



South West NRM

On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

WOOLLY PADDOCK SUBDIVISION AND REGEGETATION

Landholder Name: Rick and Jenny Keogh.

Property Location & Lot on Plan: 100 km south of Blackall. 3/5864A and Lot 3/GN18/Listowel.

Property Outline:

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

Amaroo is 13,500 ha consisting of undulating Gidgee, Wooded Downs, Open Alluvial Plains, Dissected Residuals and Open Downs. The property is stocked with mainly sheep, however currently there are cattle in addition to the flock. The main enterprises for the property is sheep meat, beef and wool production. The stock are rotated around the property allowing most paddocks to rest every year. This rest period happens mostly in summer in the grass growing season and allows the health of the perennials to increase due to their increased root capacity and foliage density. In addition to summer rest periods, if the groundcover is declining, stock will be removed and the paddock spelled. In addition to the perennial grasses, diversity within the pasture on Amaroo is highly valued, herbs, forbs and other small shrubs all provide a mixed diet for the stock and provide a level plain of nutrition throughout the year. Amaroo is located at the head of the Bulloo catchment in the Listowel Valley. There is an 18.5 inch average annual rainfall for the property.



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Q2
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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

"Woolly Paddock" has been divided in two separate sections through the construction of a fence which the owners of Amaroo have constructed through their own funds. This will allow the country to regenerate and increase ground cover. This area has been identified as some of the worst country for not regenerating after periods with little rainfall. The owners Rick and Jenny Keogh, want to regenerate the country in Woolly Paddock through re-invigorating pastures. They will do this through scattering Mitchell Grass hay and (locally sourced) grass seed throughout the project area. The bulk of the hay will be providing protection from weather conditions and input organic matter and seed into the soil. The seed will germinate and allow faster cover of the ground to occur. This project area will be grazed sparingly and in a rotation for as long as the property is being managed by the current owners. This will help with groundcover management and soil retention. These activities will be consistent with many other activities which the owners have implemented throughout the property. Following this proposed activity monitoring of the plant diversity will take place to assess the production and environmental benefits.

Project Aim

The project will increase ground cover with a high percentage of perennial pasture species and other herbs/forbs. This will then reduce the amount of top soil which is lost through water and wind erosion. The division of these areas of land which differ in land-type, will allow the land manager to remove stock when the indicators show that it is time to do so. The construction of the fence and re-seeding of pastures on Amaroo will allow more strategic grazing regime and faster regeneration of native desirable pasture species.

Project Outcomes

The main outcomes which the project will achieve are to re-establish native perennials in cracking black soils which are lacking. Over time there will be an increase in soil carbon and an improvement in soil quality. Erosion will reduce as soil structure improves. This will fit in with the graze and spell rotation, and property production benefits.

Outputs

OG14.5 Groundcover management. 576 Ha, 2 land managers.

OG4.1 Native Plantation. 576 ha, 150 ha.

CB1.2 Publications. 1 publication. 50 recipients

P5.1 1 Biophysical, economic or social plans. Monitoring and evaluation plan. 1 Plan.

Project Monitoring:

Objectives:

The objective to the monitoring of the project is to be able to monitor change of ground cover and diversity over time through the introduction of grass seed and coverage of Mitchell Grass hay. The construction of the fence and reseeding of pastures on Amaroo will allow more strategic grazing regime and faster regeneration of native desirable pasture species. The production outcomes of the project will also be able to be monitored which will indicate if the sustainability of the country is increasing.

Methodology & Indicators:

The division of these areas of land which differ in land-type, will allow the land manager to remove stock when the indicators show that it is time to do so. This will allow an increase in the desirable pasture species and a reduction in undesirables. Additionally, an increase in biodiversity, improvement in water quality and a reduction in erosion leading to top soil loss will all be indicators that show the construction of the fence has been successful in its' objectives.

Biophysical Indicators: Plant species- monitored with transects in the project area. There will also be photo points associated with these. Ground Cover – also monitored by comparisons of transects in project area. The method used will be out of the South West NRM Monitoring Manual. Another monitoring site will be established, external to the project site as a comparison to monitor changes.

Production indicators: Weight gain, calving percentages, productivity.

Return on Investment: Develop a case study comparing return on investment of implementation of the project and an analysis of the production and economic benefits against environmental outcomes.

Monitoring Schedule:

South West NRM Rick and Jenny Keogh will be the main people responsible for monitoring. Monitoring will be established at the beginning of the project to monitor change over time. The site will be monitored twice a year at the same time. When indicators show that the health and percentage of desirable pasture species are increasing, this suggests that the project and the ongoing management have been successful. South West NRM will be responsible for collecting, collating, analysing and reporting on the project monitoring and outcomes.

Production indicators would include lambing percentage, wool clip and quality of wool sold.