

Broadmeadows

Protecting the Nankin Wetlands



Demonstration field day at Broadmeadows

Broadmeadows is a grazing property located 13kms east of Rockhampton owned and operated by the Lang family. The Nankin Wetlands lagoon covers a significant area of Broadmeadows, therefore keeping this area free from invasive weeds, sedimentary silt and salt scalding is of high importance.



Water-spreading banks



Queensland Government



FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION



Capricornia Catchments Inc.

This project was supported by Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. through funding by the Queensland Government QNRM Wetlands project initiative and delivered in partnership with Capricornia Catchments Inc.

Property owners, Robert and Michele Lang, have worked hard to continually improve land management practices and investigate opportunities to increase carrying capacity on their property. Currently, Broadmeadows runs approximately 600 head of Charolais cattle, this stocking rate is appropriately aligned to the water and feed presently provided from the land. Broadmeadow's recent success has attracted other local landholders who wish to improve the quality of their land.

BROADMEADOWS

On first inspection, it was evident that significant excess runoff water was being transported across paddocks, removing top soils and natural vegetation with it. Additionally, salt scalding and gully erosion was occurring during each significant rain event, where significant quantities of sediment, weeds and other matter were transported along the watercourse towards the Nankin Wetlands. To increase the carrying capacity of Broadmeadows, the Lang's core objectives were to improve pastures, soil health and spread overland water to prevent erosion of valuable hillside slopes.

LAND REHABILITATION

After careful consideration of topography of Broadmeadows paddocks and available options, a proposal to spread the water higher across areas with a better ground cover was considered the best option. This method is a land rehabilitation technique known as water-spreading.

Water-spreading is designed to flush salts, provide an environment where salt and water-tolerant pasture and wetland plants can flourish and trap any sediments that might otherwise enter waterways.

Eleven water-spreading banks were erected as a result of on-ground activities in the 2017-2018 financial year. A total of 4400 cubic metres of

stabilised material was used to form all the earthen banks, which created a 1.9ha area that is now under pondage. Each water-spreading bank was covered with topsoil to encourage revegetation and to prevent soil and sediment loss.

REFLECTION AND OUTCOMES

The on-ground work has been proven successful as overland water flow on the landscape has been captured and diverted, freshwater has infiltrated salt-affected areas, and sediment run-off has been reduced. Additional benefits of the water-spreading banks is gully erosion remediation, the return of flora and fauna and the interest of other local landholders.

Broadmeadows success aroused the interest of other local landholders wanting to improve their land management practices. Identifying this opportunity to educate interested property owners a demonstration field day was held at Broadmeadows on May 25, 2018. Over 30 landholders and government agency members attended the event, heard from guest speakers and inspected the completed work.

"We were very pleased and appreciative of the number of people who attended the event and the way they took the issues to heart" said Robert.

Under this QNRM Wetlands project initiative, Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA) explored extension opportunities and brought together a variety of specialist service providers to Broadmeadows. This partnership helped deliver a range of outcomes and helped to maintain the health of the Nankin Wetlands, while also improving the productivity and sustainability of Broadmeadows grazing operations.