

# CASE STUDY

## QUICK FACTS

### Landholder

Shane and Kylie Jameson

### Project

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

### Location

Don River, Bowen

### Area

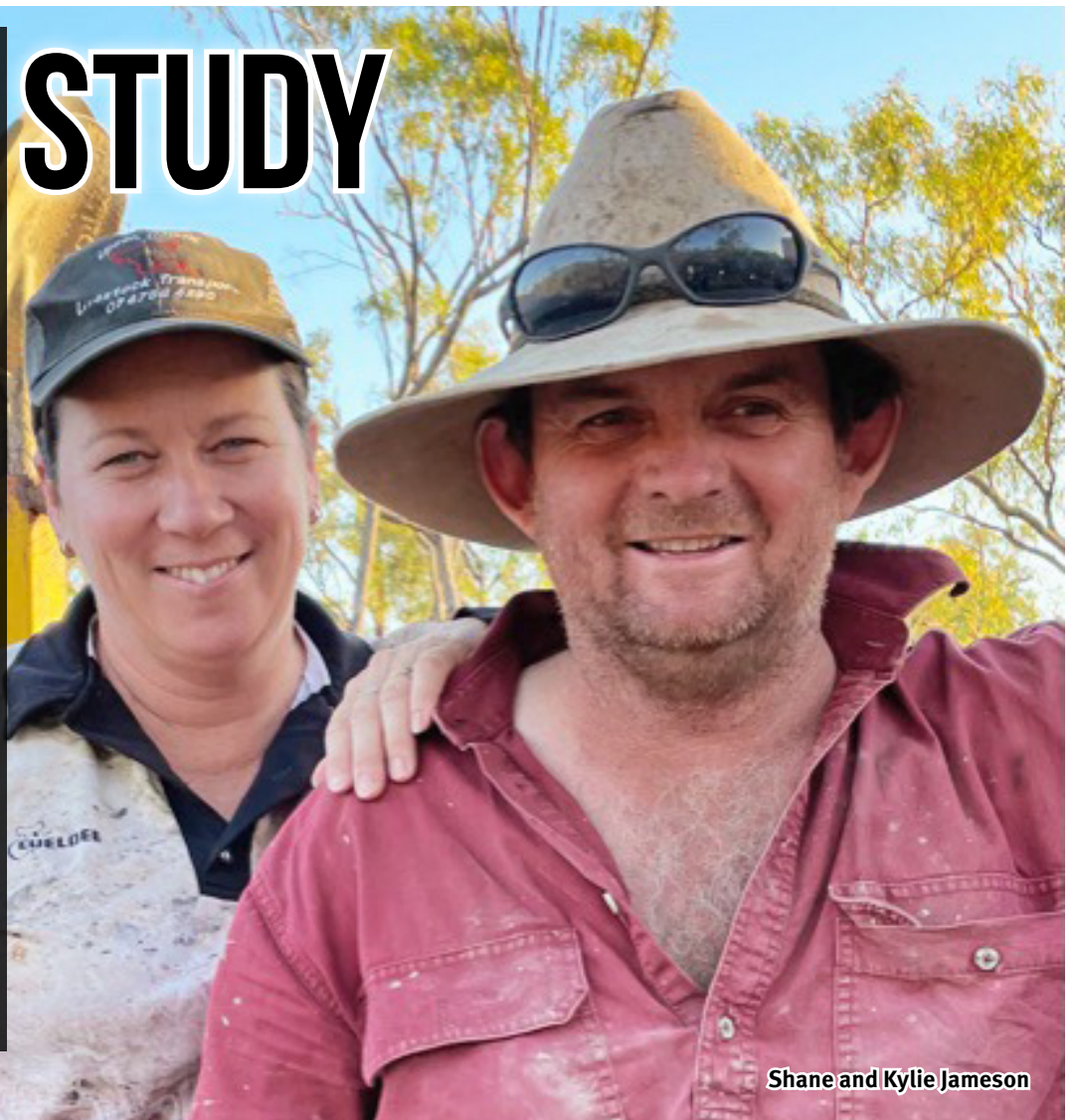
1600 ha

### Enterprises

Weaners for saleyards

### Rainfall

640 mm to 860 mm per year



Shane and Kylie Jameson

## BACKGROUND

In the late-2000's, Shane and Kylie Jameson made the decision to move from their lush, 160 hectare property at Mirani to the drier country of Mt Cavana, near Bowen to achieve their goal of owning a larger property. The Jamesons immediately set about improving the relatively undeveloped property, initially establishing a boundary fence, then a central laneway and watering points.

The resident herd was comprised of 80 Brahman-Droughtmaster cross cows to which Shane and Kylie added another 320 breeder cows. These were crossed with grey and red Brahman bulls which showed greater adaption to the tough, dry conditions. Breeder numbers were later reduced to 250-270 head after they portioned off and sold 1400 hectares of the property to make the area more manageable.

The pastures consisted of mainly Indian couch, seca and Verano stylos and black spear grass, and as the previous owner had not overstocked, ground cover was good. Weed infestations of mainly chinee apple and purple top were widespread, reducing the usable grazing area and making mustering difficult.

With most rainfall occurring from January to March, feed budgeting was a management priority for the Jamesons. By better utilising what was available, they could have sufficient feed available for stock over the majority of the dry season.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

To achieve greater control over their grazing pressure and to provide adequate rest to pastures for recovery, Shane and Kylie applied to Reef Catchments for funding under the Queensland Government's Natural Resource Investment Program to install land type fencing. By fencing to land type, they could increase grazing pressure on the hilly country where cattle were under-utilising feed and reduce grazing pressure on the alluvial flat country where cattle often over-utilised feed.

This fencing has allowed them to construct smaller paddocks giving them greater control over stock movement and ground cover, and removing pressure from areas when it becomes dry. Through the program, they have installed almost nine kilometres of land type fencing. This is in addition to the 40 kilometres of fencing already installed.

The prolonged rest period is already showing signs of success, with native pasture species such as black spear grass returning and, in some areas, increasing in prevalence. As the competition from weeds has been reduced through chemical application, pastures have improved vigour and greater coverage which in turn, has led to a further reduction in weeds' ability to re-establish.

## ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- Installation of nine kilometres of land type fencing to improve feed utilisation and allow for sufficient recovery of pastures.
- Improved land condition with respect to pasture species composition through better management of pasture utilisation and rest periods.
- More effective weed control through reducing pasture height leading to improved targeting of basal bark chemical application.

**“YOU CAN SEE THE DIFFERENCE GIVING THE GROUND A SPELL HAS MADE ALREADY. THE BLACK SPEAR GRASS IS COMING BACK IN PLACES WE’VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE”**

## FUTURE GOALS

- Continue internal fencing to divide larger paddocks into smaller units for improved pasture utilisation and adequate rest periods.
- Improve cattle body shape and composition through selected crossing with Santa Gertrudis and Droughtmaster breeds
- Improve weed control through a combination of chemical application and pasture competition.

**“WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN AROUND TO PUTTING THIS FENCING IN EVENTUALLY BUT RECEIVING THE FUNDING HAS ALLOWED US TO COMPLETE IT MUCH SOONER AND SEE THE RESULTS MORE QUICKLY”**



## 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.**



**Queensland  
Government**