South West NRM

On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

VEGETATION PROTECTION FENCING - ALLAMBIE

Landholder Name: Brett McDonald

Property Location & Lot on Plan: South of Cooladdi. 1 PR30/ 2 PR30/ 1 PO45/4 PO18

(Property & project location maps attached at the end of the document)

Property Outline:

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

Allambie is a 33477 Ha property located in the Paroo catchment and the Paroo River runs through it. The property consists of the following land types: Wooded Alluvial, Hard Mulga and Dissected residuals. It is for this reason that a considerable amount of fencing through landcare has been done to separate these land types for the more desirable country to be able to rest at strategic times. The annual rainfall for Allambie is 380mm, however this has been 862 mm for the 2010 season which has allowed desirable native perennial grasses to germinate, grow, seed and grow for a second season. Enterprises on the property are cattle and sheep breeding for meat and wool purposes. These are grazed in a rotational grazing system. This system allows for the rotation of the mobs out of the river floodplain and high value diverse ecosystems during significant rain events, allowing vegetation and seed build up.With this grazing program the vegetation and biodiversity are allowed to flourish while the season is in growing mode, so a very sustainable management plan can be used for both environment rejuvenation and grazing practices to be run in conjunction.
An example of this is the destocking of the pastures in the site during the flood/high rainfall season allowing vegetation growth and seed set for nature conservation purposes and the reduction of stock losses due to flood and sustainable grazing on a farm management basis.

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

Erect 5 Km of permanent electric fence enclosing 600 ha of highly diverse virgin timbered landtype. The fence will start from an existing landcare electric fence project that runs along the Paroo. This project will enclose another area of creek and virgin landtypes into a revegetation program with the aid of a fence to control the total grazing pressure. The proposed new fence heads east for 3 kms and turns south for 2 km encompasing 600 ha on the southern boundary .

Project Aim

This project will add to an existing Landcare project and further demonstrate the use of electric fencing as a pest management tool on large scale permanent fencing. This fence will help lower the total grazing pressure and instigate a spelling program for grazing. With the use of this fence and a graze and spell rotation, this will help natural vegetation regeneration by allowing the vegetation to mature to allow seed replenishment. The construction of the fence on Allambie will allow a more strategic grazing regime for the stock on the property. Our previous projects have had an extremely good groundcover improvement with the increasing establishment of native 3P grasses.

Project Outcomes

Improve ground cover and vegetation regeneration to slow water runoff slow water run off. Stabilise the stream bank which is ajacent to a high value virgin timber landscape. Assist with best practice grazing and feral animal control. Improvement in the the establishment of native 3P (perennial, palatable and productive) grasses. Implementing rotational grazing system as is being same grazing system in a new area will allow more vegetation regeneration, and enhance an area that is subject to water erosion when the total grazing pressure cannot be controlled.

Outputs

OG 14.5 Gound cover management: 600 ha, 1 business.

CB1.2 Publications: 1publication, 50 recipients

OG 3.4 Enhanced Terrestrial Vegetation: 600 ha.

P5.1 Biophysical, economic or social plans:

1 monitoring and evaluation plan.

Project Monitoring:

Objectives:	Monitoring will determine the outcomes of fencing differing land types, and the land owner implementing a rotational grazing system in the project area by removal of stock at critical times. The objective of monitoring the project long term is to create a history of the site and track indicators (e.g. ground cover improvement) in the project area due to the fence construction and implementation of graizng management practices. It is anticipated that this fence will improve perennial pasture health, there will be an increase in carrying capacity for the stock and improved turn off.
Methodology & Indicators:	This will allow an increase in the desirable pasture species and a reduction in undesirables. 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. Indicators: Plant species and ground cover. Will be measured by photo points, transects recording desirable, intermediate and undesirable through South West NRMs Monitoring manual. Water quality in the Paroo River will also be monitored with the indicator being turbidity, this will also be monitored through SWNRMs' monitoring made easy manual. Production outputs will be monitored by the land owner - weight gains, calving percentages and outputs of stock numbers.
Monitoring Schedule:	Monitoring sites will be set up prior at the commencement of the project to establish baseline data to enable comparison of 'before and after'. Brett McDonald and South West NRM will be responsible for monitoring. Data for the biophysical monitoring will collected twice a year. Pasture species will be monitored as well as ground cover %. When indicators show that the percentage of desirables are increasing, this suggests that the project and the ongoing management has been successful. The monitoring will be on-going over a three year period, subject to data collected and outcomes docmented. The production monitoring will be collected by the land owner (Brett McDonald) on an on-giong basis. Analysis: Development of a case study comparing return on investment of rotational grazing system and the project area.