

# REEF RESCUE

2012

www.reefcatchments.com.au

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Joseph Borg



## Land Type and Riparian Fencing

**Reef Rescue helped Joseph Borg to maintain a healthy riparian zone which protects the banks and encourages regeneration of native trees and shrubs. Land class fencing has made it possible to graze pastures more efficiently and enable spelling when required.**

Joseph Borg's farm is skirted by Boundary and Prospect Creeks and Division Creek runs through property. These streams are at the very top of the Fitzroy catchment, which emerges near Rockhampton. Joseph plans to have all streams on the property fenced so that he can control grazing in the riparian zone to avoid erosion of the banks. He will use off stream watering points to make management and movement of stock easier.

The property has five land types – 1000 hectares of alluvial flats and plains, 700 hectares of spotted gum ridges, 150 hectares of narrow leaved ironbark woodland at the front of the property, 150 hectares of bullock country on the high ground and about 40 hectares of coastal rain forests.

"The stocking rate on the flats is about 1 adult equivalent /hectare

and on the hills it is about one adult equivalent /4 hectares," explained Joseph.

The property runs about 700 Brahman breeders, 80 steers, 80 replacement heifers, 40 bulls as well as the calves and weaners. The cattle are managed in 12 herds – 3 stud herds kept near the front of the property and the rest graze the paddocks throughout the year. Joseph manages the property himself with one workman who lives on a nearby property.

Much of the work on the property is done by contractors, however fencing, cane harvesting, dozing, applying fertiliser and mustering is done with the help of family and friends. In return for this assistance Joseph helps out on other properties in times of peak labour demand.



About the farm...

Joseph and Amanda Borg manage Barnganel, a 2040 hectare grazing property, near Blue Mountain, which has been in the family since 1971. The late Joe Borg snr operated the farm with his brothers until 1987 when the partnership was formally split, however family and friends still assist when needed.

Joe Borg snr continued to work hard on the farm until he passed away in 2010, but he passed on a lot of his knowledge and skill to young Joseph.

Cane was first grown on the property in 1991 with 152 ha now planted. For some time grazing was a lower priority than cane; however now with the help of Reef Rescue, Joseph is improving grazing land management on the property.





Joseph found out about the Reef Rescue program through friends who have been involved in water quality grants along with a visit from Jim Fletcher (DEEDI) back in 2009. In 2009, Joseph attended the Stocktake workshop, established three pasture monitoring points, had three soil samples analysed and constructed 2.7 kms of land class fencing.

“The Reef Rescue project has enabled me to better manage my herds, and control where they graze,” said Joseph.

“I would have only done a smaller amount of work, if the level of support from the Reef Rescue program had

been lower. I have modified my plans and done more work because of the stimulus provided by the Reef Rescue Water Quality Grants,” he said.

***“I would have only done a smaller amount of work, if the level of support from Reef Rescue program had been lower”***

Joseph uses a contractor to build the new fences, but he prepares the wooden posts from timber on the property and drives the dozer to clear the fence himself. The top wire is plain to satisfy the Reef Rescue requirement for protection of wildlife; with three barbs below.

Next year, Joseph hopes to complete the riparian fencing program, establish off stream watering points, construct a small land class fence and review the grazing rotations on the property to continue the renovation of the grazing lands on the property.



## OUTCOMES



Fencing either side of Division creek which runs through the property (9.2 km)



Fencing off a small section of Boundary creek which is in an inaccessible corner of the property (0.5km)



A land class fence to separate the alluvial flats and plains from the spotted gum ridges

### 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 the Reef Rescue Team at Reef Catchments on (07) 4968 4200 or email: [reception@reefcatchments.com.au](mailto:reception@reefcatchments.com.au)