

# Capability Statement

Burnett Catchment Care Association (BCCA) is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation with dedicated, qualified and professional officers and field staff who develop and implement on-ground natural resource management (NRM) and sustainable agriculture projects across the Burnett Catchment.

As an organisation we have a proven track record of establishing relationships and working directly with landholders to support on-ground sustainable land management and practice change spanning more than two decades.

We have a long history of partnering and collaborating with associated organisations with much of our project funding derived from State and Federal Government programs. A significant and long-standing partnership with our region's peak NRM body Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), has allowed us to collectively achieve significant on-ground outcomes which have benefitted our regional environment and economy.

## What we offer

- The delivery of Burnett-based projects or on-ground activities with qualified, practical and experienced staff
- Partnerships with other organisations developing and delivering larger, more integrated agricultural/NRM extension, development and research projects within the Burnett Catchment
- Technical expertise in *Natural Resource Management* and *Sustainable Agriculture*
- Extensive networks and functional relationships within the agricultural and wider Burnett community that enable us to provide a specialised collective network of expertise that value adds to our organisation's core skill-set and service delivery
- Integrated and long-serving established relationships with landholders and the boarder Burnett catchment community
- Proven ability and track record in developing and delivering *Sustainable Agriculture & Natural Resource Programs* including all associated reporting functions
- Dedicated finance, contract and administrative support for all project work; professional financial management including audited financial reports
- Over two decades of experience in delivering NRM and sustainable agriculture outcomes; the longest serving organisation of its type with in the Burnett Region

## Core Competencies



## Research & Development

- Research trial / demonstration site design and implementation
- Establishing, implementing and managing all aspects of on-ground project work in cropping and grazing systems for both productivity and NRM outcomes

## Practice Change & Implementation

- Cropping and grazing practices for improved water quality and reduced environmental impact
- Assisting land managers to understand and implement principles and practices associated with
  - ◊ sustainable grazing management
  - ◊ sustainable cropping systems

## In field monitoring and data collection

- Soil & water
- GHG emissions
- Pasture monitoring
- Flora surveys
- Mapping and GIS



## Environmental Planning

- Environmental planning
- Property management planning
- Carbon policy, legislation and practices – storing carbon in the landscape and reducing emissions in cropping and grazing systems

## Conservation & Rehabilitation

- Riparian habitats
- Reef system and catchment repair
- Habitat protection, restoration and connectivity (ie. for White Throated Snapping Turtle and Australian Lungfish)
- Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket

## Soils: Conservation, Health & Nutrition

- Streambank condition assessment and management for reduced soil movement
- Soil health and nutrition

## Agribusiness & Mining experience

- Financial analysis and assessment of business options for agricultural businesses
- Mining logistics, contracting, procurement and Human Resources (HR)

## Project management & administration

- Budgeting and financial management
- Reporting, record-keeping and evaluation of project and programs
- Funding applications
- Business management including logistics and scheduling for multiple tasks

## Landholder engagement & consultation (including training & resources):

- Workshops, field events & meetings
- Facilitation and group leadership
- Extension support
- Preparation of written resources – case studies, fact sheets, reports and manuals

## Contact

If you would like to discuss further the services we can offer &/or possible collaboration please contact our Head Office:

Phone: (07) 4166 3898

Email: [admin@burnettcatchment.org](mailto:admin@burnettcatchment.org)

Web: [www.betterburnett.com](http://www.betterburnett.com)

# Major Projects & Achievements

## Reef Alliance – Growing a Great Barrier Reef - Grazing (current)

The Reef Alliance Program is a partnership between agricultural industry, regional NRM bodies and facilitated by the Qld Farmers' Federation (QFF), with the common goal of securing the future health of the Great Barrier Reef. The Reef Alliance Program is funded by the Australian Government and delivered through the Reef Trust.

The project provides eligible graziers with individually tailored technical expertise and training to identify and implement strategies to reduce soil movement and improve grazing land management to contribute to the health of the Great Barrier Reef.



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This project supports grain growers to complete a Grains BMP workshop, develop property action plans and implement practice change to improve quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef to increase the health and resilience of the Reef.

## Natural Disaster Resilience Program – Building Resilience in the North Burnett (current)

Jointly funding by the Commonwealth and Queensland Government under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program.

This project aims to build and enhance the natural disaster resilience of agricultural North Burnett regional communities.

## Building Better Regions Fund – Monto Agricultural Strategy (current)

Funded by the Australian Government's Building Better Regional Fund.

BCCA will develop an agricultural strategy for the Monto district based on careful analysis of current agricultural practices in the area and an assessment of likely changes in agricultural markets. The strategy will include a plan for long-term success for local agriculturalists while providing a vision for agricultural and environmental sustainability.

## Restoring Riparian Habitats (concluded June 2018) Funded by the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Program.

This project will improve the extent, connection and condition of native vegetation with a focus on major habitats for nationally threatened and iconic species *Elseya albagula* (White throated snapping turtle) & *Neoceratodus forsteri* (Australian lungfish). On-ground works include establishing 4000 trees and 1000 shrubs over 15ha of riparian land and site maintenance within and surrounding these areas.



## Baffle Reef Systems Repair Project (concluded June 2018) Initiative of BMRG with funding from the Australian Government.

Delivery of on-ground projects, workshops and field days that will reduce sediment movement from the Baffle Creek catchment to the Great Barrier Reef.



## Better Catchments – Inland Burnett (concluded June 2018) Initiative of BMRG with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

One-on-one assistance is provided to landholders in the grazing and cropping sectors to improve farming practices in accordance with industry best practice. The project includes assistance with project planning and follow-up property visits to support implementation of desired practice change.

## Nitrous Oxide Emissions Cropping Trials (concluded June 2017) Initiative of BMRG with funded from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture 'Action on the Ground' and partnering with CQU, DAF & DSITI.

Trials included emissions and crop production data collection and analysis across nine treatments. Communication and extension included facilitation of grower discussion group meeting to analyse the risks and benefits of the conventional and new systems being trialed and surveys to assess practice change and identify barriers to adoption of the alternative practices. The project also provided local croppers with tangible data and agronomic advice regarding the effect of management options on nitrogen use and emissions.

**Carbon Farming Project (concluded June 2017)** *Partnering with BMRG & BFVG supported by funding from the Australian Government.*

The BCCA component of this project increased understanding of greenhouse gas (GHG) production and abatement, carbon sequestration practices and the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) within the grazing community of the Burnett Mary region. The project outputs included the development of over 70 individual Property Management Plan with graziers, eight workshops/extension events, two case studies, one fact sheet.

**Reef Water Quality – Burnett Grazing (concluded June 2016)** *Initiative of BMRG through the Australian Government.*

This project linked incentives for on-ground projects with extension of grazing land management practices to reduce sediment run-off to the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. The project included delivery of educational and awareness activities, 59 individual landholder projects, 100 watering points and 7500 ha of improved ground cover management.

**Following the Flood – Water Quality Monitoring post TC Oswald (concluded 2016)** *Funded by Queensland Government under Everyone's Environment program.*

The water sampling conducted by BCCA under this project enabled water quality data to be collected in the upper Burnett following Ex-TC Oswald and associated flooding. The project included the collation of historical water quality data to establish if changes had occurred due to the flooding event and provide a baseline of data against which to measure future changes.

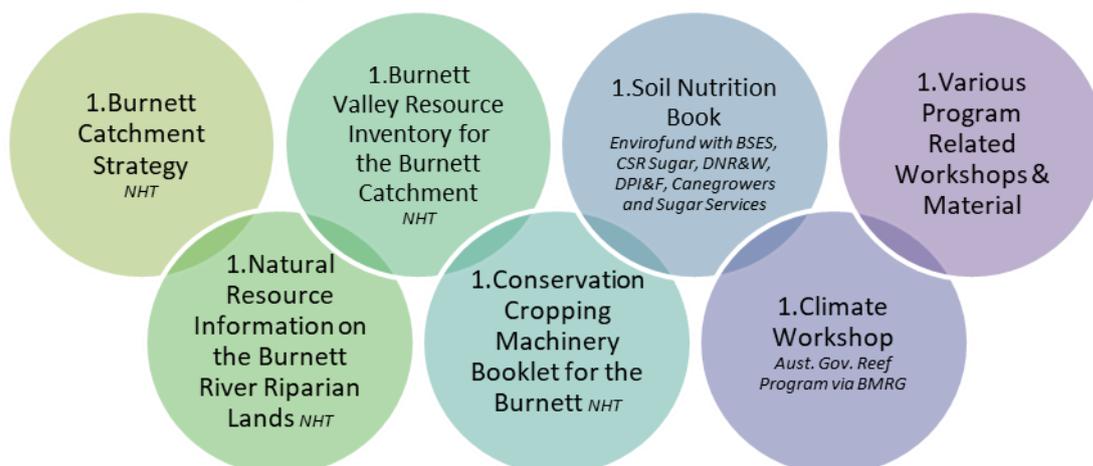
**TC Oswald – On Farm Productivity & Riparian Restoration (concluded 2015)** *Initiative of BMRG through the joint Qld and Australian Government NDRRA program.*

The North Burnett component of the Flood Recovery Program had four key objectives: riparian stabilisation, floodplain restoration, restoring land productivity and weed control. The project resulted in 12,200ha of land treated for weed control with almost 200 individual landholder projects. This is in addition to the repair of 2,500ha floodplain used for cultivation, 35 km of fencing repaired or rebuilt and 115 ha and 15 km of riverbank revegetated and stabilised.

*Other Previous Major Projects*

- Rewarding Sustainable Practices in the Western Burnett *Caring for Our Country via BMRG*
- Better Burnett Catchment Recovery Pilot *National Heritage Trust 2 via BMRG*
- SuperGraze *Caring for Our Country via BMRG*
- Restoration of Native Riparian Vegetation – Upper Burnett *National Heritage Trust*
- Healthy Habitats – Inland Burnett *Caring for Our Country via BMRG*
- On Ground Implementation of the Burnett Catchment Strategic Plan *National Heritage Trust*
- South Burnett Water Watch Program *National Heritage Trust*
- Aquatic Weeds Initiative *BMRG, DI&P (under BPOA), DEH (under NHT), LGA, Sunwater*
- Reef Rescue – Grazing in the Burnett *Caring for Our Country via BMRG*
- Monto Manure Project *Aust. Gov. National Landcare Program*
- Flood Recovery Riparian Fencing

**Resources & Workshops**



## Team Profile



**Katie Muller, General Manager** (*B. Agricultural Science*)

Katie has extensive experience in sustainable agricultural programs and practices. As an agriculturalist she also understands the practical application of these methodologies and has firsthand on the ground knowledge and experience. Katie oversees the overall, day-to-day operation of the organisation including contract management and reporting as well as assisting in the field with the delivery of programs, projects and services.



**Melinda Clarke, Office Manager** (*B. Applied Science Biotechnology*)

Melinda provides extensive administrative and organisational support on all organisational projects in addition to serving on the executive staff as both Secretary and Treasurer with the Association's financial operations. Melinda currently manages our Mt Lawless Water Monitoring project and Community Sustainability Action Grant project – Barambah Weeds.



**Marisa Young, Extension Officer** (*B. Science Environmental Studies*)

Marisa has background is in environmental planning and natural resource management. She has a strong expertise and experience, having previously coordinated floodplain management recovery projects. Marisa currently coordinates the Better Catchments program in the Burnett, a BMRG initiative under the National Landcare Program.



**Naomi Purcell, Extension Officer** (*B. Bus., Dip. Purchasing & Materials Management*)

Naomi is experienced the fields of Administration, Logistics and Marketing and Human Resources Management. She has spent her life living and working with in rural communities and owns and operates a rural manufacturing business. Naomi currently coordinates the cropping component of 'Reef Alliance – Growing a Great Barrier Reef' in the Burnett on behalf of Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA).



**Misty Green, Research & Funding Officer** (*Studying B. Science – Ecology. + Enviro.*)

Misty has previous experience in environmental research, accounting, management, human resources, contract management, tenders/funding applications and business. Project's she has been involved in include: the effects of coal mining on fresh water ecosystems, riparian habitats, ecological species status, biogas development and seagrass restoration. Before joining BCCA, Misty worked for regional government in community economic recovery following natural disaster events with a focus on agriculture.



**Hannah Vicary, Project Support Officer** (*B. Agribusiness & Animal Production*)

Hannah has experience across a wide array of agricultural practices and grazing production systems and has just finalising her Agribusiness/Animal Production degree from the University of Queensland, Gatton. Hannah will provide project support to our entire BCCA team and Burnett catchment communities.



**Kirstie Roffey, Extension Officer** (*B. Agribusiness*)

Kirstie has extensive agribusiness experience having previously worked across the agribusiness financial sector, natural resource management and agricultural extension projects in addition to having a Bachelor of Agribusiness. Kirstie also has a background in commercial beef production and will be coordinating our 'Natural Disaster Resilience Program' through the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience.

# Partnerships & Collaborations

Over the last two decades, BCCA has partnered and/or collaborated with the following:



Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation; Australian and New Zealand Land Information Council; Burnett Program of Action; Local Government Authority; Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations; Wide Bay 2020; Individual landholders, local schools & community groups within the Burnett Catchment; On farm productivity and riparian recovery program; Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF); Reef Water Quality Grants & Partnerships Program; Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (Australia); Everyone's Environment program; 20 Million Trees Program; National Landcare Program; various experts and specialists; Landcare Groups including: North Burnett, Central Burnett, Kingaroy and South-East Burnett