

# Healing Glengarry

Grazing Resilience and  
Sustainable Solutions  
(GRASS) program



*Property owner Greg Leighton  
in well rested paddock.*

**With early COVID-19 restrictions obliging them to stay home, Greg and Connie Leighton of Glengarry reflected on the disruption as an opportunity to put some spare time into strategic thinking, planning and execution which has paid them back generously in less than 12 months.**

Glengarry, south of Biloela has primary land types of mixed silver-leaf ironbark on duplex soil and softwood scrub. Mostly cleared, it was planted with buffel and purple pigeon grass for improved pasture. Over 15 years of set stocking with breeders and dry cattle, grazing became uneven, so the Leightons were keen explore opportunities for improvement.

After hearing of the Grazing Resilience and Sustainable Solutions (GRASS) program early in 2020, the Leightons contacted Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) to find out more. The GRASS program supports graziers with areas of poor (C) or degraded (D) land condition to develop and implement a tailor-made action plan for land management.

An FBA Land Management Officer visited Glengarry and provided technical advice in the areas of erosion control and grazing land management. Working with FBA, a tailor-made GRASS action plan was developed. The action plan identified the most fragile areas on their property and set out actions to maintain and improve the sites over time.

Following the initial visit with FBA, the future was clear for the Leightons. Their goal was to transition to a time controlled rotational grazing system, out of breeding and into running dry cattle only. To achieve this transition, the land owners installed 16km of new fence (which converted their 16 paddocks into 27) and upgraded their stock water system (with cell watering points located so the cattle travel no more than 800m to water).

Just one year later, progress has been remarkable. They have reached their goal and implemented their new grazing system, with each paddock now receiving 60 days' rest before being grazed again. Fortunate to get some good rain in the past month, Greg was relieved to see good pasture growth across the board. Other small changes indicate a positive change in landscape health as different native species are beginning to establish in areas that were previously sparse.

The Grazing Resilience and Sustainable Solutions (GRASS) program is funded through the Queensland Government's Reef Water Quality Program and delivered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Burnett Mary Regional Group, Fitzroy Basin Association and NQ Dry Tropics.

*For more information on support for graziers please visit: [www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef/reef-regulations/producers/grazing/support-programs](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef/reef-regulations/producers/grazing/support-programs)*