



Our country. Our future.



Customised support for the Moore Family of Dovecot

Louis and Noel Moore purchased Dovecot in 2001, a 4700 hectare property 20km south of Rockhampton, between Mount Morgan and Bouldercombe. Despite encountering obstacles during their period of ownership, Dovecot is flourishing. The Moore family claim the turning point arrived when they enlisted one-on-one support from Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. and the National Landcare Programme (NLP).

THE DOVECOT STORY

After purchasing Dovecot, Louis and Noel Moore managed the property as absentee owners for five years. The property was in lacklustre condition, with only 2 water points and 3 paddocks running 200 Adult Equivalent (AE) of cattle as a set system of breeding and fattening. A lack of information and training impacted upon the land, including overgrazing causing high levels of erosion and sediment. While Louis had previously been involved in the grazing industry, he recognised it was time to combine the basics of 'old school cattle management' with contemporary methodology. In 2006, father and son returned to Dovecot with the intention of improving operations.

Implementing best practice

Since linking with Grazing BMP and Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA), the game has changed for the enterprise. Louis says exchanging insights from other successful proprietors and approaching Grazing BMP with an open mind would be the greatest tool for equipping Dovecot to form a greater height of resilience. "Through FBA I was able to get a grasp on the potential of our business and the paths that needed to be taken to improve," explained Louis. "I found the property visit with an FBA Land Management Officer (LMO) to be a very simple and rewarding experience. It's important to have a willingness to expand and learn by taking on someone else's opinions, tools and learnings."

Adapting for the future

Dovecot is, as a result of Grazing BMP and the specialist one-on-one support available from FBA through the NLP programme, better prepared for the future, says Louis. "I'm at a point now that I can make a calculated statement and say that I need more cattle to utilise the feed I have grown," he said.

"This is because of the tools given to me during the LMO property visit such as FORAGE budgeting and reporting. We covered the whole property assessment, management, explored potential pathways and tools we should be using to achieve better results for the business." From the very date of the property assessment, operations have evolved at Dovecot. The property now boasts 25 extra water points, over 40km of additional fencing and consequently, 15 newly created paddocks.

"Now, knowledge is priority. It provides power in making calculated management decisions in my business." Louis Moore

Broadened levels of flexibility are now maintained across the board, particularly in grazing management, alternating from breeding to backgrounding. Dovecot is experiencing an increase in pasture diversity, carrying capacity, productivity and reductions in sediment, erosion and input costs. Cleaner run off is one of the many residual effects reaping great benefits beyond Dovecot's boundaries. Initially, before linking with FBA, Dovecot ran 200AE across 4700ha. The enterprise is currently running 320AE on a 400ha parcel of improved country with the forecasted ability to further increase stock numbers across Dovecot.

