

**MEDIA RELEASE**

10 June 2019

**Southern Gulf Producers creating healthier landscapes  
leading to greater profitability**

Two Southern Gulf NRM projects are assisting some of the region's producers to address their natural resource management (NRM) issues to create healthier landscapes.

Within the National Landcare Program project known as Profitable Producers, three Producer Performance Groups (PPGs) have been established. The PPGs are based at Quamby/Cloncurry; Julia Creek/McKinlay and Hughenden/Richmond.

The PPG members are undertaking a Property Management Planning process to prioritise their NRM issues and identify better grazing management practices that will deliver improvements to the landscape and business. With this program underway a training/extension program has been developed and will continue to be rolled out over the next four years. Consultants and specialist expertise will be drawn upon to increase producers' adoption of better management practices; as well as provide one-on-one property, site and herd management advice and recommendations.

The Profitable Producers project aims to achieve improved management practices by 30 graziers over 225,000 hectares.

This project dovetails into another project, funded by the Queensland Government's Natural Resources Investment Program (NRIP), which will support 12 Southern Gulf graziers to improve NRM practices over 100,000 hectares in the Southern Gulf region through a structured program of property management planning and related incentive payments.

The primary and usually inter-linked NRM problems that need to be addressed in this landscape vary from property to property and include:

- Reduction of perennial native vegetation cover arising from excessive grazing pressure
- Increased risk of wind and water erosion arising from loss of vegetation cover
- Loss of natural and production values in native rangelands ecosystems as a result of extensive woody weed invasion and encroachment.

The NRIP project explicitly adopts a producer and property-centric approach, recognising that the only path to enduring NRM practice improvement at the scale of the Southern Gulf landscape is to support improvements in the grazing industry.

The incentives program of the NRIP project for on-ground works will be administered in year 2019-2020 in parallel with the property planning activities. Incentives will be offered on a competitive basis against project-relevant criteria to support implementation of actions that provide the best NRM value in the context of each property management plan. Threatening processes will be identified through property management planning and those processes will be prioritized and incentive funding will be provided to that priority project. It could be riparian fencing, fencing to a particular land type, or treatment of invasive plant infestation.

A series of property management planning and other specific training workshops will be held around the region.

On 18 June a **Regenerative Agriculture** field day, featuring **Natural Sequence Farming** will be held at Dunluce, Hughenden and conducted by Stuart Andrews.

Coming up in late June are **Soil Erosion Control workshops** with guest presenters Darryl Hill of grader operation fame and Bob Shepherd whose experience in grazing land rehabilitation and soil conservation is highly valued across the region. The workshops are at Boomarra Station on 24 June, Kynuna Station 26 June and Dunluce Station 28 June; 8.30am – 3.30pm, smoko and lunch provided.

Recently a stockflow/cashflow workshop was conducted for a limited number of Producer Performance Group members in Julia Creek. Fred Chudleigh was able to provide some both general and one-on-one advice to those fortunate to attend.

**Further details and information on the NRIP project:**

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