



**BCCA**

BURNETT CATCHMENT CARE ASSOCIATION

# **CAPABILITY STATEMENT**

Burnett Catchment Care Association





## ABOUT US

**Burnett Catchment Care Association (BCCA) is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation with dedicated, qualified and professional officers who develop and implement on-ground natural resource management (NRM), sustainable agriculture, environmental and conservation 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 almost 30 years.

We have a long history of partnering and collaborating with associated organisations, with much of our project funding derived being from State and Federal Government programs along with philanthropic trusts and foundations. Significant, long-standing and hard earned relationships with land managers has allowed us to collectively achieve significant on-ground outcomes which have benefitted our entire regional environment and economy.

### SERVICE AREA

BCCA covers the drainage basins of the Burnett, Baffle, Burrum and Kolan catchments and associated river systems (43,450km<sup>2</sup>), an area 25% larger than the South-East corner of Queensland (35,248km<sup>2</sup>) and 2/3 the size of Tasmania (68,401km<sup>2</sup>).





# WHAT WE OFFER

**BCCA's team of qualified, practical and experienced staff include agricultural scientists, ecologists, conservation biologists and environmental scientists.**

We are uniquely positioned to offer meaningful partnerships and collaborations to develop and deliver larger, more integrated agricultural/NRM extension, conservation, environmental and research projects within the Burnett Catchment.

Our extensive networks, functional and long-serving established relationships with landholders, coupled with our proven ability and track record in developing and delivering Sustainable Agriculture, NRM and environmental programs allow us to deliver meaningful outcomes and all associated reporting functions.

BCCA is the longest serving organisation of its type with in the Burnett Region with nearly 30 years of proven experience and outcomes.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

- Landholder engagement & consultation (incl. training & resources)
- Research & Development
- Practice change & implementation
- In-field monitoring & evaluation
- Accredited environmental accounting experts
- Environmental Planning
- Conservation, restoration & ecology
- Soils: conservation, health & nutrition
- Agribusiness
- Project management, financial management administration & reporting
- Financial management



### **Landholder engagement, consultation, training & resources**

- Workshops, field events, meetings
- Facilitation & leadership
- Extension support

### **Research & Development**

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

### **Practice Change & Implementation**

- Cropping & grazing practices for improved water quality & reduced environmental impact
- Land manager education & implementation principles & practices associated with sustainable grazing management & cropping systems, biodiversity & natural capital

### **In field monitoring & evaluation**

- Soil & water, GHG emissions
- Pasture, biocontrol, fauna and flora monitoring and 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



### **Accredited Environmental Accounting Experts**

- Accounting for Nature accredited experts with property & regional scale environmental accounting experience

### **Conservation, Restoration & Ecology**

- Riparian, reef system & catchment repair
- Habitat protection, restoration & connectivity

### **Soils: Conservation, Health & Nutrition**

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

### **Agribusiness**

- Financial analysis & assessment of business options for agricultural businesses

### **Project & financial management, admin & reporting**

- Budgeting & financial management, Reporting, record-keeping & project evaluation
- Funding applications & business management





## SELECTED PROJECTS

### **Resilient Landscapes in the Upper Burnett (current)**

Producers in the Upper Burnett have the opportunity to receive on-ground support and extension activities to improve their knowledge and skills in areas of land management practices, soil health, regenerative agriculture and erosion rehabilitation.

### **Soil Extension - Invest in the Test (current)**

The project aims to enable farmers in the Inland Burnett to confidently invest in soil testing regimes, appropriate to their production system, by demonstrating the tangible benefits and value.

### **Burnett Koala Program Grant (current)**

This is a community-led multi-stakeholder collaborative project extends on previous activities and is aimed at better understanding population dynamics and health of inland Burnett koalas. The project is developing a baseline dataset of koala population dynamics and health via DNA testing of scats, non-invasively collected by the community.



### **Saving the Endangered Greater Glider (current)**

A grassroots community education and habitat protection/restoration and enhancement project aimed at improving the presence, abundance, reproductive outcomes and recovery of the hollow dependent Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) in the Upper Burnett region.



**Bugs, Beetles & Biocontrol (current)**

This project aims to create a long-term and sustainable management of Cat's Claw Creeper and Parthenium in the North & South Burnett region via the ongoing production and use of effective biocontrol agents.

**Sharing Models of Successful Groups (current)**

This project aims to establish community led producer groups which aid in peer-to-peer learning and support.

**Burnett Baffle Community Action Plan (CAP) (current)**

The CAP identifies many assets and threats in the Region with impacts on the Great Barrier Reef and aims to develop strategies to address these threats to provide benefit to the marine and coastal environments.

**CONCLUDED 2022****Natural Resources Investment Program**

- Reef Water Quality- Burnett Grazing Project

**Future Drought Fund**

- Building capacity & drought resilience in local grazing group

**Western Burnett Agricultural Strategy**

- Addressing the fundamental economic & NRM foundations of the region.

**Planning for Improved Property Management**

- Personalised Property Management Plans (PMP's) training & capacity development for Burnett graziers

**CONCLUDED 2021****Building Resilience in the North Burnett**

- One of only 4 finalists in the Community category at the 2021 Resilience Australia Awards, winning a Highly Commended award.



## **CONCLUDED 2020**

### **Inland Burnett: SMART audit and Strategic Gap Analysis**

- Analyse resource availability & effectiveness gaps, along with the impediments landholders face in accessing & engaging agricultural resources. Landholder accessibility to available resources assisted via the development of a centralised resource tool.

[www.burnetttaghub.com.au](http://www.burnetttaghub.com.au)



## **CONCLUDED 2019**

### **Monto Agricultural Strategy**

- An agricultural strategy for long-term success for local agriculturalists while providing a vision for agricultural and environmental sustainability.

### **Growing a Great Barrier Reef - GRAZING**

- Individually tailored technical expertise & training to identify and implement strategies for graziers to reduce soil movement & improve grazing land management to contribute to the health of the GBR.

### **Growing a Great Barrier Reef - CROPPING**

- supported grain growers to complete a Grains BMP workshop, develop property action plans & implement practice change

## **CONCLUDED 2018**

### **Restoring Riparian Habitats**

- 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).

### **Baffle Reef Systems Repair Project**

- delivery of on-ground projects, workshops and field days to reduce sediment movement from the Baffle Creek catchment to the GBR.

### **Better Catchments – Inland Burnett**

- Providing 1-on-1 assistance to landholders in the grazing & cropping sectors to improve farming practices in accordance with industry best practice.

## **CONCLUDED 2017**

- Carbon Farming Project
- Nitrous Oxide Emissions Cropping Trials



## 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 - Administration Manager (B. Applied Sci. 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.



### **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 previously coordinates the Better Catchments program in the Burnett, Reef Trust Program and currently manages the Natural Resources Investment Program.



### **Misty Neilson - Research & Funding (B. Sci. Ecology + Conservation Biol.)**

Misty is an Ecologist and an Accounting for Nature accredited expert with experience in environmental monitoring of flora, fauna and freshwater ecosystems. She is an affiliate of the CQUniversity Research Cluster and a Non-executive Board Director for 'Forever Wild'. Misty has worked with QLD and NSW based universities on various environmental research projects and is a CASA licensed drone pilot.



### **Hayley Wester - Extension Officer (B. Veterinary Science MA)**

Hayley is a qualified Vet and has spent the last 22 years working in the Rural Industry, as a Vet, as an Animal Health Consultant, as a Facilitator, and as a Grazier. In doing so she has had the opportunity to experience our industry from many different perspectives and has developed a broad range of expertise, which is invaluable in understanding what does and doesn't work on the ground.



# PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS



Local Waterwatch Offices; Australian and New Zealand Land Information Council; Burnett Program of Action; Local Government Authority; Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations; Widebay 2020; Former Wondai Shire & Monto Shire Councils; Former Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts; Community; Specialised Business Groups, and individual landholders 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; Reef Alliance; 20 million Trees Program; National Landcare Program





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