

Incentive projects on farms

CASE STUDY

Snapshot:

How farmers are protecting ground cover, native vegetation and local waterways.

The Greater Sydney region comprises of many landholders who graze livestock. Many of them aspire to manage pastures and remnant native vegetation to leave their farm in a better condition for the next generation. Infrastructure costs however can stop landholders making these improvements.

Greater Sydney Local Land Services will fund on-ground incentive projects through the National Landcare Program's Sustainable Ag Outcome 5 stream. These projects aim to assist farmers to install infrastructure to have significant long-term benefits including protecting native vegetation, biodiversity and ground cover as well as improving overall farm operations. The landholders will also contribute in-kind to their projects and commit to long term management and maintenance of on-ground works.

Tiffany Chalmers of Lemon Tree in the Central Coast will install 500 m of internal electric fencing to subdivide 6 ha of her property. This will allow the landholder to transition from set stocking to holistic planned grazing to improve pasture condition and ground cover. This grazing method requires continuous monitoring of



pasture conditions and subsequent planning of grazing paddocks. The landholder will use goats as part of the grazing operation. As goats are a new venture for her, she has engaged a mentor to help manage the animals. Furthermore, with NSW state funding, Tiffany will undertake weed control in the ecologically endangered Lowland Rainforest community on her property as well as fencing off the riparian zone of Jilliby Creek.

Alexia Martinez and Virginia Mall will install a reticulated water system to improve efficiencies of their current grazing operation on their respective properties. Both Alexia and Virginia from the Central Coast have been practicing holistic planned grazing for a few years with the aim of improving ground cover, soil health and building pasture resilience, especially during times of drought. Alexia

and Virginia both run a mixed farming operation. Alexia operates cattle, chicken and vegetables on a farm of 8 ha while Virginia has cattle, pasture raised chickens and eggs, vegetables, honey, garlic and vegetables on a 10 ha property. Virginia also diversifies her income stream by running occasional on-farm workshops for local farmers.

Both landholders have seen improvements in their pastures using this grazing method. However, their biggest limitation to ongoing improvement is water availability for the fenced paddocks. It means water must be carted from paddock to paddock creating inefficiencies and timing issues in the grazing approach. Once the water system is installed, Alexia will be able to provide efficient water points for eight paddocks and Virginia will be able to provide for 27



Landholder Virginia Mall is a strong advocate for the ecological and productivity benefits of holistic planned grazing and is passionate about helping other graziers implement the practice on their properties. As part of Virginia's in-kind contribution to this project, she plans to host a pasture workshop, showcasing her farming operation to other landholders in her local area.

paddocks, through a more intense grazing approach. Both landholders will be able to fully rotate their livestock to further improve soil health and encourage the diversity of pasture species to reach their goal of 100 percent ground cover.

For further information:



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This project is supported by Greater Sydney Local Land Services, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Photo acknowledgement:
Top: Joy & Sparrow Photography
Middle: Virginia Mall



Local Land Services



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National Landcare Program

