



# South West NRM

## On-Ground Project Fact Sheet

### STRATEGIC FENCING FOR THE ALLOWANCE OF SPELLING

**Landholder Name:** D J & K A McDonald

**Property Location & Lot on Plan:** LOT 7 Plan LO70 (Project proposed) & LOT 4 Plan LO73. NE of Adavale

**Property Outline:**

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

Wyrapa is located north west of Adavale. The property consists of predominantly soft mulga/box with areas of Gidgee, Yarran, Ironbark and False Sandlewood. Total area of the property is approximately 14000 Hectares. The annual rainfall for the property is 490mm however this has significantly increased in 2010. Beefcattle breeding and growing using a graze and spell rotation with livestock numbers adjusted seasonally. Since the improvements in the seasonal conditions in 2009/2010 the owners have observed that the stock prefer to graze only in the alluvial country around water course lines. Therefore, they are constructing small sections of fencing to allow better use of the country and to allow the preferred land types to be rested.



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Q2  
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and  
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*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

Ambathala Creek will be segregated from the rest of its' current paddock to allow more strategic grazing in this area. This will be done through cost effective fencing which has been explored throughout other areas of the property. Electric fencing will be used with three plain wires. This has proven to be adequate for other internal fences throughout the rest of the property.

The paddock is on the western side of the creek and is currently around 4451 hectares. This will be cut into two sections consisting of around 3000 ha and 1451 ha. The 1451 ha paddock will then be separated by two segregating fences, which will allow movement of stock from one end of the creek to the other allowing for a more strategic rotational grazing system for the cattle. The completion of the project will need the construction of around 10km of fence. This project is building on the rest of the property as the owners have been selecting certain areas to fence and graze separately.

Project funding budget \$10 000.00

## Project Aim

The aim over the entire property is to increase carrying capacity through effective grazing and natural resource management, whilst doing this in a cost effective way. We want to be able to rest our more productive areas of country over the whole property by fencing. By constructing this fence it is anticipated that the country will be used more effectively.

## Project Outcomes

Benefits include significant increase to carrying capacity through an exponential effect of increased ground cover, improved soil structure and improved use of rainfall received. Decrease in erosion along the creek through the effective use of this fence. This will be achieved throughout the western side of the paddock if the fence is constructed, as the rest of the paddock will be improving in ground cover due to the graze and spell rotation. If these project outcomes are successful and we can see a significant benefit, we will be following this practice throughout the property.

## Outputs

OG9.2 Exclusion fencing. 4451 Ha is the total area which will be fenced to allow a graze and spell system to be used on the property.

14.5 Ground Cover management. 4451 Ha and 1 Business

CB1.2 Publications. 1publication & 50 recipients

P5.1 1 Biophysical, economic or social plans.  
1 Monitoring and Evaluation plan

## Project Monitoring:

### Objectives:

To monitor the percentage of ground cover, diversity in species, percentage of desirable grasses and legumes to ascertain whether the project has had the desired aims by fencing of Ambathalla Creek and implementing strategic grazing management.

### Methodology & Indicators:

By having this fence divide areas of land which differ in land-type, this will allow the land manager to remove stock when the below indicators show that it is time to do so. This will allow an increase in the desirable pasture species and a reduction in undesirables. The improvement in biophysical indicators will lead to a number of production improvements.

Indicators: Plant species – Transects will be set up in the project area monitoring Desirable, Intermediate and Undesirable grasses and Herbs/forbs and the change of these over time. Ground Cover will also be assessed in these transects. A comparison site will to collect pasture species and ground cover will be established outside of the project area. Water quality sampling in the Ambathalla Creek will collected. The owners of Wyrapa will keep records of grazing days, feed budgets and production outcomes to assist the project in assessing its' overall success.

### Monitoring Schedule:

Dan and Katrina McDonald and South West NRM will be responsible for monitoring the project. The set up of the monitoring sites will be at the beginning of the project to collect baseline data. The initial set up of the two monitoring sites will be assisted with SWNRM staff. The site will be monitored twice a year at the same time.

The owners of Wyrapa will keep records of grazing days, feed budgets and production outcomes to assist the project in assessing its overall success, as on on-going basis.

Develop a case study comparing return on investment of riparian fencing (production and economic benefits) through implementation of strategic grazing and documentation of environmental outcomes.