



# South West NRM

## On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

### Controlling Total Grazing Pressure at Rosscoe

**Landholder Name:** Stuart and Prue Barkla

**Property Location & Lot on Plan:** South east of Cunnamulla on Bundaleer South Plains Rd  
34GHFL1410

**Property Outline:**

“Rosscoe Downs” is located on the Warrego Flood plains; know as the Salad bowl of Cunnamulla, with Mitchell grass downs, flooded coolabah and box woodlands.

Stuart and Prue Barkla have worked for many years now to reduce the grazing pressure on their country from feral animals and kangaroos. University of Queensland have trialled Machine Vision on their property with good success in allowing stock to water while excluding other animals. But to achieve a property wide decrease in grazing pressure the Barklas have to exclude animals from all manmade water on their property.

Resting country and aiming to look after their pastures has always been an aim for Stuart and Prue. But having these native and feral animals come through and continue to grazing after sheep have been removed is heart breaking for them, and prevents grasses and legumes from recovering from grazing as quickly as they should.

“Rosscoe Downs” is currently stocked with Donnie sheep and they are sold as fat lambs or whethers.



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## Project Description

“Rosscoe Downs” is in a natural migration pathway for kangaroos and goats, has excellent pastures and permanent water from artificial watering sources and few predators. This project will fence a dam to exclude all animals from water at it, with a high integrity fence.

This project is costing over \$10,500 with SWNRM contributing \$5060 to assist the owners of “Rosscoe Downs”.

To continue in implementing the property plan on “Rosscoe Downs”, which is to have all artificial man-made waters fencing to control total grazing pressure. This has been method used to reduce the constant grazing pressure from feral animals (goats) and kangaroos. By preventing them from watering at a permanent water, kangaroos and goats will keep moving rather than stay around the dam and constantly grazing the grasses.

## Project Aim

### Project Outcomes

“Rosscoe Downs” already has most of the dams and earth tanks fenced to exclude animals from drinking at these waters. This method of control native and feral animals has been proven to reduce the number of grazing animals in the immediate area of the water, and across the paddocks.

This project will build on to the property plan, of fencing all man-made waters, and having the control to provide water to stock, while they are in that paddock, and then be able to turn off or shut gates to dams, when the stock have been removed.

This will increase ground cover and allow grasses to be rested.

### Outputs

**CB1.2 Project Fact Sheet;** 1 Factsheets produced and distributed to 100 land managers.

**CB1.4 Media opportunities;** 1 news article written to promote adoption of Total Grazing Pressure Control in the Mulga lands.

**OG14.4 Ground Cover Management;** 2500 hectare project area with reduced grazing pressure by one land manager and influencing 10 others with Total Grazing Pressure control measures.

**P3.2 Property management plans;** 1 management plan with mapping for “Rosscoe Downs”.

## Project Monitoring:

### Objectives:

Monitor ground cover response, presence of pasture species and diversity, and production benefits in response to controlling total grazing pressure by fencing the dam and preventing feral and native animals from grazing all year round.

### Methodology & Indicators:

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

**Methodology:** 'Stocktake' Land Condition monitoring and a grazing chart.

### 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 the 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 on "Rosscoe Downs" representative of the major land types.

Analysis: Return on Investment. Develop a case study on the return on investment of Total Grazing Control monitored under this project, and consider the holistic return on investment - economic, environmental and lifestyle.