivered to 50 Landholders.

## Project Monitoring:

### Objectives:

Monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness and outcomes when dividing paddocks into smaller manageable sizes to establish a rotational grazing system. This will determine ground cover response, presence of pasture species, biodiversity and production benefits found on the project site.

### Methodology & Indicators:

Indicators: 3P pasture species, percentage groundcover, pasture quantity, rainfall, grazing days, and land condition.

Methodology: Transects and photo points, standing dry mass, use of grazing charts, Stocktake monitoring.

Grazing days will be calculated according to number of stock utilising pastures on project site and availability of pastures.

### Monitoring Schedule:

Establish Baseline data before commencement of the project.

Biophysical monitoring every six months in which South West NRM will be responsible for collecting, collating, interpreting and reporting data.

Establish one pasture monitoring transect and one photo monitoring site within the project area.

Establish one pasture monitoring transect and one photo monitoring site within the property, external to the project site.

Develop a case study comparing return on investment of spreading grazing pressure as developed under this project, and comparing the economic return on investment to the project comparison site.