



# CASE

# STUDY



Australian Government

“WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT PASTURE AND GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN VERY VALUABLE.”

## BACKGROUND

Jim and Juanita Angus currently run 130 Droughtmaster/ Shorthorn breeders on 178 hectares at Bloomsbury.

The Angus’ also have 82 hectares under cane. After purchasing the block 10 years ago, the Angus’ established Pangola and Signal Grass pasture to fatten bullocks, but now focus on producing weaner cattle which are sold through Sarina, Nebo and Gracemere saleyards.

**JIM AND JUANITA ANGUS** are graziers in Bloomsbury (Mackay region). Through Australian Government Reef Programme 2013-16 Water Quality Grants, Reef Catchments is working with the Angus’ to fund on-ground activities across the property to improve water quality.

### FOCUS ON



- ▶ EROSION MITIGATION
- ▶ LAND TYPE FENCING AND WATERING POINTS
- ▶ RIPARIAN FENCING AND OFF-STREAM WATERING POINTS
- ▶ PASTURE RENOVATION TO IMPROVE GROUND COVER AND RUNOFF WATER QUALITY



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Jim and Juanita have been active participants in Reef Catchments incentive programmes and completed a number of projects in 2013, including 21 hectares of erosion mitigation and 3 land type watering points. The erosion mitigation included installation of diversion banks to direct flow away from actively eroding gullies into more stable grassed areas. Other mitigation measures included construction of a more stable batter on an eroding gully, ripping with a yeoman plough on the contour and reseeded to establish ground cover. The Angus' also erected 2.3 km of riparian fencing and installed 2 off-stream watering points to control stock access to the O'Connell River. All these works have contributed to improved land management and water quality, resulting in beneficial environmental and economic outcomes. The Angus' have noticed an improvement in the stability of the river bank after installing riparian fencing.

"I would encourage anyone to look into activities (through Reef Programme). It has helped financially and also through the information we've gained," Juanita said.

"Initially we went thinking we probably weren't going to learn much new! But what we learned about pasture management (including time frames for grazing) and watering points was really valuable, and has helped us to increase cattle numbers run on the property. We have also found more efficient ways of managing weeds like lantana. We bought all that home and it has made a big difference improving our ground."

Jim and Juanita also participated in the Stocktake pasture monitoring course, which equipped them to make better decisions in setting stocking rates. They regularly attend other workshops and field days offered by Reef Catchments to provide landholders with the opportunity to learn more.

**SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT IS PROVIDED BY REEF CATCHMENTS, THROUGH FUNDING FROM AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REEF PROGRAMME WATER QUALITY GRANTS.**

During the 2015-2016 funding round Jim and Juanita received co-funding from Reef Catchments to install a further 3260 metres of land type fencing and 5 land type watering points to allow more efficient stock rotation and pasture management. The increased ground cover will reduce sediment runoff and improve water quality. The Angus' have also undertaken pasture renovation over 32 hectares to remove lantana and establish pasture grass on bare areas subject to erosion.

"The revegetation and the work we've done with Reef Catchments has really made a difference," Juanita said.

"Before, we'd noticed our bank really starting to slip away, particularly when the rain came, because it was grazed heavily and there was nothing holding the land together. We find the land holds now."

In the future Jim and Juanita plan to increase stock numbers and carry out more cell grazing activities. They are also working toward using less chemical in their farming system and possibly using free range poultry as a natural means of fertilising paddocks.



## KEY POINTS



- ▶ 178 hectare property

### WORKS COMPLETED INCLUDE:

- ▶ 21 hectares of **erosion mitigation**
- ▶ Total of **8 land type watering points**
  - Installation of **diversion banks to direct flow** away from actively eroding gullies
  - Ripping with a **yeoman plough on the contour** and reseeded to establish ground cover
- ▶ 2.3 km of **riparian fencing**
  - Installation of 2 **off-stream watering points** to control stock access to the O'Connell River
- ▶ **Pasture renovation** over 32 hectares to remove lantana and establish pasture grass

**THE ANGUS' HAVE UNDERTAKEN PASTURE RENOVATION TO REMOVE LANTANA AND ESTABLISH PASTURE GRASS ON BARE AREAS SUBJECT TO EROSION.**