

### Approved area management plan

<b>Title</b>	South West Fodder Harvesting Area Management Plan
<b>Reference no:</b>	2012/004196
<b>Approved</b>	29 July 2012
<b>Entity/ies</b>	Craig Alison South West Natural Resource Management Group PO Box 140 QUILPIE QLD 4480
<b>Area</b>	Lesdale and Arabella properties, 20km east of Charleville
<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 10 years 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>	Not applicable

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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.

## **SOUTH WEST NRM ONEPLAN FODDER HARVESTING PILOT PROJECT**

**MAY 2012 – SWNRM Ltd Quilpie Office**

### **Oneplan fodder harvesting submission 2012 – Lesdale and Arabella**

*Submission for final report of South West NRM Ltd Fodder harvesting Area Management Plan. The required code performance criteria 1 to 12 and acceptable solution tabled: For OnePlan Cluster 3 – Lesdale and Arabella*

### ***Performance requirements 1 to 12***

#### **PR F.1: Limits to fodder harvesting:**

To regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that conserves remnant vegetation that are regional ecosystems, does not cause land degradation, and prevents the loss of biodiversity and maintains ecological processes—subject to the limitations required to meet PR F.2 to PR F.12—clearing for fodder harvesting—

#### **Answer.**

PR F.1 (a) The properties Lesdale and Arabella are located 20km due east of the township of Charleville. There is compliance with PR.F:1 as the area encompassed within the application is listed as a fodder bioregion/subregion under the code because we are located within the mulga lands bioregion.

PR F.1 (b) – the utilisation of mulga as a fodder resource for stock will only be harvested to the extent that is necessary to provide suitable subsistence for stock requirements. We practice both rotational and tactical grazing of our perennial pastures to ensure pasture health and resilience. Utilisation of a fodder harvesting resource is end option to prevent stock losses and critical attempt to ensure stock survival. The location of the properties are in some of the most healthiest and resilience areas of the mulga lands bioregion and the use of mulga as a fodder supplement has been practised for over 100 years in south west QLD.

Our region is listed as a fodder bioregion/subregion in the guide “landholders guide to fodder harvesting applications” from the Department of Environment and Resource Management. (The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (Q106040 Mulga as a feed source brochure) Advises mulga browse has been an important component of livestock nutrition in southwest Queensland. Stock will browse fresh mulga leaves throughout the year. However mulga is Never a production ration. Mulga and pasture each plays different role in sustainable use of the land from a production viewpoint)

### **PR F.2: Conserving remnant vegetation that are *endangered* regional ecosystems and *of concern* regional ecosystems:**

To regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that conserves remnant vegetation that are *endangered* and *of concern* regional ecosystems—fodder harvesting does not occur in *endangered* regional ecosystems and *of concern* regional ecosystems.

#### **Answer.**

No fodder harvesting will take place in areas that are classified as endangered regional ecosystems or of concern regional ecosystems. As responsible land managers were aware that this classification is important to enhance resilience and is a core input of sustainable biodiversity. This is a legislated requirement from the native veg act so no real alternative solutions can be forwarded.

### **PR F.3: Cleared vegetation:**

To regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that does not cause land degradation and Maintains ecological processes—cleared vegetation must not be moved from where it Falls.

#### **Answer**

We will leave harvested vegetation where it falls as an erosion and regeneration measure. No stick raking or other methods will be used to attempt to displace harvested fodder from where it falls. This is compliant with the Act and legislation and associated Code

### **PR F.4: Conserving the fodder resource:**

To regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that conserves remnant vegetation that are regional ecosystems, does not cause land degradation, prevents the loss of biodiversity and maintains ecological processes—a fodder harvesting plan is provided that demonstrates the conservation of fodder species in perpetuity.

#### **Answer**

We accept this performance requirement as the fodder resource is a supplementary feed requirement and as good land managers we have no intention or desire to over exposure mulga lands fodder resource. We will, if required for the extent of keeping stock alive, harvest the absolute maximum of 30% of the proposed fodder harvesting area lot within any 12 month period during the lifetime of the fodder harvesting permit.

## **PR F.5: Wetlands**

To regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that prevents the loss of biodiversity and maintains ecological processes— assessable vegetation associated with any natural significant wetland and/or natural wetland is protected to maintain—

- a) water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; and
- b) aquatic habitat; and
- c) terrestrial habitat.

### **AS F.5 ANSWER**

There is no wetland in or within 200 m of our proposed fodder harvesting permit area And we accept this performance requirement as we see it is essential to maintaining the objectives as determined by PR F.5. Our mapping provided demonstrates that buffer zones of 200m have been implemented along water courses.

## **PR F.6 Watercourses**

To regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that does not cause land degradation, prevents the loss of biodiversity and maintains ecological processes – assessable vegetation associated with any water course is protected to maintain-

- a) Bank stability by protecting against bank erosion; and
- b) Water quality by filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants; and
- c) Aquatic habitat; and
- d) Terrestrial habitat

### **AS F.6 Answer**

We proposed to align with the acceptable standard as described in the guide 5.4.3 AS F 6.1. We will not under our AMP conduct fodder harvest within

- A) In any watercourse
- B) Within 200m from each high bank of each water course with a stream order 5 or greater; and
- C) Within 100 meters from each high bank of each watercourse with a stream order 3 or 4;and
- D) Within 50m from each high bank of each watercourse with a stream order of 1 or 2

### **PR F.7: Connectivity:**

To regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that prevents the loss of biodiversity and maintains ecological processes—areas of mapped remnant vegetation are located on the lot(s) that are the subject of the application to maintain connectivity to mapped remnant vegetation on adjacent properties.

Answer.

#### **AS F.7**

Where mapped remnant vegetation adjoins the lot(s) that are the subject of the application, connectivity between all vegetation retained as a result of PR F.10 and the mapped remnant vegetation on adjacent lots must be maintained by corridors of mapped remnant Vegetation that are no less than 200 metres wide. As per the code.

### **PR F.8: Soil erosion**

To regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that does not cause land degradation and Maintains ecological processes—the effect of clearing does not result in—

- a) Mass movement, gully erosion, rill erosion, sheet erosion, tunnel erosion, stream bank erosion, wind erosion or scalding; and
- b) Any associated loss of chemical, physical or biological fertility— including, but not limited To water holding capacity, soil structure, organic matter, soil biology and nutrients, Within and/or outside the lot(s).

Answer.

Under our AMP, we will implement the acceptable solution, Option 1, as per the code to strip fodder harvest on slopes less than 5%.

#### **AS F.8**

F.8.1

Fodder harvesting—

- a) By mechanical clearing does not occur on a slope that exceeds 5%; and
- b) In strips only occurs across the slope.

## **PR F.9: Salinity**

To regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that does not cause land degradation and Maintains ecological processes—clearing does not contribute to—

- a) Waterlogging; or
- b) The salinisation of groundwater, surface water or soil.

### **Answer.**

Fortunately our region of the mulga lands does not suffer from salinity issues found elsewhere in the regional ecosystem bioregions. We agree that fodder harvesting processes do not/ should not contribute to waterlogging or salinization and impact upon the immediate and surrounding land zones/types. Under our AMP we will follow the AS F. (as described within the code)

### **AS F.9**

Fodder harvesting does not occur—

- a) In any discharge area; or
- b) Within 200 metres of any discharge area.

## **PR F.10: Conserving remnant vegetation that are regional ecosystems:**

To regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that conserves remnant vegetation That are regional ecosystems— fodder harvesting activities—

- a) Retain at least 55% of the predominant canopy cover of the regional ecosystem Over each 300 x 300 metre (9 hectare) area; and
- b) Maintain the range of species of the regional ecosystem at the locality.

### **Answer.**

Under our AMP, no fodder harvesting will occur in areas shown as essential habitat on the essential habitat map, as per acceptable solution PR F10.

### **AS F.10**

Fodder harvesting—

- a) occurs in— i) strips that are no greater than 135 metres wide and retains at least 5 hectares of vegetation over each 300 x 300 metre (9 hectare) area; or
  - ii) Blocks and retains at least 5 hectares of vegetation over each 300 x 300 metre (9 hectare) area; and
- b) Does not occur in the retained vegetation and the area of retained vegetation must have an

Average canopy height of fodder species of greater than 4 metres over each 100 metre x 100 Metre area or not have been cleared in the previous ten years; and  
c) Is limited to— i) fodder species, and  
ii) Other vegetation that is less than 4 metres high.

AND

F.10.2

The area of retained vegetation must have an average canopy height of fodder species of greater than 4 metres over each 100 x 100 metre area or not have  
Been cleared in the previous 10 years.

### **PR F.11: Essential habitat:**

To regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that prevents the loss of biodiversity—  
maintain the current extent of essential habitat.

Answer.

We accept this performance criterion as we wish to improve and enhance the biodiversity of the project area within the fodder resource zones. Under our AMP, no fodder harvesting will occur in areas shown as essential habitat on the essential habitat map, as per acceptable solution PR F11, Option 1 within the code

### **AS F.11**

Fodder harvesting does not occur in an area shown as essential habitat on the essential habitat map.

### **PR F.12: Fodder species:**

To regulate the clearing of vegetation in a way that conserves remnant vegetation that are regional ecosystems, prevents the loss of biodiversity and maintains ecological processes—  
fodder harvesting consists predominantly of fodder species.

Answer.

As responsible land managers were are aware that this classification is important to enhance resilience and is a core input of sustainable biodiversity. The fodder harvesting is for target species only, which will be as described within the code:

- Mulga ( acacia aneura)
- Umbrella Mulga ( acacia cibaria or brachystachya)

