PROPERTY MANAGEMENT POLICY:

We understand that a healthy rangeland ecosystem is a result of sound environmental practices and is essential for long-term viability. All infrastructure, management decisions and activities undertaken on our properties reflect our commitment to protecting the natural assets of our business.

Action

On ground visual inspections, historical data, other industry experience, government resources (software) and best practice recommendations are used to assist property management decisions.

Property Mapping

- Property maps identify infrastructure, paddock areas and soil types, utilising the Qld Globe mapping software
- Management issues are mapped on the property, areas of environmental concern are identified to assist strategies for monitoring and improving these areas
- Paddock sizes are mapped & stocking rates for paddocks are recorded
- Visual inspections and maps are used for management decisions on the property
- Soil mapping to identify plant species are kept in property management folder
- Land Types of Qld Fitzroy Region datasheets relevant to property soil types are used as a reference for land management. These resources list the sodicity, fertility, soil description, ph, salinity and other information

Land capability and conditions

- Concepts of land capabilities are understood & used on the property
- Land types are known and land condition is monitored
- Land types are mapped and taken into account for grazing and property development

Opportunities to improve land condition are used where appropriate

- Current carrying capacity are calculated for the property

Land resource management

- Different soil types are fenced into different paddocks where appropriate
- Paddocks are rotationally rested, stock are excluded from paddocks for varying times to allow rejuvenation depending on land classification and soil types
- Fences are constructed to protect fragile land types from stock access

Records

Soil type map

Land Types of Qld Fitzroy Region printouts

Bare Area Monitoring Sites are recorded on maps and relevant photos are on file

Action

- Infrastructure such as roads on sodic country are monitored for erosion. Diversion banks are maintained on roads and fence lines. Fence lines, fire breaks & roads are planned, maintained & constructed to prevent erosion from occurring
- Scalded country is rested throughout the Summer to encourage grass growth
- Veg Machine property reports are reviewed annually and on ground assessments are undertaken at the start of May and used to make carrying capacity decisions through to the first week of January the following year. The aim is ensure grass cover as recommended by the land type is maintained until the start of January.
- Bare areas in paddocks are identified by visual inspection and satellite mapping and management of these paddocks places priority on rest and recovery.
- Stocking rates are reduced in response to seasonal variability in accordance with the goal to ensure long-term viability and healthy pasture as opposed to short-term financial rewards.
- Grazing is managed to maximise soil organic matter by growing productive pastures and maintaining ground cover at or above recommended levels for particular soil types.
- Grazing is managed to promote soil fauna and microbial activity by growing productive pastures and maintaining ground cover at or above recommended levels for each soil type.
- Water infrastructure has been planned to improve grazing evenness & protect fragile Land types
- The role of biodiversity is understood & managed on the property
- Legislative responsibilities are understood & adhered to by the property owners
- Tree grass ratio is maintained on the property & managed
- Strategies for fire prevention and control are developed and implemented in accordance with the fire management plan
- Controlled burning is used to manage woody weeds and pastures, and protect pastures and infrastructure against wild fires
- Compliance with legal obligations for giving notifications and obtaining permits when controlled burning are adhered to
- Forest country burnt in the late Winter, early Spring. Cattle are moved into the heavier country during late Autumn, Winter and Spring. Forest country is grazed during the Summer and the Brigalow country is rested then
- Better quality country is locked up over the Summer to enable ground cover and density of desirable pasture species to be maintained or improved.
- River frontage country is only grazed for four months of the year and off stream water points are provided in each paddock to actively manage grazing pressure.

Property Health

Business Goal: To achieve a balance between the animals, agents (bacterium, virus or toxin) and the environment (weather, management, diet) to ensure stock remain healthy.

- Livestock health and animal welfare is managed by
- Selection of livestock adapted to the environment
- Use of preventative approaches (eg sulphur licks) to reduce the likelihood of sickness and disease
- Optimising herd productivity
- No chemical use on livestock

Records

Property Health Management Plan

Excel Spreadsheet of Stock Activity

Fire Management Plan and Guide

Action

Records

Property Planning

- Land types are considered in grazing management and property development planning and lighter country is grazed only through the Summer
- Land condition improvement is managed as part of the annual planning process. Paddocks are rested to encourage desirable pasture species to spread
- Most paddocks have more than one water point in the paddock to improve grazing eveness and to reduce sacrifice zones around water points
- New water points are located away from fragile land areas
- Fences are planned around vulnerable land types and erected where practical and cost effective
- PMAVs are locked in for all properties. Reclassification of areas is an ongoing process.
- All property development is done in accordance with the requirements of Government legislation, including the Vegetation Management Act.
- Vegetation management permits are obtained in accordance with appropriate legislation

Stocking Rates

- Carrying capacity rates are determined through long-term experience, paddock records and observed trends in land condition
- Timber regrowth control is managed through granular herbicides
- Lueceana has been planted to increase stocking rates and production
- Visual observations of land condition are used to ensure stock numbers match sustainable carrying capacity rates over time
- Stocking rates are adjusted to meet current feed supply, animal requirements, pasture residue and ground cover targets.

Risk Assessment

- Active and ongoing risk assessment occurs on a continual basis
- WH&S, Biosecurity and Asset management risk assessments all factor in impacts to the natural environment in which the business operates
- Extreme weather risk assessments (drought, flood or fire) are done on a seasonal basis and response plans developed accordingly, with decisions focusing on the livestock's health and welfare and environmental stewardship