

Sustainable Land Management for Catchment Health

LIVING NEAR LAKE MACDONALD



Sustainable land management involves using the land within its capability to ensure the productivity and economic potential of the land is maintained, while not compromising its ecological function, such as water retention in soils or nutrient recycling.

When living in a water supply catchment, it is important to consider how your property operates within the catchment when planning your land management activities. Some activities can increase the risk of contaminating waterways with sediment, nutrients, chemicals and pathogens. These greatly impact quality and the safety of our water supply. Furthermore, creeks, rivers and wetlands are often the keystone ecosystems in the landscape. If they are not managed properly, other land-based systems can rapidly deteriorate as a result, which can impact property productivity and health.

The management of three key features of a property is vital in maintaining a healthy catchment; **soil**, **vegetation** and **water**.

Maintaining good vegetation cover helps keep soils healthy, as the roots help bind the soil together, controlling run-off and preventing erosion. The quality of groundwater and run-off water entering watercourses are also largely influenced by vegetation cover and soil health.

Healthy waterways and wetland systems provide ecosystem services that can benefit the productivity of agricultural properties through supporting fertile soils, assisting in drought resilience, and providing good quality drinking water for stock.

We encourage landholders to adopt sustainable practices not only to help maintain healthy catchments, but to improve the productivity of their land.



Sustainable management of **soil**, **vegetation** and **water** on your property is vital for a healthy water catchment



Noosa & District
Landcare





TIPS FOR MANAGING SOILS AND PASTURE

Maintain high percentage of groundcover - Keep at least 90 % of the soil surface covered at all times of the year by managing your animal stocking rates. This will help prevent erosion, improve water quality and will enable pasture to quickly respond to rainfall.

Regularly monitor your pastures and match stock numbers to seasonal pasture availability - This helps ensure sustainable use and prevents overgrazing and pasture degradation. It also allows early detection of emerging issues such as the onset of erosion.

Regularly spell or rest your grazing management system – This is the most affordable pasture rejuvenation strategy, enabling pastures to recover well and promotes seed set of grasses.

Adopt sustainable cropping practices - This includes reduced tillage, stubble retention, green manure crop use, legumes and ley pastures, crop rotations, and regular soil analysis to match inputs to crop and soil needs, prevent soil health decline, soil acidification and erosion..



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TIPS FOR MANAGING WATERWAYS, WETLANDS AND DRAINAGE LINES

Provide buffer zones around waterways, springs and wetlands - This ensures land use and management practices do not impact on riparian and aquatic ecosystems. Use strategic fencing to restrict livestock from buffer zones.

Protect and enhance native vegetation along waterways - This helps minimise stream-bank erosion, filter nutrients, provide habitat, maintain healthy aquatic functions and protect water quality.

Provide stock with alternative off-stream water sources – This helps improve water quality by limiting sediment, nutrient and pathogen contamination. Enhanced livestock health through access to cleaner water, and improved riparian vegetation and riverine habitats.

Manage dams as artificial wetlands - Use strategic fencing and establish alternative watering points. Provide vegetative buffers by encouraging regeneration and revegetation.

Leave snags and large woody debris in streams - This provides habitat, helps to control erosion and oxygenates water .

Acknowledgement

This information was adapted from Healthy Land and Water (2015) Principles for Sustainable Land Management, Healthy Land and Water Limited, Brisbane, Queensland. For a copy of this fact sheet please contact (07) 3177 9100 or info@hlw.org.au

Water Supply Catchment Program

Seqwater and Noosa and District Landcare have partnered to better protect the quality of water in the Lake Macdonald catchment. The Water Supply Catchment Protection Program aims to bring landholders and local experts together to share knowledge and find ways to prevent sediment, nutrients and pathogens such as livestock faeces from entering the lake.

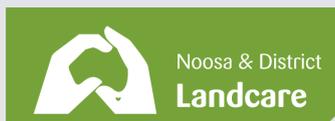
To learn more about the program and how you can get involved please contact:

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PROGRAM PROFILE

