

Grazing Land Management Project

FITZROY RIVER AT CALLIWEERA



“The results of this whole-of-property grazing land management project speaks for itself. The sustainability of the landscape has been greatly improved and it has been a pleasure working with landholders who understand that public and environmental benefits can be achieved through their actions,”

Dave Waterson
Verterra



17,821 tonnes of fine sediment reduced through whole of property grazing land management improvement



1,789 tonnes of fine sediment reduced through gully rehabilitation



August 2021 –
November 2023



Diversion bank earthworks

Aim

Verterra, Australia’s first full service Ecological Engineering Company, aims to reduce sediment runoff and repair landscapes in the Fitzroy Catchment through grazing land management practice change and gully remediation. Properties with poor land conditions or eroding gullies can be large contributors to sediment entering the Great Barrier Reef, which can damage precious marine ecosystems.

Works Summary

- Four landholders were engaged to undertake improved grazing land management practices
- One landholder was engaged to rehabilitate two gullies flowing directly into the Fitzroy River
- 956ha of pastures were improved
- Installation of:
 - 204km new fencing
 - 74 gates
 - 50 water tanks
 - 134 water troughs
 - 109km underground polypipe
 - 18 solar pumps
 - 5 gully rock chutes

Project Outcomes

- 17,821 tonnes of fine sediment reduced through whole-of-property grazing land management improvement
- 1,789 tonnes of fine sediment reduced through gully rehabilitation



Great Barrier Reef Foundation

The Fitzroy Water Quality Program is supported by the partnership between the Australian Government’s Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Fitzroy Basin Association, Greening Australia, Verterra and Catchment Solutions.





Installed fencing and water tanks

The People Behind the Project

Productive, profitable and sustainable land was the name of the game for father and son Mark and Nathan Warnock when they signed up to work with Verterra as part of the Fitzroy Water Quality Project (FWQP), funded by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) in August 2021.

Their 3,500ha property Calliweera is located approximately 40km northwest of Rockhampton in the Fitzroy River catchment. The property, adjacent to the Fitzroy River, was experiencing high amounts of sediment run-off and had a history of below-average ground cover.

In consultation with Mark and Nathan, Verterra undertook a detailed assessment across the property and consequently developed a whole of property Grazing Land Management (GLM) plan, that aimed to reduce 2,600 tonnes of sediment run-off from the property each year.

Verterra Project Lead Andrew Yates has been impressed with Mark and Nathan's perseverance and the improvements they have made to date.

“We’ve been blown away by Mark and Nathan’s dedication. They have made considerable progress and installed infrastructure such as fences, water points, tanks and underground poly pipes recommended in their GLM plan, including adding in woah-boys for erosion prevention.”

“The focus of the GLM plan aligns with their vision to improve land condition on Calliweera. The project has shown that the hard work has been worth it as they are already seeing benefits such as improved pasture, higher productivity, improved soil structure, soil compaction relief, reduced erosion and an increase in soil nutrition,” Andrew said.

While continuing to make positive changes at Calliweera, Mark and Nathan are also participating in a soil carbon farming project and arranging Environmental Plantings through the Land Restoration Fund (LRF). When an opportunity arises to work with such forward-thinking, dedicated landholders the results are always spectacular.

