

Project Synopsis

Project commencement:	July 2007
Project completion:	December 2008
Rangelands NRM Coordinating	
Group project investment:	\$127,170

‘Helping pastoralists
protect their land’

Project Aim

Prevent soil erosion and preserve landscape ecology through total grazing management

Contracted by Rangelands WA, Dust Up Projects has been working with landholders to introduce new techniques including total grazing management - smaller grazing yards where livestock are rotated to promote the regeneration of grazing lands. These yards also help to reduce the number of feral animals in the Lyndon and Minilya basins.

“Today pastoralism is more than just using the land. It is about working with the land to promote sustainability through proper techniques and management. By creating total grazing management yards and protecting the Lyndon and Minilya basins we aim to fully restore the land, river and creek systems,” said former Mia Mia Station owner Mr John Forsyth.

This project is the second phase of the protection and conservation of the Lyndon / Minilya river basin.

Key Outcomes:

- Stabilisation of soils in catchment areas through establishment of total grazing management yards;
- Increased quality of livestock feed;
- Revegetation of native flora.

The Challenge

“Landowners in this area saw the need to prevent soil erosion and preserve the landscape ecology. If we lose the grasses and shrubs in this area the land will become eroded and the costs of supplement feeding to livestock will increase. Through this project we would like to restore the native vegetation in the catchments,” said Dust Up Project's Director Ms Alex Harper.



Our Successes

Since the commencement of the project the following outcomes have been achieved:

- Fencing installed along the entire river, reducing the impact of feral animals and livestock;
- Soils surrounding the river have become more stable due the establishment of total grazing management yards. These yards prevent livestock staying in one area and grazing on 'sweet spots';
- Creating new water points and moving old water points has increased land utilisation.
- Establishment of smaller grazing specific yards;
- Reducing the impact of livestock in the catchment areas by installing water bores and tanks.

"This project has had many positive results for the area including environmental and economic benefits. Stations are also working together more closely and have developed a greater sense of community," said Alex.

The establishment of total grazing management yards is currently only used by a small number of pastoralists across Western Australia. Pastoralists agree this method encourages greater use of their land whilst minimising damage caused by over-grazing.

Benefits to the Gascoyne/Murchison Community

By protecting the Lyndon / Minilya Catchments:

- Grazing areas for livestock have improved;
- River areas and ecosystems along the catchments are better protected;
- Pastoralists are using environmentally focused techniques and reducing the damage to the land and catchment areas.

This project was made possible through assistance from:

- Rangelands NRM WA
- Australian Government
- Western Australian Government
- Lyndon Land Conservation District Committee

For further information see the Rangelands NRM WA website

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