



South West NRM

On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

Rotational Grazing at Greenbank

Landholder Name: Julie and John Berryman

Property Location & Lot on Plan: South West of Cunnamulla, Cuttaburra Road
LotPlan 22W5343

Property Outline:

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

John and Julie Berryman have owned Greenbank since 2002; prior to that the block of 7900 hectares was part of "Metavale Station". They are currently working on improving their living quarters and maintaining the property infrastructure to a very high standard.

The Eastern paddock, which the Cuttaburra Creek runs through, consists of Open alluvial plains and Sandhills and has abundant Mitchell grasses and other perennial grasses. The rest of the property has excellent pastures and some mulga and gidgee, consisting of Landzones of Hard Mulga (34%), Wooded Alluvial plains (58%), Open Alluvial plains (4%), Sandhills (3%) and Soft Mulga (1%).

"Greenbank" is a lifestyle investment which they are deeply passionate about. John and Julie are extremely interested in improving and looking after their land and stock. The Berrymans' have an off farm income from their primary business which has allowed them to destock "Greenbank" as soon as the season turned dry. This has prevented their country from being overgrazed in dry periods and has given grasses good rest after it rains, so the perennial grasses have increased and ground cover is excellent.

Currently stocked with 300 cows and their calves after the excellent season of 2010, weaning and culling will reduce this back to 250 head in early 2011. John and Julie are also involved in the Australian Land Management System.



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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

Greenbank is currently fenced in to three paddocks with good water in two of those paddocks. The Creek paddock is only watered by the Cuttaburra Creek, which only holds water for a short time after rains.

The Creek paddock, about 2000 hectares is currently under utilised due to the lack of good water supply and therefore the other two paddocks need to be stocked all year round. The Creek paddock, which the Cuttaburra Creek runs through, consists of Open alluvial plains and Sandhills and has Mitchell Grasses and other perennial grasses.

The project is to install 2kms of poly pipe, two tanks and two troughs from an existing bore head to put permanent water in to the Creek paddock.

Project Funding Budget \$ 7,270.

Project Aim

The current grazing practice at Greenbank is to destock when the years become dry and to restock after two good grass growing events. This practice has ensured there has been excellent recovery of perennial grass species and high ground cover across Greenbank.

Now that restocking has occurred in 2010 and the 300 head of cattle are in all three paddocks and are grazing selectively in sweet areas. The property is fenced into 3 paddocks, one of those being the creek paddock that does not have good water.

This project will allow John and Julie to have three good paddocks and they will be mustering early 2011 and mobbing all stock up and grazing one paddock at a time. This will give a more even grazing effect, allow the cattle to graze the best pasture species available and achieve good stock impact, while giving a good rest period to the other two paddocks.

Project Outcomes

The planned grazing should achieve improving ground cover, increase in percentage of perennial grasses, and increase carrying capacity in the long term.

As "Greenbank" is a relatively small property. It needs to achieve maximum turnover of stock in the good seasons to give economic sustainability to the business. This change in grazing will help improve carrying capacity and feed conversation.

Outputs

CB 1.1 Events; 1 field day in conjunction with Cunnamulla BestPrac Group; expect 20 land managers to attend.

OG14.4 Ground Cover Management; 7900 hectares with planned grazing by one land manager and influencing 20 others.

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

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.

P51 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 rotational 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).

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.

6 photo monitoring sites, at least one within each paddock on "Greenbank" representative of the major land types.

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