



# South West NRM

## On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

### Fencing to improve groundcover & grazing pressure

**Landholder Name:** JR & P McKenzie

**Property Location & Lot on Plan:** Lot 2 & 4 on Plan CS2 Parish of Cockatara GHPL 15/1824 and GHPL 15/1823 & Lot 6 on Plan NO4, Parish of Floriana GHPL 15/1825

**Property Outline:**

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

Gamarren is located 98 kms south east Cunnamulla in south west Queensland. It has an area of 26,500ha. The property is fully fenced, with plans to develop internal fencing to further subdivide paddocks for rotational grazing practices. Gamarren is run as a holistic grazing operation with rotational grazing practices. The enterprise mix on Gamarren includes a 5,000 head Merino ewe self replacing flock, utilising Centre Plus bloodlines, a 2,000 head self replacing Boer cross goat operation and a 100 head self replacing Droughtmaster cross herd of cattle. Stocking rates are adjusted to maintain ground cover.

Gamarren has a 375mm average annual rainfall. After receiving exceptional rainfall for the past two years, groundcover is currently 100% across the property, with native pasture species in abundance. The country is a mix of Watercourse, Gidyea, Mulga, Sand plains and open alluvial country.



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



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 forms stage 2 of 3 of the Warrambah Creek Fencing to protect Riparian areas and Gamarren subdivision. 13k of Electric fence with steel posts, 5 plain & 1 barbed wire, insulators, energizer & solar power will be constructed to allow for rotational grazing as outlined in our property plan. Subdivisional fencing to divide 2 paddocks currently 5499ha into 4 paddocks - North Mulligans 1943ha, South Mulligans 1020ha, Red Hill 883ha, & Adams 1616 ha with 8k poly pipe, 2 tanks & 2 troughs .

Landtypes in each paddock are as follows;

Adams 1616ha with Warrambah Ck - Wooded Alluvial,

Red Hill 883ha - Mulga Sandplain with Hop Bush & False Sandalwood

North Mulligans 1943ha – Soft mulga & claypan swamps and lakes

South Mulligans 1020ha - Soft Mulga & Claypan ,Swamps & Lakes.

Funds provided by South West NRM Ltd towards this project total \$10,000.00

## Project Aim

The project aims to protect the riparian areas by spreading the grazing pressure & providing alternative water points allowing for exclusion of stock to encourage pasture recovery in line with Grazing Land Management (GLM) guidelines.

Control of grazing pressure with strategic goat grazing for the control of woody weed infestations and to encourage pasture recovery are the outcomes sought. We have trialled this method with success at Gamarran previously.

## Project Outcomes

Improved ground cover and biodiversity.

Better control of stocking rates in these paddocks.

Improved control of all stock (native & domestic) through controlled water points.

## Outputs

OG2.4 Fenced terrestrial vegetation

5499ha of terrestrial vegetation protected by fencing

OG14.5 Groundcover Management

5499ha of land where improved ground cover management practices have been adopted

CB1.2 Publications. 1 fact sheet developed

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

## Project Monitoring:

### Objectives:

The objective of monitoring this project is to ultimately record change over time. Monitoring of ground cover response, presence of pasture species and biodiversity, and production benefits in response to installation of fencing to allow for rotational grazing of 5499ha.

### Methodology & Indicators:

Improved Groundcover & decreased woody weed infestation

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

**Methodology:** One transect and 1 photo point for each land type, standing dry mass.

Records of livestock paddock numbers will be documented by landholders.

### 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.

Three photo monitoring sites within the project area representative of the major land types.

Analysis: Return on Investment. Develop a case study comparing return on investment of rotational grazing systems as developed under this project, and comparing the economic return to previous management of this area.