

STOMPING OUT SEDIMENT IN THE BURDEKIN PROJECT

The aim of this project was to better understand the influence of different grazing management practices and livestock impact on the restoration of erosion and gully features.



SNAPSHOT

THE PROJECT RAN FOR SIX YEARS  JUNE 2017 - JUNE 2023

 17 PROJECT SITES ACROSS 9 PROPERTIES IN THE BOWEN BROKEN BOGIE (BBB) CATCHMENT

 17 FIELD DAYS ATTENDED BY 310 PEOPLE

29 ONE-ON-ONE EXTENSION SESSIONS

IN-KIND SUPPORT \$377,000

12 PARTNERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS + 6 LOCAL CONTRACTORS HELPED DELIVER THE PROJECT

 4 ORGANISATIONS WERE PART OF THE MONITORING TEAM

 SEDIMENT REDUCTION FROM TREATED SITES: 1,857 TONNES EACH YEAR

KEY LEARNINGS

1 A 'community of practice' grazing group evolved during the project. It identified key grazing principles to support best management practices for long-term productive and profitable grazing in the Bowen and Collinsville region:

- Plan and implement paddock subdivisions, with associated distribution of watering points, to facilitate even grazing pressure.
- Plan a rotation of cattle mobs through paddocks. Size of mobs and duration of graze in each paddock needs to be based on forage budgeting. Total pasture recovery period for each paddock tends to be longer than a 1-2 month 'wet season spell', but grazing practice may be implemented via repeated short duration grazes, particularly during the growing season.
- Retain sufficient ground cover and pasture integrity to trigger ongoing growth cycles.

2 Property variables such as site characteristics (land condition, soil types, landform, vegetation and rainfall) and management practices (grazing frequency and intensity, stocking rates, paddock size, and forage use allocation) meant a one-size-fits-all approach to landscape management was unlikely to produce consistent land condition and production improvements.

3 For degraded landscapes, a wide range of tools and techniques should be drawn on and 'customised' for each site.

