

## Approved area management plan

<b>Title</b>	Moonjaree Fodder Harvesting Area Management Plan
<b>Reference no:</b>	2012/004159
<b>Approved</b>	29 July 2012
<b>Entities</b>	<p>AgForward Alina Butler PO Box 1967 ARMIDALE NSW 2350</p> <p>Andrew Schmidt "Wallen" CUNNAMULLA QLD 4490</p>
<b>Area</b>	Moonjaree fodder harvesting area management plan (Moonjaree AMP) is based in the Paroo Shire and covers an area consisting of 10 contiguous properties and landholders listed on page 2.
<b>Relevant purpose</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> To control non-native plants or declared pests <input type="checkbox"/> To ensure public safety <input type="checkbox"/> To establish a necessary fence, firebreak, road or vehicular track <input type="checkbox"/> To clear an encroachment <input type="checkbox"/> For thinning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For fodder harvesting, other than on a part of the proposed area that is restricted (fodder harvesting) land
<b>Plan period</b>	For a 10 year period from the approval date
<b>Mandatory condition</b>	The vegetation on the restricted (fodder harvesting) land <sup>1</sup> can not be cleared for fodder harvesting.
<b>Additional condition</b>	Selective fodder harvesting, pushing one tree in every four <i>Acacia aneura</i> (Mulga) will be permitted in <i>of concern</i> regional ecosystem 6.5.3 within Moonjaree Fodder Harvesting AMP area, in a manner that will enhance the ecological processes and maintain the extent of the remnant vegetation. Vegetation other than Mulga ( <i>Acacia aneura</i> ) is not to be targeted or removed during the fodder harvesting in the <i>of concern</i> regional ecosystem 6.5.3.

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<sup>1</sup> **Restricted (fodder harvesting) land** is (a) a State-controlled road under the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*; or (b) a road controlled by a local government under the *Local Government Act 2009*; or (c) trust land under the *Land Act 1994*. However, **restricted (fodder harvesting) land** does not include indigenous land.

## Landholders

### Refer Map of the Area Management Plan

Property Name	Lot/Plan	Shire
Glendilla	13BAN20 40BAN15 39BAN15 5BAN105	Paroo
Moonjaree	32WELL536 33WN189 44WELL5363 30WN138 31WELL535 1WN5 2WN5	Paroo
Nulla	1W5345 2W5345 3WN5345 4WELL5379	Paroo
Koomoorang	8WELL5377 7WELL5375 17WELL5376 15WELL5376 6WELL5376 29BAN16 15WELL5392 16WELL5376	Paroo
Hazelfield	1WELL531 10WELL5377 2WELL531 11WELL5378 3WN199 14WELL5378	Paroo
Ardrossan	7BAN105 5BAN72 2BAN14 2BAN25 1AP2308	Paroo
Boobera	21HU53	Paroo
Baroona	15SP118788	Paroo
Wallen	3SP118786	Paroo
Cocklarina	9BAN78 10BAN105	Paroo

**Management Intent:** *The aim of this AMP is provide fodder for livestock during drought and to ensure the long term sustainability of the fodder resource within the Moonjaree fodder catchment area. It allows for flexibility, removes the administrative burden and it ensures sustainable long term management options for fodder harvesting for future harvesting.*

**Management Goal 1:** *To maintain native remnant vegetation, conserving essential habitat, remnant endangered and of concern regional ecosystems and to harvest in a sustainable manner to conserve the fodder resource.*

**Management Outcome 1:**

This application for fodder harvesting will occur in the Mulga bioregion.

Fodder harvesting will be limited to the extent necessary to provide fodder for livestock. The fodder species to be harvested are predominately Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) and Bastard (Turpentine) Mulga (*Acacia stowardii*).

**Harvesting will not occur in essential habitat areas or endangered regional ecosystems.** Where there are mixed polygons and the polygon contains a fodder regional ecosystem, landholders will only harvest within the fodder harvesting regional ecosystems. Landholders will identify this boundary when harvesting by looking for a change in vegetation community/ species and the change in land-types/land zones. Landholders must identify these areas on a suitable map and lodge it to DERM when triggering this AMP.

Under this AMP, the Moonjarie fodder group would like to propose to selectively fodder harvest in regional ecosystem 6.5.3. In order to maintain the integrity of the regional ecosystem, fodder species (Mulga) will only be selectively harvested; pushing one tree in every four Mulga trees. Fodder harvesting in this manner will only target the fodder species. Vegetation other than Mulga will not be targeted or removed during harvesting. Regional ecosystem 6.5.3 is a Box dominated community therefore selectively harvesting Mulga in this manner is still retaining 55% of the Mulga trees and species other than Mulga are not being targeted, therefore the integrity of the regional ecosystem is not being jeopardised. This method of harvesting will enhance the regional ecosystem by restoring the understory and enhancing the integrity of the regional ecosystem as Mulga can dominate this regional ecosystem in some areas. The types of machinery and equipment likely to be used to achieve the desired outcome would be a tractor and or a dozer with a blade or breaker bar mounted on the front.

The Moonjaree Fodder group agrees to push no more than 30% of each notification area within a 12 month period. Each individual fodder harvesting operation is limited to an area that will provide sufficient fresh fodder- for stock within the paddock where fodder harvesting is being undertaken to last for a period of 3-5 days or for a period determined by access to water, longevity of the palatability/digestibility of leafy material, climatic conditions and stock numbers.

Where contractors, employees, subcontractors, agents or any other person, that is not the applicant or the permittee are to be engaged or employed to carry out the clearing of any vegetation under this permit, the permittee is to provide them with a copy of this AMP, including the attached conditions and attached AMP plan and ensure that they are aware of what clearing is authorised under this AMP.

**Management Goal 2:** *Fodder harvesting will be done in a manner that will preserve the natural regional ecosystem whilst ensuring connectivity is maintained.*

**Management Outcome 2:**

The Moonjaree fodder group would like to harvest in a way that will supply necessary fodder while conserving the regional ecosystems within the application area. In order to conserve the fodder resource, fodder harvesting **must not** occur within **retained vegetation**. Retained vegetation is vegetation that is more than 4 metres in height or the vegetation must not have been cleared in the last 10 years.

Clearing is limited to Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) and Bastard (Turpentine) Mulga (*Acacia stowardii*) and other vegetation that is less than 4 metres high. Clearing of other vegetation that is less than 4 metres high is limited to the extent necessary to clear Mulga and Bastard Mulga.

Cleared Vegetation **must not** be moved from where it falls.

To ensure maximum flexibility and to cater for individual landholder needs the following fodder harvesting options have been agreed upon by the members of the Moonjaree fodder group.

1. **Strip harvesting straight or meandering:** Strip harvesting will only occur in regional ecosystems where Mulga is the dominant vegetation community. Strip harvesting will not occur in regional ecosystems where the Mulga is patchy and or scattered throughout the regional ecosystem. Land holders within the AMP group would like to have the freedom to choose from options 1-11 in Table I page 29 of the landholders guide to fodder harvesting which includes pushing or pulling across slopes to a maximum distance of 135m wide with a maximum retained vegetation width of 165m. Where applicable, patches of vegetation or individual fodder trees will be retained within the strip. Retained vegetation will be either vegetation where the average height of fodder trees exceeds 4 meters, or vegetation that has not been cleared in the last 10 years.

Where strips do not connect with retained remnant vegetation (creeks and non fodder regional ecosystems) connectivity will be maintained by breaking strips to provide a corridor no less than 200m wide or leaving 200m corridors at the end of strips that connect to remnant vegetation. Corridors of remnant vegetation, no less than 200m wide must be connected to remnant vegetation on adjoining properties. Machinery suitable for strip harvesting includes the following: Dozers and chain, wheeled dozer/ tractor with blade/breaker bar/ stick-rake.

2. **Block Harvesting:** Applies to regional ecosystems where the Mulga is found in clumps or patches throughout the regional ecosystem. Pushing or pulling patches of fodder vegetation up to 4 hectares in area, each block will be surrounded by retained vegetation. Non fodder trees higher than 4m will be retained and in some cases individual fodder trees will be retained. Harvesting in block sizes ranging from 1-4ha will be separated from other blocks by at least 100m to retain 55% of the remnant vegetation in each 300x300m area. Landholders will ensure that connectivity is not broken by creating a 200m side corridor through the harvested area. Clearing will not exceed 10m for machinery access. Machinery suitable for

block harvesting includes: Dozer and or wheeled dozer/ tractor with blade/ breaker bar/ stick-rake.

3. **Combination of strips and blocks:** In areas where the distribution of mulga is patchy, combinations of strips and blocks should be available to landholders to utilise available fodder. Instances where combinations of strips and blocks are required, Table K on p30 of the landholders guide will be followed. Strip and block harvesting will maintain connectivity by providing numerous connecting links between the harvesting methods. Clearing will not exceed 10m for machinery access. Machinery suitable for strip harvesting includes the following: Dozers and chain (only applicable for strip harvesting) wheeled dozer/ tractor with blade/breaker bar/ stick-rake.
4. **Selective pushing:** Applies when the Mulga is scattered throughout the regional ecosystem. Selectively harvesting individual trees by pushing to remove no more than four in nine fodder trees and retain at least 55% of the predominant canopy cover over any 300x300m area. Connectivity will not be broken by selective harvesting. Dozer and or wheeled dozer/ tractor with blade/ breaker bar/ stick-rake.

Landholders are required to decide the suitable machinery and the fodder harvesting technique that will meet the conditions detailed in this AMP. This decision must be outlined to DERM when individual landholders trigger this AMP.

To ensure connectivity, landholders will apply 200m buffers (100m either side) on stream orders 1-4. All stream order 5 and above will have 200m buffers (200m either side) placed on them in accordance with PR F6 under the regional vegetation management code (Western Bioregion). Retained areas (vegetation that is not harvested and non fodder regional ecosystems) will also act as connectivity corridors joining neighbouring lots.

### **Management Goal 3: *Protecting Wetlands and Riparian areas***

#### ***Management Outcome 3:***

- a) Fodder harvesting **must not** occur within the **wetlands or significant wetlands** as indicated on the supporting maps. The group agrees to leave a buffer of 100m around wetlands and 200m around significant wetlands.
- b) Fodder harvesting **must not** occur within any watercourse and
  - 1) Within 200m from each high bank of each watercourse with a stream order 5 or above; and
  - 2) Within 100m from each high bank of each watercourse with a stream order 3 or 4; and
  - 3) Within 50m from each high bank of each watercourse with a stream order 1 or 2.

*Please note, under management goal 2, landholders have agreed to apply 200m (100m either side of the watercourse) connectivity corridors on stream order's 1-4 and 200m either side on stream order's 5 and above.*

Please note that "Moonjaree" has a bore-drain that is incorrectly mapped as a watercourse, in this instance the listed exclusion zones will not be followed in this case.

**Management Goal 4:** *Conserving Soils and managing salinity*

**Management Outcome 4:**

- a) Mechanical clearing **must not** occur where slopes exceed 5%. Where slopes exceed 5% slope, non mechanical methods will be used (chainsaw) across the slope.
- b) There are no known discharge sites within the Moonjaree fodder application area, however if investigations show otherwise the group agrees to leave a 200m buffer around the identified discharge areas.