



# South West NRM

## On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

### FENCING OF STRATEGIC WATER FOR TOTAL GRAZING PRESSURE - CAIRNS

**Landholder Name:** Schmidt Grazing Industries

**Property Location & Lot on Plan:** Cairns, 12 SP118787

(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)

Cairns is a 50000ha property located 75 km west of Charleville via the Adavale road. We are currently running Cairns as a sheep for wool and cattle breeding operation. We also harvest wild goats when the opportunity arises. Although we have some sheep the dingoes are becoming more difficult to control and because of numbers encroaching on our stock we are shifting to more of a cattle breeding enterprise. This in time is going to affect our grazing land by way of young mulga regrowth becoming well established without the sheep numbers to keep it under control. Our average rainfall would be around 18 inches in a normal year.



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*This project is supported by South West NRM through funding from the Queensland Government's Q2 Coasts and Country and Australian Government's Caring for Our Country.*

## Project Description

Fencing of existing and future watering points to control grazing pressure. We have a paddock on Cairns which is 9000ha with a mixture of mulga red soil and black soil. There are 3 water points in the paddock which are unfenced. We are looking to add more water points and fence the new and existing water points. The water points will have approx 4 ha fenced around with trap gates as entries to the waters. Fencing will be of 7 wires, 2 being barb and pickets 5mtrs apart. The trap gates will allow the stock to be trapped and then moved .

Total funding budget for Cairns is \$11,000.

## Project Aim

We are finding stock are heavily grazing the black soil and not utilising the rest of the paddock, leaving it bare of ground cover and encouraging the growth of turkey bush and sandalwood. We are aiming to close waters off, encouraging stock to spread out and utilise all of the paddock . The trap gates at water points allow stock to be mustered and then moved to other water points with least amount of stress to the animal.

## Project Outcomes

Improve Pasture, control erosion, control infestations of woody weeds in areas being over grazed. Controlling the water points in such a large area allows us to control grazing pressures in a radius around the water point. This will mean we can manage the amount of ground cover to be left and allow longer periods without grazing for grass regeneration. This in turn will help production with new and more grass growth in areas with minimal ground cover and areas not being grazed to become future grazing areas.

## Outputs

### 14.5 Groundcover Management

An area of 50000ha of land where improved groundcover management practices have been adopted through this project.

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

CB1.2 Publications. 1 Project Fact Sheet developed for Cairns grazing pressure application and distributed to 50 people.

## Project Monitoring:

### Objectives:

Monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness and outcomes of controlling grazing pressure through installation of additional watering points, and fencing . 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.

Pasture monitoring transects and Photo monitoring sites will be established within the project area to evaluate pasture species and ground cover percentage.

Monitoring will also be set up external to the project site to give comparable data across the property.

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