RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT

Reef Rescue helped Gavin & Katrina Linthwaite to construct 1.2km of riparian fencing and 3.2km of land type fencing to separate his property into its different land types. The Linthwaite family has owned and managed the property Mt Funnel, a 5000 acre grazing property, for over 30 years. The property is boarded by Rocky Dam Creek and Cape Palmerston National Park, and the Linthwaite’s herd consists of predominantly Brahman cattle with some smaller numbers of Brangus and Charolais.

Through funding provided by Reef Rescue, Gavin has constructed 1.2km of riparian fencing along Rocky Dam Creek. The fencing will help improve water quality by increasing bank stability, which intern will lower sediment entering the waterway and also improve the condition of riparian vegetation.

Gavin explains “the fencing helps control cattle around the creeks and to graze it when you want to graze it and not have them in there all the time”. The riparian area on the property maintains a large body of pasture insuring good ground cover year round.

Gavin has also implemented 3.2km to date of land type fencing to separate his property into its different land types. “The land type fencing helps us manage the cattle and split when we have cattle on the hills or on the flats to maintain our pasture. It also helps...”
us to implement our fire management program that relies on effective stock management. A added bonus of the fencing is the ease of mustering and managing cattle on the property”.

Gavin has also received Reef Rescue funding for improved pasture management. With this Gavin purchased a blade plough which will allow him to control woody re-growth within his pastures without the use of herbicides such as tebuthiuron.

The Linthwaite’s are planning to implement additional riparian, land type fencing and watering points through the Reef Rescue program as a stage two participant. Gavin has recommended Reef Rescue funding to other graziers looking to complete activities like those completed on Mt Funnel. “We would not have completed all of these activities as soon as we did without Reef Rescue. These are all activities we wanted to do & the Reef Rescue funding helped us to do it”.

“The land type fencing helps us manage the cattle and split when we have cattle on the hills or on the flats to maintain our pasture. It also helps us to implement our fire management program”.

OUTCOMES

- Riparian fencing to improve bank stability and reduce sediment loss
- Reduced chemical application
- Maintaining pasture to maintain ground cover and reduce sediment loss

Reef Catchments

Reef Catchments is the regional NRM body who oversees the Reef Rescue program in the Mackay Whitsunday region for the federal government.

Contact Brandi-Lee Stanley at Reef Catchments on (07) 4968 4216 or email: brandi-lee.stanley@reefcatchments.com.au

www.reefcatchments.com.au

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