

FBA

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Meet the passionate people

working to improve the
productivity, sustainability
and health of central
Queensland's landscapes.

Region-wide solutions

From endangered species to
re-profiled banks of the mighty
Fitzroy River, FBA actions are
effective and enduring.

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A word from *the CEO*

FBA is entering a new phase of growth. We are more ambitious, more connected, and better resourced than ever before. Our focus is clear: to deliver outcomes for our region by securing the funding, connections and expertise needed for meaningful impact.

Our team has grown through targeted recruitment campaigns, bringing in skilled and passionate people. Through this investment, we are ensuring our work continues to meet the high standards expected of FBA.

FBA's ability to secure funding remains a core strength. Our understanding of the Fitzroy region, its people, and the needs of funders allows us to secure resources and deliver effective and enduring projects with a legacy.

We are doing more than ever before because we are prepared, capable and focused. FBA is positioned as a leading Natural Resource Management organisation, delivering results today while building connections and legacy that is shaping the future of the Fitzroy.

Elyse Riethmuller
FBA CEO

The FBA Legacy

FBA works hand-in-hand with central Queensland people to deliver practical, science-driven, and innovative solutions that address the region's most pressing environmental challenges. Through collaboration with land managers, First Nations Peoples, community groups, and industry organisations, FBA helps build landscapes that are healthy, resilient, and productive for generations to come.

We connect people with expert knowledge, resources, and tailored actions because we understand that every property, every catchment, and every community faces unique challenges and opportunities.

FBA's work spans diverse areas - from improving soil health, water quality, and land condition to supporting endangered species and inspiring more people to join our mission. By integrating cutting-edge research with on-ground action, we build connections that balance productivity with conservation. This means healthier waterways, thriving ecosystems, resilient agricultural enterprises, and communities empowered to make informed, sustainable decisions and take action.

Healthy, resilient waterways, landscapes and environments - this is our legacy. We are proud to work with passionate central Queenslanders to build a brighter future.





The Trees that *Teach us Balance*

At dawn, the brigalow shimmers silver and green, its narrow leaves catching the first light as if the trees themselves are waking with the day. Once, this woodland rolled unbroken across Queensland and New South Wales, standing for centuries as witness to shifting skies and seasons.

Overhead, canopies cradled birds while branches held koalas and gliders. On the forest floor, creatures crept, burrowed, slithered and crawled. Beneath the surface, deep roots reached into the soil, holding it gently, keeping it from drifting away in wind or storm. It was more than mere shelter. It gathered carbon from the air and stored life's balance in trunks, leaves, roots and soil.

Yet what was once seemingly endless has been broken. Less than a tenth of brigalow remains today. Scattered

fragments lie across cleared and altered landscapes.

The Brigalow Land Development Fitzroy Basin Scheme, one of the largest land development projects ever undertaken by the Queensland Government, reshaped this country on an immense scale. With 90% of the original woodland destroyed or degraded, brigalow shifted from a defining feature of the region to an endangered remnant.

Brigalow woodlands have long defined CQ, and FBA's work has grown alongside them.

Where brigalow has returned, it faces resistance. Dense thickets of suckers rise from the earth, stubborn and unruly, difficult for land managers to control. They choke grasses and limit agricultural use, making a land manager's job even harder.

As a result, clearing has continued across central Queensland in pursuit of productivity. When brigalow is cleared, nitrogen is released, giving grasses a short-lived boost and lifting production. For a time, paddocks flourish and cattle graze on the promise of renewed abundance. But the boost is fleeting. Within seven years, the nutrients fade, the grasses thin, and the brigalow begins to return.

With each clearing, the cycle becomes less productive and shorter, bringing less grass growth, leaving the land more exhausted and its soil more fragile.

FBA's connection to brigalow runs deep. Brigalow woodlands have long defined central Queensland, and FBA's work has grown alongside them. In grazing systems, brigalow can be a valuable tool. It boosts productivity through land and soil health. As a legume, it fixes nitrogen, improving soil fertility and plant health. Its roots improve water infiltration and retention. Its canopy provides shelter for heat-stressed cattle. Just as importantly, brigalow is a sanctuary for hundreds of species, more than 200 of them threatened or found nowhere else in the world.

Working with brigalow is not a new story, but the approach is evolving. In recent years, renewed focus on how to balance brigalow and production has been driven by FBA and an ever-growing cohort of Fitzroy land managers. Together, they share a recognition that managing brigalow can strengthen both biodiversity and agricultural productivity.





FBA is currently running four projects across the region that place brigalow in the spotlight. The aim is not only ecological, but also agricultural and cultural.

“Now the focus is on both conservation and production benefits,” FBA Land Manager Sophie Wilkins said. “It’s about understanding that brigalow can coexist within a production setting. When natural processes are restored, productivity follows. Land managers who find that balance often say they wish they had started sooner. The results speak for themselves.”

By working with First Nations peoples and land managers, FBA is uncovering brigalow’s place in modern landscapes. We glimpse a future where land remains productive and

natural systems are restored, showing what true balance can look like in practice. Sophie’s hope for the future of brigalow is fuelled by the passion of those who have become part of the change.

If we can learn to see its value, brigalow may once again shimmer across the horizon. Not as a relic of the past, but like the first light of dawn, a promise of what’s still possible.

A Dream of *Greener Pastures*

*L*ed by a vision of diverse pastures thriving alongside sustainable cattle grazing, Geoff Nicol was ready to make a change. Looking out over a pasture that appeared to go on forever into a boundary of rolling mountains he spoke about the moment that made him realise he'd spent years farming in a way that didn't sit right with him.

Geoff's pasture views were vastly different 15 years ago. The barren stretches of land, the monotony of monoculture. It wasn't just exhausting; it was disheartening.

"I never enjoyed farming before moving here," Geoff reflected. "It felt like I was damaging the soil. Every year, I was using more chemicals, it was monoculture farming with no trees and grass that refused to grow — it just didn't feel sustainable."





Geoff reached for the cuppa his wife, Lyndal, carried out across the patio as he continued explaining.

“I said to my Dad I wanted to make a change and started looking around at places and when I saw this place it was like a knee-jerk reaction. It was the total opposite of what I knew,” he recalls.

“I bought it at auction on the spot”.

Not long after Geoff met Lyndal, she wasn't just a partner in life, but a partner in vision.

This property is called Ninderra. It sprawls across 10,800 acres not far out from Injune. Out of those, 8,000 acres are usable and 2,800 is beautiful, untouched natural landscape.

Geoff raised an arm to point across to the ranges, the cuff of his sleeve covered in the soil he was describing.

“The closer you get to the range the better the soil is because it's basalt soil and because of the range we get more rainfall.”

Geoff and Lyndal share a love for Ninderra and wanted it at its best while supporting beef cattle. For the first few years on the property, it was set stocked but the rain was continuous so the grass grew, the cattle thrived and the land responded. But then the rain stopped and the holes in their system appeared as their first real dry season on the property settled in.

Patches of over grazing started appearing in their previously abundant pastures, so Geoff and Lyndal's journey of change begun.

“Grass first. Every decision we make comes back to that.”

A land management plan was put in place and adapted and edited with each learning curve along the way. They took the opportunity to purchase 2,000 acres from a neighbouring property.

Keen to incorporate their new land into their existing grazing and land management plan, Lyndal reached out to FBA's Land Management Officer, Sheree Johnston.

The new addition only had two fences and a small dam but Lyndal and Geoff had learned that to reach the level of productivity they wanted they would need more infrastructure and more water to support it.

Sheree sat opposite across the table from Geoff beside Lyndal. It was her final project visit to Ninderra since that first phone call from Lyndal in January 2024.

Through tailored planning and funding, FBA supported Geoff and Lyndal for six months to reach their productivity goals.

Geoff was eager to show Sheree the early results. He, Lyndal and Sheree piled into Geoff's trusty Landcruiser ute and headed for their once again abundant, green pastures.

The pride on Sheree's face was evident as she took it all in.

Geoff pulled up in a pasture that was green as far as the eye could see with a multitude of species growing within it.

“It's still early days, but we're confident more results will come,” he beamed.

Walking through knee length grass Geoff added that for him the mantra has always been simple. “Grass first. Every decision we make comes back to that.” This philosophy is the backbone of the couple's approach to land management and their dedication to it shines through in their property.

By prioritising soil health and vegetation, they're creating a resilient ecosystem that supports both their cattle and the broader environment.

As Sheree loaded her car to head back to the office she noted that Lyndal and Geoff had a clear vision for their property and a commitment to the results they aimed to achieve. This clarity and drive not only made the process smoother but also makes it incredibly rewarding to know that the outcomes will be genuinely valued. Their dedication ensures the work will continue to evolve and improve over time.

A cloud of dust followed Sheree down the long stretch of driveway as Lyndal gave her own review of working with FBA.

“There's nothing to lose and everything to gain”.

Left: Sheree and Geoff inspect early results.

Above: Lyndal and Geoff

Rebuilding the River

*How Restoration Became
a Legacy of Resilience*





In March 2017, Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie tore across Queensland, leaving a trail of destruction in her wake. In central Queensland, the flooding was merciless. Hillsides slumped and paddocks drowned.

Streambanks that had been unstable for decades collapsed in great chunks, tumbling into the Fitzroy River. Each mass of soil carried fine sediment downstream toward the Great Barrier Reef, where silt and muddy water smothered habitats. What had once been a slow process of erosion suddenly accelerated into a brutal unravelling of the landscape.

From this devastation, a plan took root. It called for more than patchwork fixes. The answer was large-scale streambank restoration, a way to halt erosion, heal damaged waterways, and improve the quality of water flowing to the sea.

Poor water quality is one of the greatest threats to the Reef. When banks collapse, they release clouds of fine sediment that drift far offshore, turning clear water to haze. Sunlight struggles to reach the seagrass meadows below, starving both seagrass and corals, and the delicate cycles of coral reproduction can be broken. Against this backdrop, FBA's first large-scale streambank restoration project began. The vision was clear. Repairing rivers was never just about fixing damage. It was about building resilience back into the landscape itself.

The first test was also one of the biggest streambank restoration projects in Australia, stretching 1.2 kilometres.

"It was a monster," FBA Waterway Leader Braden Mitchell recalled. The scale of the damage matched the scale of the ambition. Stabilisation here meant reshaping steep banks, layering soil and stone for strength, and planting native vegetation to knit the slopes back together.

The lessons learned from this project were as vast as the site itself. It tested FBA's capabilities and gave the organisation the confidence to take on new and ambitious opportunities.

Continued →

Since 2019, FBA has completed 10 large-scale streambank restorations, transforming almost five kilometres of riverbank across the Fitzroy region. From Alton Downs to Yaamba, Stanwell, Raglan, Thangool, and Garnant, each site tells part of a bigger story.

Together, these works now prevent tens of thousands of tonnes of fine sediment from reaching the Reef every year, a saving that grows with each wet season.

The numbers are impressive, but the real achievement lies in the knowledge and skill built along the way. What began as a daunting undertaking has evolved into a refined approach that is shaping the future of erosion control and restoration across the Fitzroy.

irrigation and expert tree selection ensures that biodiversity blooms and roots take hold of once fragile soil. Over time, the landscape strengthens itself. We have significantly expanded our knowledge in preventing erosion on streambanks. In the Fitzroy region, we are the most knowledgeable and experienced in this space. We understand our river systems in a way no one else does."

The FBA Waterway Team now carries experience across a wide range of erosion remediation and prevention techniques. "We understand what can come up, what can make a project higher risk and how to reduce those risks, because we have seen and felt and understand what has happened in the past," Braden said.

That knowledge now powers the next chapter.

fine sediment from reaching the coast each year. These actions build on past successes while driving greater resilience in both waterways and landscapes.

For Braden, the vision reaches beyond being a leader in the Fitzroy region. "Not just to lead in the Fitzroy, but to be a leader nationally," he said. "We want to be the organisation other regions and states look to when they face these challenges. To share what we know and help shape the way restoration is done."

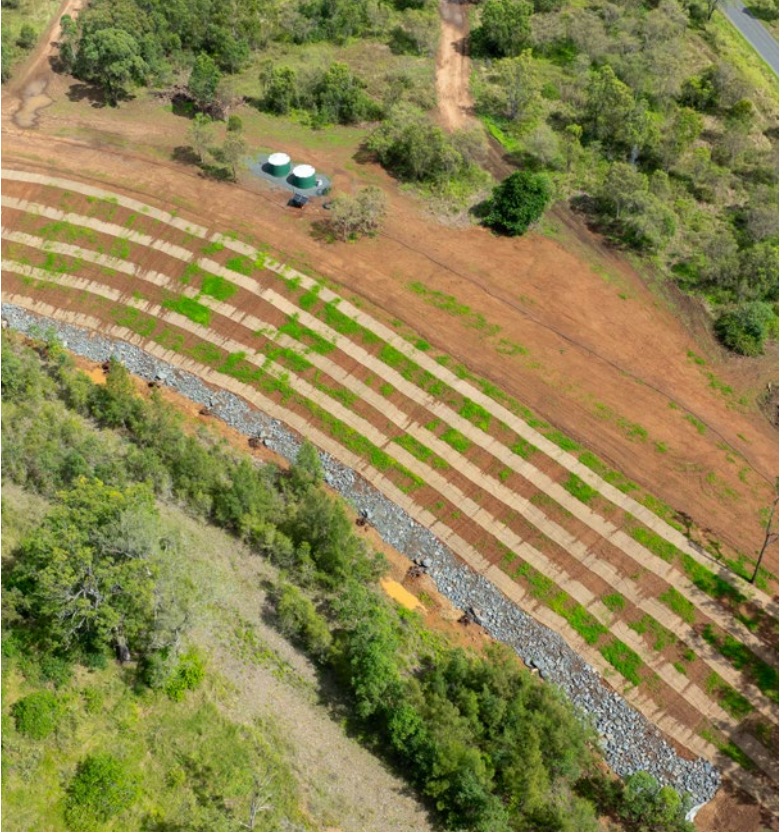
Below: Braden and local Mick Alexander survey repairs.

It was about building resilience back into the landscape itself

"Most sites are so unique you learn something new with each project," FBA Adoption Manager Daniel Boshoff explained. "Through carefully maintaining these sites, we are learning and witnessing the important role of nature on long-term resilience. Once the banks are stabilised,

FBA is rolling out holistic landscape repair across the Fitzroy. Work will expand to include streambank restorations, gully repairs, and improved grazing land management across surrounding properties. Together, these efforts are expected to keep thousands of tonnes of





Left: Stanwell during restoration (2024). Right: Stanwell after Restoration (2025).



Above: Site 7 before restoration. Below: Site 7 after restoration.



The People *Behind the Purpose*

At FBA's offices, no two days are ever the same, and neither are the people who fill them.

Across the region, 47 passionate people bring together more than 205 years of experience and 81 qualifications.

Their collective knowledge spans the hands-on work of agriculture, environmental science, waterway restoration and First Nations engagement, through to the

behind-the-scenes expertise of communications, administration, finance, health and safety, and leadership.

The sounds of their days are as varied as their work.

In one place, it's the rhythm of keyboards and the ring of phones.

Elsewhere, a car ignition hums to life as the radio crackles on.

Out on a verandah, a teacup meets its saucer, or cattle murmur softly through the grass.

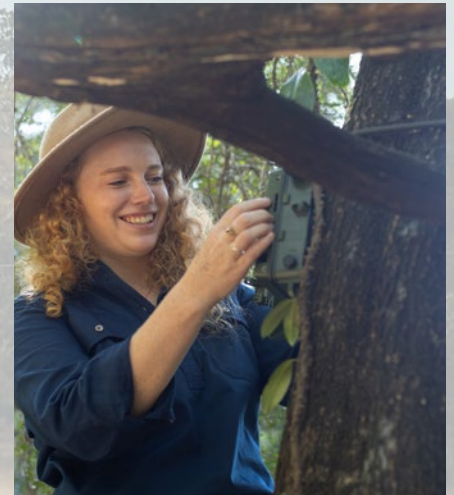
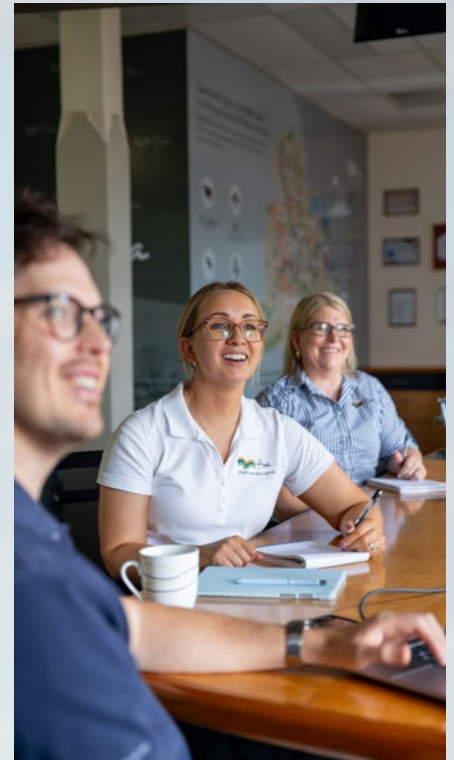
Different roles. Different rhythms.

But one thing never changes; the passion and dedication each person brings to their work.

Every conversation is an opportunity to listen, share, and find a solution.

It's this collective drive that makes FBA one of Queensland's leading natural resource management organisations, and a team where purpose is as deeply rooted as the landscapes they care for.





Where Water and Culture *Flow Together*

Rivers wind their way across central Queensland, carrying with them more than water. For the 17 First Nations groups who call the Fitzroy region home, they carry history, culture and identity.

Every bend holds meaning. Waterholes, springs and creeks hold stories and knowledge that have sustained people and Country for countless generations. FBA is proud to have played a role in ensuring the voices of these First Nations groups have been heard and their stories a part of critical conversations that shape how water will be managed into the future.

FBA engaged most First Nations groups across the Fitzroy region in support of the Queensland Government's review of the Fitzroy Water Plan. Conversations unfolded in community halls and on Country, respectful and open, revealing new ways of seeing and understanding water and Country.

For FBA, being part of this journey has been a privilege and a profound learning experience. What began as an opportunity to engage with First Nations Peoples on water management became something much deeper; a chance to strengthen relationships and understand regional people's priorities.

We need to keep these conversations alive to inform meaningful and impactful on-ground action.

FBA Environment Project Officer Cameron Mulville led communications with all First Nations groups across the Fitzroy. He worked with a majority to understand their desired cultural outcomes for the management and allocation of water. For Cameron, the process was about building lasting relationships and creating meaningful engagement with First Nations Peoples.

"There were very special and really personal moments shared in all the engagements", he said.

"Aunties shed tears when remembering and re-telling stories, Elders travelled back to Country they hadn't set foot on for a long time, and many on the journey were deeply moved," said Cam.

Since this engagement, FBA has ensured that conversations have continued. Three new projects are currently underway with First Nation groups, with more in the pipeline.

A Shared Journey

The conversations held throughout the Fitzroy region highlighted cultural values often overlooked. They revealed the importance of waterways to First Nations peoples and how water underpins traditional ways and livelihoods. The discussions also included aspirations for the future, from recognition of cultural water rights to the protection of waterways for generations to come.

Through this work, FBA has deepened its understanding of what it means to care for Country alongside First Nations Peoples. Conversations that began around policy have grown into relationships built on respect, trust, and shared purpose.

For FBA, this work has reaffirmed the organisation's long-held motto that true progress flows from genuine relationships.

By walking alongside communities, learning from their wisdom, and honouring their connection to Country, FBA is helping shape a future where collective action is informed and carried out by the many passionate people who rely on it.



A Whisper in the Grasslands *finds its Voice Again*

Once thought to be little more than a fading whisper on the landscape, this endangered native grass was believed to have less than a quarter of its kind remaining. Now, it has shown up in interesting corners of central Queensland.

King Blue Grass (*Dichanthium queenslandicum*), with its smooth stems reaching up to 80 cm, once swayed in waves across gently rolling tussock grasslands. These grasslands, open and untouched, were once a sanctuary. But since European settlement, those sweeping fields have shrunk, steadily pushed back by drastic change. Its habitat has been decimated by agriculture, mining, road construction, and other infrastructure developments. Invasive weeds tighten their grip, stealing the very light, water, and soil it needs to endure.

Today, native grasslands are among the most threatened ecosystems in Australia, and King Blue Grass is locked in a battle for survival.

This matters because King Blue Grass is a cornerstone of healthy grassland ecosystems, supporting biodiversity, stabilising soils, and offering habitat for native animals.

Its presence signals the overall health of these landscapes, contributing to sustainable grazing systems and strengthening their resilience to climate and land-use changes.

For years, uncertainty has hung over King Blue Grass. Researchers have questioned how much of it was truly left across its known and modelled range, stretching from Biloela west to Rolleston, Springsure, and Emerald. Further north, it was recorded from Clermont, Moranbah, and Nebo within the Fitzroy region. It was feared the species was little more than a memory in many of these places. Yet, FBA has begun to uncover this hidden gem in landscapes where it had only ever been predicted, not seen.

“We are finding it in places where it was only ever theorised or modelled to exist, where conditions seemed right. There’s likely more King Blue Grass out there than we previously thought,” Land Management Coordinator Annie May said.

In an unexpected twist, FBA has found King Blue Grass thriving on a grazing property, the very kind of landscape often seen as a threat to its survival. There it was, standing resilient, a quiet reminder that good land management can turn the story around.

King Blue Grass rarely has the chance to grow thick and tall because cattle can’t seem to resist it, grazing it down before it can spread. But where rotational grazing systems are in place, with paddocks grazed briefly and then rested, the story is different. In these well-managed landscapes, King Blue Grass has returned.

Fitzroy land managers have found that when paddocks are given time to rest and the grass is allowed to set seed, the seedbank begins to recover. When cattle return, they eat the ripe King Blue Grass seed and carry it with them, dispersing it through their manure as they move across the landscape, creating a quiet, natural partnership.

Where paddocks are returns — and with of renewal.

The surprises don’t end there. King Blue Grass has rewritten what scientists thought they knew about its flowering season. While conservation advice suggests it blooms between January and March, FBA has watched its delicate seed heads swaying well into May.



rested, the grass it, the promise

Annie explained that it appears if conditions are warm and wet enough, and the grass is given time to rest and set seed, it will keep flowering well into the cooler months. When the cold finally arrives, it lies dormant, waiting for the warmth to return.

These discoveries are no accident. Behind them is a coordinated effort led by FBA, bringing together a working group of scientists from Astrebla Ecological Services, the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Hansen Botanical Assessments (HBA), the Queensland Herbarium, the Threatened Plant Network Queensland and the University of Queensland.

Together, these experts are closing long-standing knowledge gaps by mapping the status, population trends and distribution of King Blue Grass through workshops, targeted species surveys, engaging local land

managers and seed collection to guide future restoration.

The hue of King Blue Grass now colours parts of the landscape once thought lost, offering a glimmer of hope for the future of both the species and the region. FBA is proud to be at the forefront of research into this lesser-known grass, deepening understanding of its ecology while working to shape stronger conservation strategies and ensure it continues to hold its place in the landscape for generations to come.



Claiming Back *Grazing Country*

On Sandringham Plains, the paddocks now roll out in a sea of green, stretching so far, they seem to melt into the blue shoulders of the mountains beyond. It's a picture of abundance, but it hasn't always been this way.

Just five years ago, Kaye Black stood on the same ground and saw a very different scene. Where grass now sways in the breeze, deep scars cut through the earth as an ever-growing gully stole more of her country with every storm. The land she loved was slipping away, piece by piece, and with it her hope for its future.

After spending years away from the property she first came to in the 70's, Kaye returned with renewed purpose. With decades of experience and a growing passion for soil and pasture health, Kaye came back determined to heal the ground beneath her feet. Each decision since has been guided by that vision: to rebuild, to restore, and to leave the land stronger than she found it.

Stretching across 316ha of country north of Rockhampton, Sandringham Plains is a cattle breeding enterprise, where 80 to 100 head of cattle graze on rich pastures, moving from paddock to paddock.

Across central Queensland, the impact of land clearing is written into the land, and on Sandringham Plains it showed in a paddock where a gully grew wider with every storm.

Kaye couldn't stand by while a gully ate away at her country.

"I could see I was losing the country at a very fast rate," she said.

"It was getting worse and worse. Something had to be done."

Kaye's resolve to heal her country led her to a workshop in 2016, where a simple chat with FBA staff led to a visit to her property and a tailored property management plan with highly regarded Soil Conservation Adviser, John Day.



Together Kaye, FBA and John designed an erosion control rehabilitation strategy to stabilise and heal the gully and align with Kaye's priorities and vision. The plan was simple, cost effective and featured tried and tested control methods. The overarching principle was to slow the flow of water, reducing its erosive power and giving it time to soak into the earth and rehydrate the landscape.

By 2020, Kaye's commitment to her land and the property management plan had reshaped the property, turning bare rock into thriving stretches of native pasture.

The plan was simple, cost effective and featured tried and tested control methods.

For Kaye, the results were rapid. As she gazed out at the sunset over her land, she reflected on the moment she first witnessed the work beginning to make a difference.

"As soon as the Porous Check Dams were finished, we got a big fall of

rain. I raced down there the next day, and it was instant how much of an improvement it was. You could see how much it slowed the water down," she said.

"It was very exciting to actually see it working."

Fast forward to 2025, Kaye no longer looks out over degraded land, her view is one of paddocks that can support life.

"Because the works have slowed the flow so much, the land is slowly regenerating all by itself," she said.

But it was Kaye's tireless dedication and careful grazing management that drove the change. Without her steady commitment and expertise, the land could never have healed so quickly.

In May 2025, Sandringham Plains became a living classroom as Kaye welcomed FBA's Roots of Resilience



workshop, giving staff, John Day, and fellow land managers a chance to witness how far the property had come in just five years.

John said it was brilliant to see how much the landscape has improved, with grass growing over the banks and in the bottom of the gully which was once barren.

“Prior to works there would have been silt and muddy water going out of the property and down the gully and the waterways. That’s reduced to less

than 10 per cent. That’s huge for the environment and for Kaye,” he said.

“She has a reliable little paddock of feed there now that was completely bare before.”

The transformation of Kaye’s property reinforces FBA’s confidence in the practical solutions and erosion control methods they deliver to land managers across the region.

From her experience, Kaye has one piece of advice for fellow graziers —

don’t wait. Talk to FBA and see how practical solutions can breathe new life into your property.

“I would not have found these solutions without FBA. Without FBA, the erosion would still be eating away at the land,” she said.

Above: the gully after works.
Below: the gully before works.



Guardians of the Range:

Working Together to Protect Queensland's Koalas

Sunlight glistened off the dewy eucalyptus leaves creating a kaleidoscope of sun rays that danced on the leaf littered ground. It was beautiful, but yet, all eyes were still on the towering tree canopies. "I found one!" called an excited voice through the still of early morning.

"Me too!" came another.

There, hidden in the branches of ancient looking trees, were two grey balls of fur with large fluffy ears and sleepy eyes munching away on the eucalyptus leaves.

A species once seen as abundant in Australia, now stand on fragile ground

Many Australians can go their whole lives without ever spotting a koala, but here on the Clarke-Connors Range a thriving koala population is an incredibly rare and welcome sight.

Koala sightings in Queensland never used to be a thing of novelty, the bushland of eastern and southeastern Australia once carried the steady rustle of koalas in the treetops as well. But over the past two centuries, that chorus has thinned. Fire has swept through forests, roads have fractured ranges, cars and dogs have struck koalas on the ground, and land clearing has stolen away the gum trees they depend on. Piece by piece, their stronghold has faded.

In 2022, a line was drawn in history and in the hearts of Australians' as koalas were officially listed as endangered in Queensland, New South Wales, and the ACT under the EPBC Act. A species once seen as

abundant in Australia, now stand on fragile ground, their survival resting on the choices we make today.

In the Clarke-Connors Ranges, the magic of abundant and thriving koala populations still exists but it's a future that depends on care.

With \$4.5 million from the Australian Government's Saving Koalas Fund, FBA has been working hard to keep the magic of these thriving populations alive since 2023. Through working with passionate land managers, First Nations peoples and koala researchers FBA has restored over 2,600ha of koala habitat through weed control, fencing, grazing management and fire planning.

Sam Wright, and his family, are passionate land managers who jumped at the opportunity to work with FBA and started working to protect the koalas on their property in 2024.

Throughout the life of the program FBA have been able to support Sam and his family with 1,000ha of fencing, 400ha of weed control, 45km of fire breaks accompanied by a fire management plan, three new watering points and 5.2km of fencing to support koala friendly grazing management.

"The funding that is available is a huge help. Being a small family business on such a large area to manage, we wouldn't be able to do this kind of work to this extent without the help of FBA and these projects and we know we are incredibly fortunate to have such a unique koala population here so we want to do everything we can to look after them," said Sam.

He laughs as he recalls a moment looking out the window and spotting a koala staring back at him across the house yard.

"For us, it's easy to take them for granted because they're just part of daily life, but the reality is that this isn't a normal experience for most Australians. We're very lucky to have such a healthy, thriving population."

Sam's passion for koalas extends beyond his own fence line and his voice falters as he talks about the need for awareness and genuine care to protect this incredible population they have in the Clarke-Connors Ranges.

"Sadly, we often see koalas hit on the highway which is something we can't control — but on our property, we can make a difference. By reducing fuel loads, we're lowering the risk of fires, which are a real concern around Nebo. Controlling lantana also gives koalas better access to their food trees. There are so many reasons why we wanted to get involved," said Sam.

Echoing Sam's sentiments, Greg and Vikki Neaton, the land managers at Denison Creek who have also been a part of FBA's koala project say they couldn't be happier with the work they have achieved with FBA.

"The work we did with FBA was almost too good to be true; it helped us fast track all the work we were already trying to do. Now our cattle benefit and so do the koalas," said Greg.



Photo: Charley Geddes

While the habitat restoration work is essential, FBA's mission to protect koalas runs deeper than the bushland itself. From slowing down speeding cars on the highway to educating communities' that may know how close koalas truly are or what is being done to care for them.

On the Peak Downs Highway, research by CQUniversity paints a sobering picture. In just one year, 145 koalas were hit by vehicles on a 51km stretch of the Peak Downs Highway — 83%

of them died. Most were healthy animals simply trying to cross the road.

Out of this grim reality, FBA's bumper sticker campaign was born. A small sticker with a big message, 'slow down for koalas.' Each one is a moving pledge to spark action behind the wheel. They've been spread across four community collection points, ready to ripple out through the region, one rear window at a time.

And it doesn't stop with adults. FBA's kids' activity books have been sent into classrooms across the Clarke-Connors Range, where little hands colour, puzzle, and learn their way into conservation. These aren't just activity books; they are the sparks of the conservationists of tomorrow. They celebrate the koalas that share our

backyards, shine a light on the people working to protect them, and ask children to step up as 'Koala Heroes.' Because the future of conservation lies not just in today's efforts, but in the next generation of caretakers.

"We've seen FBA's bumper sticker campaign and the kid's activity books, and that kind of work is just as important as the work done on properties, if not more so," said Sam.

FBA is deeply committed to this region and to the koalas that make it special. Working hand-in-hand with many passionate landholders, community groups, and organisations FBA will continue to drive change — and attract more people to the mission. Together, we're building a future where koalas don't just survive, but thrive.

The Modern Campfire

Where Ideas Ignite

In the Fitzroy region, community has always been built around gathering. Whether it be land managers chatting at their local bull sale through the dust and the noise, technical experts delivering their latest breakthroughs at a seminar under spotlights on a stage, school kids laughing together over a crowded lunch table, or First Nations people sharing yarns over a flickering campfire.

The beauty of FBA events is their ability to bring these gatherings and conversations together and inspire a united course for action. These events are more than meetings; they're the heartbeat of the region. They're where connections are made, knowledge is swapped, where problems are solved together, and where the future of the land and reef is imagined out loud.





In a place as vast and varied as the Fitzroy, FBA's events have become the campfire of today, drawing people in from every corner of the region, sparking conversations and ideas that carry long after the chairs are stacked away and the hall lights switched off.

FBA Land Management Coordinator, Vicki Horstman has worked on FBA events for eight years and says the feeling she gets walking away from a long day at an event never ceases to spark joy.

"Events aren't just dates on a calendar for us. They're reflections of what matters most to people in our region. We make sure the conversations happening in the region are the same ones happening at our events," said Vicki.

Vicki grinned and added, "I'll never forget one couple. They arrived carrying more doubt than certainty, it was the first event they'd attended in over a year. They had lost the confidence to keep going on their own with their land management journey but that day, the session we ran spoke directly to the roadblock they'd been facing."

"To them, it might have felt like perfect timing or a lucky coincidence. To us, it was something deeper: proof that we're listening closely, tuned in to the same frequency as the people we serve," she said.

Our work doesn't stop at the farm gate. From Brigalow workshops, riverbank restoration field days, community events or cultural celebrations; we're there. Listening, learning, and sharing.

FBA curate events that bring people together, sparking curiosity and connection to the natural world. And because the future depends on the next generation, FBA also works with schools to run programs that give young people the knowledge and confidence to care for the environment they'll inherit.

For year 10 Theodore State School student, Brianna Harrison the FBA Ignites program opened her eyes to natural resource management and working properties.

"I didn't know much about cattle or NRM before I did this FBA program. It has inspired me to keep learning more," she said.

FBA events don't finish with the last handshake or the chairs being stacked away. For some, they spark the first property visit; for others, they build new networks, neighbours connecting, strangers becoming friends. And always, each event is followed by a carefully designed survey, to gather feedback to ensure the next gathering is even better.



Shaping the Future of the Fitzroy

It starts with a vision. A common goal and a passion to do better. In 2025, FBA took a step back to revisit the bigger picture. To establish not just who we are, but why we do what we do.

The answer is surprisingly simple. The future. FBA wants it to be sustainable, productive and profitable. FBA is deeply connected to the people of the Fitzroy. Our support must be tailored, because every landscape, every person is unique.

Solutions must be practical, grounded in science and experience. Not just our own, but that of the people, the communities, the industries and the cultural groups we work with.

From improving soil health and water quality to protecting biodiversity and endangered species, our combination of cutting-edge research and on-the-ground action delivers both productivity and conservation.

With this in mind the results are tangible. Healthier waterways, thriving ecosystems, resilient agricultural enterprises and empowered communities who value and make better choices for generations to come.

That is our legacy.

Be a part of it

Building a brighter future requires collaboration. FBA's strongest outcomes happen when knowledge and skills are paired with the passion and experience of our community.

Whether through volunteering, collaborating on projects to improve our region's natural assets, or joining the FBA team, there are lots of opportunities to get involved.

**Be a part of a better future.
Connect with FBA.**





Contact Us

admin@fba.org.au

fba.org.au

4999 2800



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