



# South West NRM

## On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

### PROTECTING MUNGALLALA FLOODPLAIN

**Landholder Name:** Bob Brown

**Property Location & Lot on Plan:** Heather Station, Bollon  
1BEL53166 5BEL53167

**Property Outline:**

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

Heather Station is located 10 kilometres south west of Bollon in South West Queensland. It is 12405ha and comprises of wooded alluvial plains, poplar box plains and clay plains. The property owners look forward to taking Heather to a more productive enterprise continuing to improve the black soil country by subdividing for rotational grazing practices and improving and upgrading existing fences throughout the property. Recent good rainfall has seen the regeneration of native pasture species and ground cover is presently 100%. The annual average rainfall is 450mm. Heather has an enterprise mix of both sheep breeding and fattening. We also operate an active cattle trading enterprise.



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



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

This project will achieve subdivisional fencing on Mungallala Alluvial floodplain at Heather to allow regenerated native species to flourish and persist. 5 kms of fencing will split 4000 acres of sensitive floodplain for time managed rotational grazing. Fence structure will be cost effective Iron bark strainer posts, iron bark split posts, 2 barbs and 4 plain wires with aluminium droppers to control grazing by sheep, cattle and kangaroos. The paddock is currently patch grazed with more desirable pastures species being vulnerable to overgrazing. Controlled water points are already established. The project country type is a Coolibah alluvial floodplain of the Mungallala creek. Native grasses include mitchell grass and bluegrass.

Funds provided by South West NRM for this project total \$7066.20.

## Project Aim

The aim of this project is to protect and conserve ground cover on the Mungallala floodplain on Heather Station. After recent good rainfall native pasture species such as Mitchell Grass and Bluegrass are growing prolifically on the Mungallala floodplain at Heather. Divisional fencing of this area will allow for rest & graze regimes to allow native pastures to persist and protect floodplain ecology. Control of water is already established and this will compliment the new fencing with the added capability of turning water off when paddocks are resting. This project also aims to reduce the threat of Parthenium, which is in the northern catchment of the Mungallala creek. Good competition from established pasture and 100% ground cover will negate this weed of national significance from becoming established.

## Project Outcomes

Nature has provided a wonderful opportunity for long term restoration of native pasture species to the Mungallala floodplain. Working with this opportunity, erection of fencing will ensure improved groundcover outcomes well into the future. Better control of total grazing pressure will ensure that native pastures have the chance to persist. Improved groundcover will result in reduction in Noogoora burr and other water spread weeds and reduce the chances of parthenium which is present in northern catchment being introduced. Improved groundcover will also reduce the threats of wind & water erosion in dryer seasons.

## Outputs

OG2.3 Fenced Riparian vegetation. 4000 acres of riparian native vegetation protected by fencing. 10 kms of streambank length of riparian vegetation protected

OG14.5 Groundcover Management. 4000 acres of land where improved groundcover management practices have been adopted. 8 land managers adopting improved management practice

CB1.2 Publications. 1 fact sheet developed. 50 recipients

P5.1 Biophysical, economic or social plans

1 Monitoring and Evaluation plan.

## Project Monitoring:

### Objectives:

The objective of monitoring this project is to ultimately record change over time. Monitoring of ground cover response, presence of pasture species and biodiversity, and production benefits in response to installation of fencing on the Mungallala alluvial floodplain on Heather Station to allow for rotational grazing of 4000 acres.

### Methodology & Indicators:

**Indicators:** 3P pasture species, percentage groundcover, pasture quantity, rainfall, grazing days, and land condition.

**Methodology:** One transect and 1 photo point in each new paddock, standing dry mass.

Records of livestock paddock numbers will be documented by landholders.

### Monitoring Schedule:

Establish baseline data prior to the commencement of the project.

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), 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.

One pasture monitoring transect considering pasture species and ground cover established within the project area representative of the major land type.

Two photo monitoring sites within the project area representative of the major land types.

Analysis: Return on Investment. Develop a case study comparing return on investment of rotational grazing systems as developed under this project, and comparing the economic return to previous management of this area.