South West NRM

On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

Ripiaran Conservation for Groundcover Improvement

Landholder Name: Graeme Winks

Property Location & Lot on Plan: Lot 2 BLM 202 Lot 3 BLM 409

Lot 3 BLM 202 Lot 6 BLM 159

Property Outline:

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

Tilquin is located 10 kilometres south of Bollon, in South West Queensland. It has an area of 15,555ha. The property is fully fenced, with plans to develop internal fencing to further subdivide paddocks for rotational grazing practices. Tilquin is a beef cattle breeding and merino wool sheep enterprise business. We control join to take advantage of the optimum financial opportunities of marketing good even lines of weaner sheep and cattle. The average annual rainfall is approximately 720mm. After receiving exceptional rainfall for the past two years, groundcover is currently 100% across the property, with native pasture species in abundance. The property owner, Graeme Winks manages the property along with his partner Deb. Low stress stockhandling techniques utilising working kelpies are normal management practices. Graeme uses horses to manage the cattle and motorbikes when handling the sheep. Recently on Tilquin 84 kilometres of pipeline has been installed under the Gabsi bore drain replacement scheme with 56 controlled waters now established. Vegetation management has been an ongoing process over the years to help control woody weeds and to improve animal production. Graeme takes particular interest in the koala habitat that exists along the 10 kilometres of Wallam Creek as it traverses through Tilquin.

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 fencing for the protection of Wallam Creek as it traverses through Tilquin. A fence consisting of 2 kms of 2 barb and 4 plain wires will help improve water quality, reduce erosion and increase groundcover and allow for total grazing control of domestic animals. This stretch of the creek has historically been a koala habitat, but sightings have dimished during recent drought years. This is a conservation project with no grazing by sheep or cattle planned for the creek enclosure. This fencing will provide public benefit and compliment 65 kms of riparian fencing already exisiting in the northern catchment of the Wallam creek. The fencing project will stretch along the western side of Wallum Creek. These alluvial floodplains are a mixture of grey and red soil with Coolibah, rivergum and sandlewood vegetation.

Project Funding Bduget: $5,587.00

Project Aim

The aim of this project is to protect and conserve the riparians area of Wallam Creek as it traverses through Tilquin. This will achieve increased groundcover, protection of koala habitat, improvement to water quality and erosion control of river banks. The owner Graeme Winks intends to totally remove and exclude domestic animals from this fragile area of Wallam Creek floodplain.

Project Outcomes

- Improved groundcover.
- Better water quality.
- Reduced erosion of banks.
- Improved prospects for the koala habitat.

Outputs

G2.3 Fenced riparian vegetation 363 ha of ripiaran vegetation protected by fencing Streambank length of 2 kilometres of ripiaran vegetation protected OG9.2 Exclusion fencing 363 ha of creek bank treated for soil erosion through exclusion fencing OG10.3 Improved exisiting drainage 363 ha of land treated through improvements to exisiting drainage systems 2 kilometres of drain improved OG14.5 Groundcover management 363 ha of land where improved groundcover management practices have been adopted 4 land managers adopting improved management practice. CB1.2 Publications one fact sheet. P5.1 Biophysical, economic or social plans one plan completed.

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, water quality and native animal presence. Conservation of the fragile flood plain of Wallam Creek as it traverses through Tilquin, will have good public benefit. This fence will exclude domestic stock from the creek and help protect the koala habitat.
Methodology & Indicators:	**Indicators:** 3P pasture species, percentage groundcover, pasture quantity, rainfall, tracks and scats and land condition. **Methodology:** One transect and 1 photo point within exclusion fencing.
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 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. One photo monitoring site within the project area representative of the major land types.