



South West NRM

On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

Improving Pastures at “Paddabilla”

Landholder Name: Andrew Gardiner

Property Location & Lot on Plan: East of Eulo on the Bulloo Developmental Road
30WN4, 1WELL5371, 17WELL5391, 12WELL5384, 16WELL5384,
19WELL5372, 20WELL5380, 30WN4, 32WELL5391, 18WELL5391

Property Outline:

“Paddabilla” is located 7kms east of Eulo with the Paroo River bordering the western boundary. It is a mix of soft and hard mulga with some gidgee country, totalling 13941 hectares.

The property has been fenced into 10 paddocks with extensive laneways and bore water piped to each paddock to supply good quality water. Currently Andrew Gardiner grazes each paddock for 36 days and moves the stock to a fresh paddock. This grazing method has improved ground cover and pasture species and allows easy management of stock and quick mustering.

Andrew has hosted a Livestock Management School in 2010 and regularly attends field days and workshops to continue to improve his management and knowledge.

“Paddabilla” currently runs 400 Merino sheep and shears 100 bales of wool. Having received 900mms of rain in 2010 and 335 in 2009, after an average of 225 mm in the past 10 years, the country is looking wonderful. Andrew also believes the rest he gives his country has allowed his pasture to continue to improve.

The grazing plan implemented at “Paddabilla” is also of great value to Andrew as he has often worked off property, therefore having stock in just one or two paddocks allow for easy mustering for shearing time etc.



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Project Description

The project contributes to the cost of using a Loader to push a bank across the inlet of an earth tank and prevent it from filling. The tank is on the boundary of "Paddabilla" and provides unmanaged water to feral cattle and native grazing animals. Andrew Gardiner has already shut down several dams on "Paddabilla" and the entire property is watered by a Bore and troughs, this allows water to be turned off as soon as stock are moved out of the paddocks.

The country around this tank is a seasonal wetland of about 494 hectares and is under constant grazing pressure from animals hanging on this tank and normally has low ground. This project will not only allow the area to be rested from feral animals but then allow for beneficial grazing pressure when stock are in the paddock (size 1050 hectares) and rested for the rest of the year.

The project its self is small, while the outcomes will be big! The Project budget is \$1100 (Incl. GST).

Project Aim

"Paddabilla" is already under a planned grazing management system, with informally monitored improvements in ground cover and pasture species. This project will allow formal monitoring to commence with grazing charts and photo monitoring sites used across the property. This monitoring is important as rotational grazing is fairly new to the Eulo area and the districts landholders are interested to see results.

Project Outcomes

This project will prevent kangaroos and feral stock from grazing in this wetland and paddock; therefore we will have an increase in ground cover. The increase in feed availability will then allow this paddock (size 1050 hectares) to be evenly grazed and provide more stock grazing days.

We expect improved ground cover and pasture species in the wet land area and entire paddock and across the property.

With monitoring and review of the grazing plan, we will aim for increasing ground cover and pasture species across "Paddabilla".

Formal monitoring sites with photo and grass check data will allow other landholders to see the results of planned grazing.

Outputs

CB 1.1 Events; 1 field day in conjunction with Eulo Landcare Group; expect 20 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; 494 ha of wetland area reduced grazing pressure and 13,941 ha with planned grazing by one land manager and influencing 20 others.

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

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 management benefits in removal of an unmanaged watering point, coupled with planned grazing and reviewing plan based on monitoring data.

Methodology &
Indicators:

Indicators: P3 pasture species, rainfall, grazing days and land condition.

Methodology: 'Stocktake' photo and Land Condition monitoring and 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 wetland project area.

10 photo monitoring sites, at least one within each paddock on "Paddabilla" 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.