



South West NRM

On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

Creek Paddock Subdivision – *Glenalvon.*

Landholder Name: MC & AC Noon
Property Location & Lot on Plan: Lot2 MAR29; Lot 9 KE87

(Property map and project locality map attached at the end of the document).

Property Outline:

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

We took over Glenalvon in 1995, at that time running mainly sheep (5000). Since then we have moved into a mixture of sheep, cattle and goats. Three years ago we diversified into Dorper cross sheep after being wool growers to achieve better returns. In 2003 we began renewing old fences with hinge joint fencing, which enabled us to harvest goats; to date we have approximately 60kms of hinge joint fencing. We have infused boer bucks over our feral nannies and they are sold for their meat.

We run mixed breed cattle enterprise, with a combination of breeding and trading as season permits. In an effort to increase our scale we are running 179 cows on permanent agistment. Presently we are doing some rotational grazing, but with increased fencing and water points we will be able to increase the rest periods allowing for more sustainable grazing management. The business is run as a partnership.

In 2007 we began an association with RCS doing Grazing for Profit, Graduate Link and some of Executive Link. Through these courses we have attained Tafe recognized Diplomas - Diploma of Agriculture and Rural Business Management. We have 3 years of completed grazing charts.

With the last 12 months being well above average in rainfall we have built our number of dse from 7232 in December 2009 to 10353 in December 2010, whilst staying within our benchmark. This is a combination of sheep, cattle and goats and does not include the cows on permanent agistment. This fits with our goal to be a profitable and sustainable grazing enterprise. Annual rainfall is 475mm.

Glenalvon consists of a total area of 9100ha with a mixture of sandy loam, grey creek flats and red gravelly soils. Our water sources include 10 dams and semi permanent holes in Neabul Creek. We have a shearing shed and sheep yards, shearers' quarters and cottage and cattle/goat yards.

Boundary fencing is a combination of 6 wire, hingejoint, with remaining internal fencing in reasonable repair. We plan to change to electric fencing, which we have already started on. The House and shed was constructed in the mid 1950's and our home is in good repair with attractive garden. We have a 6 bay machinery/car shed.



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Project Description

This Project divides an existing 800 ha paddock utilising electric fencing. By establishing the electric fencing we intend to create a mix of 280 ha and 520 ha paddocks allowing fencing to land type, demarcating both riparian and flood plain ecosystems. Construction of the fence will be 6 wire electric (3 live; 3 earth), steel post and porcelain insulators, and being 3.3 km in length. Glenalvon has a property plan. This project will assist a larger self funded project of which 10 kms is already completed. Project budget allocation (\$6500.00 incl. GST).

Project Aim

To enable the expansion of a property rotational grazing system and assist flexible management of stocking rates, encouraging an increase in ground cover densities, managing grazing pressures and thereby encouraging return and expansion of areas of native grasses (3P). We are currently doing some rotational grazing on our 9100ha property and wish to expand this business opportunity.

Project Outcomes

Through breaking up the 800 ha paddock, to allow implementation of rotational grazing, the outcomes will include:

- (1) Increase in ground cover;
- (2) Increase in 3P pastures (palatable, perennial and productive);
- (3) Better penetration of water during rain events;
- (4) Reduced soil erosion;
- (5) Increase in soil carbon and biodiversity;
- (6) Improved production and management benefits.
- (7) More paddocks to enable increased rotation and rest;
- (8) Increased Return on Investment.

Outputs

CB1.1 Events; 1 field day in conjunction with Mitchell and District Landcare group; expected approximately 20 persons.

OG3.4 Enhanced terrestrial vegetation; 800 ha project, influencing 9100 ha under property management through rotational grazing practices.

OG 14.5 Groundcover management; 800 ha project, influencing 9100 ha through rotational grazing practices; 2 property managers and influencing up to another 20 persons through the field day.

Project Monitoring:

Objectives:

Monitor ground cover response, presence of pasture species and biodiversity, and production benefits in response to a reduction in paddock size from 800 ha fenced into 2 smaller paddocks and introducing rotational grazing practices.

Indicators & Methodology:

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.

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.

Two pasture monitoring transects considering pasture species and ground cover established within the project area representative of the major land types.

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

One pasture monitoring transect and one photo monitoring site located upon the property, external to the project site, as a comparison site.

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 on investment to the project comparison site.