

CASE STUDY

QUICK FACTS

Landholder

Ross and Angela Bailey

Project

Queensland Government's Natural Resource Investment Program (2020-2021)

Location

Plane Creek, Sarina

Area

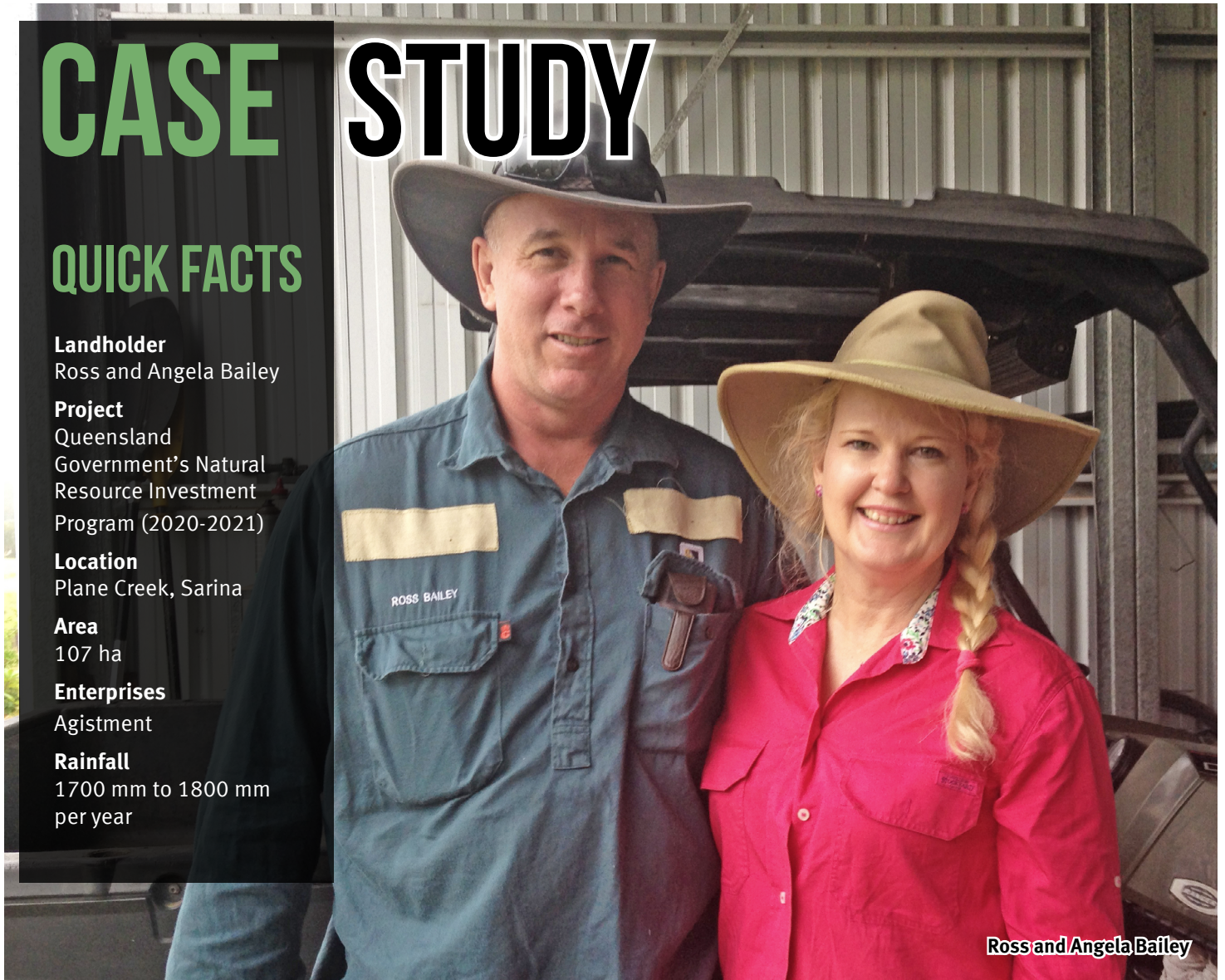
107 ha

Enterprises

Agistment

Rainfall

1700 mm to 1800 mm per year



Ross and Angela Bailey

BACKGROUND

Ross and Angela Bailey first became involved with Reef Catchments in 2013 when they applied for funding through the Federal Government's Reef Rescue program to construct land type fencing on their property south of Sarina.

So impressed were they with the results that when they sold and moved to their next property on Plane Creek, they wanted to undertake similar improvements. As such, they became involved in the Queensland Government's Natural Resource Improvement Program, again through Reef Catchments.

The new property had a mixture of eucalypt hills and cleared alluvial flats that were originally used to grow sugarcane. Pastures were a mix of both native and improved species including green panic, signal grass, kangaroo grass and stylos.

There was little in the way of fencing and the yards required considerable upgrading. Plane Creek was the main watering point for stock leading to the potential for sediment loss from hoof traffic in the stream bank. In addition, lantana was rapidly taking over the landscape, reducing the usable grazing area and pasture yields.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Initial funding allowed Ross and Angela to install off-stream and land type watering points to provide an alternative source of water for stock, removing the need for them to enter Plane Creek. These watering points supported existing riparian and land type fencing on the property.

Further to this, they have also received funding to add to their land type fencing, providing extra control over pasture utilisation of the hills and the alluvial flats. Additional riparian fencing has also been installed to prevent further stock access to drains, wet areas and creeks to reduce sediment loss.

The property had a considerable weed burden when Ross and Angela purchased it and as such, weed control has been a major ongoing management activity. Funding has allowed for lantana infestations to be chemically controlled along with smaller outbreaks of giant rat's tail grass deposited in seasonal flooding. This has led to positive improvements in pasture quality and land condition.

Currently the property is running agistment cattle. However, Ross and Angela are hoping to soon expand on their own herd numbers and begin to establish their own grazing operation.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- Installation of two land type and six off-stream watering points to provide an alternative water source for stock.
- Installation of 0.6 kilometres of land type fencing and 0.6 kilometres of riparian fencing to provide greater control over grazing pressure and reduce stock access to waterways.
- Pasture improvement activities (weed control) on 40 hectares of grazing land to reduce weed density and improve quality of ground cover.

“THE FUNDING HAS ALLOWED US TO STRATEGICALLY FENCE TO ENABLE US TO RESTORE THE COUNTRY AND GRAZE IT WITHOUT IT BEING FLOGGED”

FUTURE GOALS

- Continue division of larger paddocks into smaller management units to implement time-controlled grazing.
- Ongoing management of weed infestations in both pastures and riparian areas.
- Increase current herd numbers to establish a viable grazing enterprise to better target local markets.
- Further development of infrastructure such as yard facilities to increase efficiencies.

“WITHOUT THE FUNDING, WE PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE DONE A LOT OF THIS WORK DUE TO THE COST”



Land type fencing has given Ross and Angela more control over their grazing pressure

WHAT IS NRIP?

THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT'S NATURAL RESOURCE INVESTMENT PROGRAM COMMENCED IN 2018 AND HAS PROVIDED FUNDING TO NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REGION BODIES TO SUSTAIN NATURAL RESOURCES AND IMPROVE REEF WATER QUALITY ACROSS THE STATE. REEF CATCHMENTS WAS SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR BID TO RECEIVE FUNDING TO UNDERTAKE TWO REGIONAL PROJECTS.

- ▶ IMPROVING THE RELATIVE ECOLOGICAL CONDITION OF FRESHWATER STREAMS AND WETLANDS IN THE MACKAY WHITSUNDAY REGION
- ▶ ADDRESSING PRIORITY SUB-CATCHMENT WATER QUALITY TARGETS THROUGH GRAZING MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS

THE FUNDING REFLECTS THE ONGOING COMMITMENT OF BOTH THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BODIES TO ENSURE THE STATE'S NATURAL LAND AND WATER RESOURCES ARE SUSTAINABLY MANAGED.



Watering points have reduced the need for stock to enter waterways for water



**Queensland
Government**