



South West NRM

On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

CUNNYANNA CONSERVATION OF THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY

Landholder Name: Greg & Robyn Bryant

Property Location & Lot on Plan: CUNNYANNA

3MAR17

Property Outline:

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

'Cunnyana' is located 160 kilometres north east of Bollon in South West Queensland. It comprises 12294ha of which about one third is good quality heavy Brigalow/Belah country and the balance is Box/ Yellow jacket/ Sandalwood country. We currently run 'Cunnyana' as cattle breeding and backgrounding property. The average yearly rainfall for the property is 18 inches. Our management includes the use of strategic grazing practise, running conservative cattle numbers and ensuring a minimum 30% ground cover in paddocks. We aim to reduce critical threats to the Brigalow/Belah Ecological community on Cunnyana by fencing and providing water to reduce the impacts of overgrazing by domestic and native animals. This will also improve soil quality and the reduce impacts of wind and water erosion. We plan to further develop Cunnyana with more divisional fencing to allow for more sustainable grazing practices through rotational grazing. This future development will also provide better drought proofing outcomes.



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Q2
Coasts
And
Country

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

This project will be to fence and provide watering points for protection and conservation purposes. 6.75 kilometres of 4 barb fencing will subdivide 2797ha containing 652 ha of brigalow/belah threatened ecological community for conservation and sustainable grazing practices. This large area will be subdivided with fencing into two smaller paddocks to allow for controlled grazing through rest and graze periods with optimum stocking density matched to carrying capacity rates. This will result in improved ground cover. Control of watering points through the installation of 2 tanks and 4 troughs is essential to shut off waters from kangaroos when paddock is resting. South West NRM Funds contributed to this project are \$20438.00.

Project Aim

The aim of this project is to increase ground cover over time which will in turn increase carbon sequestration. Conservation of the Brigalow/belah community by fencing this area will allow for controlled grazing as critical times and aid in the establishment and persistence of desirable pasture species. Control of watering points will reduce the impacts of overgrazing of livestock and wildlife during spelling. This project will result in 652ha of land managed to reduce critical threats to the Threatened Ecological Brigalow/Belah Communities.

Cunnyanna is owned by the Bryant Family Trust and this project will see 4 farmers directly involved in the conduct of land and soil improving activities to improve soil management methods via devolved grants.

Project Outcomes

Primary outcome will be the development of sustainable farm practices through utilising rotational grazing regimes for improved production results for domestic stock. Project outcomes will also be the conservation of the Threatened Ecological Community and groundcover improvement with reduced impacts from wind and water erosion and added carbon sequestration ability.

Project Outputs

OG2.4 Fenced terrestrial vegetation. 2797 ha of terrestrial native vegetation protected by fencing
OG7.1 Fencing of significant species. 652 ha protected by fencing specifically for significant species/ecological community protection

OG14.5 Groundcover management. 2797 ha of land where improved groundcover management practices have been adopted. 4 land managers adopting improved management practice.

P5.1 Biophysical, economic or social plans. One plan completed.

CB1.2 Publications

One fact sheet developed

Project Monitoring:

Objectives:

Objectives for monitoring are to observe and document the adoption of improved management practices through improvements in ground cover within the 652ha of land managed to reduce critical threats to the Threatened Ecological Brigalow/Belah Communities. This will be achieved by fencing and installing water points to allow for rest and graze periods of domestic stock. We will also have the ability to shut off waters during periods of rest.

Methodology & Indicators:

Methods for monitoring will be utilising photo points to record change in landscape overtime. A transect will be used to indicate ground cover, biodiversity and pasture species present.

Records of livestock paddock numbers will be documented by landholders.

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

Methodology: One transect and 1 photo point in each new paddock, standing dry mass.

Records of livestock paddock numbers will be documented by the landholder.

Monitoring Schedule:

Establish baseline data prior to the commencement of the project. To assist project collaboration and holistic data analysis under the project, the initial collection and onforwarding to South West NRM, of rainfall and ongoing production monitoring data (e.g. grazing days / location etc. incorporating actual rest periods for each paddock, yields: stock days / ha, stocking rate), will be the responsibility of the landholder. Biophysical monitoring every six months in which South West NRM will be responsible for collecting, collating, interpreting and reporting data. One pasture monitoring transect considering pasture species and ground cover established within the project area representative of the major land type.