



South West NRM

On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

Glentuckie Planned Grazing Project

Landholder Name: John and Lyn Parsons

Property Location & Lot on Plan: South West of Cunnamulla on Tinnenburra Road

5 KU43

Property Outline:

“Glentuckie” is located 127k south of Cunnamulla on Glentuckie Road off the Rockwell Rd with the Cuttaburra Creek bordering the eastern boundary. The 16167 hectares is a mix of Landzones, including Hard Mulga (42%), Soft Mulga (38%), with some open Alluvial Plains, Wooded Alluvial Plains and Sandhills on the Cuttaburra flood country.

John and Lyn Parsons have owned “Glentuckie” since 2002; purchasing freehold from the State in 2007. They are active members of the Tinnenburra Landcare group, involved in project on the Artesian Bore Logging to identify Interbed Aquifer Leakage and Warrego River history projects. John has attended several training workshops at Eulo and Cunnamulla and is an active community member. He also works off property as a consultant; so they are fairly busy people.

“Glentuckie” is currently in very good condition due to the wonderful seasons of 2009 (440mms of rain) and 2010 (657mm) and 2011 already looking good. The stock rate is also the reason “Glentuckie” looks so good, with 80 cows and 3000 merino sheep, and 1000 lambs in 2011 the country has been reasonably understocked since the dry period pre 2008. (Property totally destocked 2003 and most of 2004 to curtail extensive pasture degradation).

The good seasons have enabled substantial sections of previously degraded land to remain destocked for prolonged periods to allow for re-establishment of productive native grasses, extensive fencing and an ongoing water infrastructure programme over the last 4 years is leading towards the introduction of controlled grazing across a large number of well watered paddocks.



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Project Description

The Parson family will install 2 fences of 5 kms each, bisecting 2 bores and dividing one large paddock into 3 smaller paddocks, that will all connect to an existing laneway system. This will allow John to run one large mob of stock in a smaller paddock to achieve even grazing of soft mulga pastures and strategic resting of other paddocks.

The existing paddock is 8,000 ha and consisting of a 50/50 mix of soft and hard mulga and has good ground cover, a mix of highly desirable pastures species. Mulga thickening is noted by John and some areas have been pulled in the last 20 years.

Water is provided by two bores and the fences will intersect them, allowing for a good supply of water in all new paddocks. South West NRM is contributing \$10,000 to assist John with this \$27,000 project.

Project Aim

To break a parcel of land in excess of 8000Ha into 3 paddocks and begin rotational grazing on "Glentuckie". This grazing practice will be based on the availability of perennial grass species and allow the landholder to match stocking rates to carrying capacity. Resting paddocks and having control over the time grazing animals are in each paddock will increase ground cover and pasture robustness.

This project will give "Glentuckie" 8 paddocks and three more are planned for over the next 2 years. This number of paddocks will allow for resting of pastures and controlled grazing across "Glentuckie". Smaller paddocks will reduce mustering costs and an extensive laneway system links all paddocks to cattle yards.

John Parsons, the landholder has always practiced a conservative grazing strategy, destocking during drought and waiting for good recovery before restocking. Refining this stocking strategy with these additional paddocks will encourage continued improvements in pasture robustness and therefore increase economic sustainability.

Project Outcomes

The smaller, more manageable paddocks will allow "Glentuckie" to put stock in to a larger mob which will achieve resting of paddocks, beneficial stock impact and even grazing of perennial grasses.

We will be aiming for an increase in ground cover, perennial grass species and diversity and increasing grazing days per hectare.

The holistic outcomes are reduced fuel use for mustering and daily management, and more effectiveness to parasite control.

Outputs

CB 1.1 Events; 1 field day in conjunction with Tinnenburra Landcare Group; expect 10 land managers to attend.

CB1.2 Project Fact Sheet; 2 Factsheets produced and distributed to 100 land managers.

CB1.4 Media opportunities; 1 news article written to promote adoption of planned grazing in the Mulga lands.

OG14.4 Ground Cover Management; 8000 ha project area, influencing 16167 ha with planned grazing by one land manager and influencing 10 others.

P3.2 Property management plans; 1 management plan with mapping for "Glentuckie".

P5.1 Biophysical, economic or social plans; 1 Monitoring and Evaluation plan.

Project Monitoring:

Objectives:

Monitor ground cover response, presence of pasture species and diversity, and production benefits in response to controlling unmanaged dam, coupled with planned grazing and reviewing plan based on monitoring data.

Methodology & Indicators:

Indicators: 3P pasture species, percentage of ground cover, rainfall, grazing days and land condition.

Methodology: 'Stocktake' Land Condition monitoring, grazing charts

Monitoring Schedule:

Establish baseline data prior to commencement of the project.

The landholder has agreed 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 (Feb and Aug).

One pasture monitoring transects considering pasture species and ground cover established within the project area.

At least one photo monitoring sites within each paddock on "Glentuckie" representative of the major land types.

Analysis: Return on Investment. Develop a case study on the return on investment of rotational grazing systems monitored under this project, and consider the holistic return on investment economic, environmental and lifestyle.