



CAPABILITY STATEMENT

Burnett Catchment Care Association



BCCA

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 30 years.

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 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 (43,450km²), an area 25% larger than the South-East corner of Queensland (35,248km²) and 2/3 the size of Tasmania (68,401km²).



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 kind within the Burnett Region with 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
- Develop and implementing biocontrol breeding programs

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, Green House Gas (GHG) emissions
- Pasture, biocontrol, fauna and flora monitoring and surveys
- Mapping and GIS

Environmental Planning

- Environmental planning, Property management planning (PMP)
- 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



CURRENT PROJECTS

Sustainable Landscapes Across the Inland Burnett

Improve landscape resilience and empowering primary producers to improve grazing practices by implementing sustainable grazing practices. Project activities include - developing Property Management Plans, site specific erosion rehabilitation field plans and implementing riparian fencing and off-stream watering points.

Building Resilience in the Agricultural South Burnett

Build and enhance the natural disaster resilience of agricultural South Burnett regional communities. Development of a Situation Analysis Report to identify the state of the local agricultural community, followed by consultation with stakeholders to form a comprehensive Needs Analysis which will identify the gaps in local knowledge and services as well as provide guidance as to the type of engagement required by landholders to increase resilience and mitigate against future risk.

Fence & Flow: Protecting Brigalow Belt Watercourse Ecosystems

Enhance the riparian health of the Burnett Brigalow Belt area by installing stock exclusion riparian fencing and installing off-stream watering points, promoting native vegetation growth and stabilising riverbanks at priority locations in the region.



Mt Lawless Water Monitoring

Ongoing monitoring of water quality at the Burnett River at Mount Lawless. Mount Lawless is one of the 61 sites involved in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment Loads Monitoring Program. Samples are collected on a monthly basis during ambient (low flow, dry season) conditions and every few hours to daily during high flow events in the wet season.



PAST PROJECTS

Sharing Models of Successful Groups

Contributed to improving communication, social connection and collaboration within and between rural communities – critical foundations for building resilience to future droughts. A total of 188 participants engaged in capacity building activities allowing producers to come together in a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere, listen to new ideas all while increasing social connectedness.

Resilient Landscapes in the Upper Burnett

Supported 40 Upper Burnett producers across more than 7500ha to affirm and build on current knowledge, improve attitudes towards improvement and change and support producers in planning and putting into place management practices which will improve the strength and resilience of their land and their businesses in our variable climate.

Soil Extension - Invest in the Test

Enabled 42 inland Burnett graziers and croppers to generate local soils data and practical examples of using soil testing & associated interpretation for improved soils management. The producers managed more than 16,200 ha and receive soil testing on 84 paddocks totaling over 713ha. Participants were provided with laboratory analysis and basic soil morphology and interpretation and recommendations by agronomic consultants.



Burnett Koala Program

A community-led multi-stakeholder collaborative project aimed at better understanding population dynamics and health of inland Burnett koalas. A total of 696 individual koalas were recorded and 62 scat samples were analysed via DNA testing to determine population dynamics and health.

Saving the Endangered Greater Glider

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. Installed 69 den sites at 11 locations of 8080 hectares of target regional ecosystems. 264 participants were engaged in extension and educational activities.

Bugs, Beetles & Biocontrol

Design and implement a biocontrol program for Cats Claw Creeper (CCC) and Parthenium. Bred and released over 15,000 Jewel Beetles and over 3,000 Tingid bugs at 58 release sites over 21 different creek systems under the CCC biocontrol program. Collected and distributed 3 Parthenium biocontrol agents at 20 sites across the inland Burnett. Collaboration with 42 landholders, local government and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services.

Burnett Baffle Community Action Plan (CAP)

The CAP identified 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.

Burnett Koala Program - Establishing baseline data for koala populations

Citizen scientist-based project aimed at raising awareness regarding the significance of regional koala populations and habitat health in the Burnett catchment region. A total of 124 sightings were recorded by the community.

Natural Resources Investment Program

Graziers in the Burnett priority area had the opportunity to undertake one-on-one training as well as cash incentives to improve ground cover and grazing management practices. PMP's were developed for 14 landholders, managing an area of 3,677 hectares. Six landholders completed on-ground projects: fencing, pasture improvement, stock reduction and water points. Area of improved practice change from these 6 on-ground projects and practice change through extension was 1,413.50 hectares.

Connecting Monto Producer to Build Resilience

Building Monto Graziers capacity and drought resilience in formation of local grazing group. A total of 110 participants engaged in capacity building activities, allowing formation of new social connections and apply drought-resilience strategies learned through the project.

Western Burnett Agricultural Strategy

Build the capacity of agriculturalists in the Eidsvold and Mundubbera districts and support the development of meaningful and long-lasting resilience by addressing the fundamental economic and NRM foundations of the region. The information collected through this project provided a strategy for long-term success and delivered a vision for the region's agricultural and environmental sustainability.

Link to - [Agricultural Strategy for the Western Burnett](#)

Planning for Improved Property Management

Develop PMP's with Inland Burnett graziers to increase landholder capacity and skill development via the open access online mapping tool – Queensland Globe. Three interactive Queensland Globe workshops followed by one-on-one support were held with 41 participants.

Building Resilience in the North Burnett

Build and enhance the natural disaster resilience of agricultural North Burnett regional communities. 17 different events or activities were attended by 157 individuals. BCCA were of only 4 finalists in the Community category at the 2021 Resilience Australia Awards, winning a Highly Commended award for this project.

Inland Burnett: SMART audit and Strategic Gap Analysis

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

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Monto Agricultural Strategy

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

Link to - [Monto Agricultural Strategy](#).

Reef Alliance - 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 Great Barrier Reef (GBR). 23 Landholders improved their practice change management over a number of different areas, including riparian management, erosion management and ground cover management.

Reef Alliance - Growing a Great Barrier Reef - CROPPING

Supported grain growers to complete a Grains BMP workshop, develop property action plans & implement practice change. Over the course of the entire program in the Burnett Region, practice change to reduce sediment run-off was recorded over 1,231 hectares for ten operations and practice change relating to herbicide run-off was recorded for 618 hectares over six operations.

Restoring Riparian Habitats in the Inland Burnett

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). The project successfully improved the extent of 18.5 hectares of priority riparian vegetation. Over 6000 tubestock were planted to stabilise riverbanks, increase overhanging vegetation and assist with spawning and food supply for the targeted threatened species.

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. 55 on-ground projects saw 4,925 hectares of lantana, CCC and rubber vine controlled, 3,750 hectares of feral pig control, 28 hectares of revegetation and 277 hectares of riparian vegetation protected by fencing.

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. 74,812 hectares of agricultural land has been subject to improved land management practices in the grazing, cropping and native forestry industries by 128 producers. Overall, 474 participants attended capacity building events across every corner of the Burnett to increase their knowledge skills in improving land management practices in the grazing, cropping and native forestry industries.

Carbon Farming Project

Provided relevant Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI), carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation information and tools to land managers in the Burnett Mary region. Prepared 70 PMP's with graziers, with around 200 workshop participants to 10 capacity building events.

Action on the Ground - Cropping in the Burnett

Assisted farmers and land managers to trial on-farm abatement technologies, practices and management strategies to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions (methane and nitrous oxide) or sequester carbon in soil while maintaining or enhancing productivity.

BCCA ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE OVER 30 YEARS



TEAM PROFILE



Katie Muller - Chief Executive Officer (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/GIS Officer (B. Applied Sci. Biotechnology)

Melinda is based in the Monto office and has been a member of the team since 2011. 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. She also works as our GIS Officer, supporting the spatial analysis and mapping needs of BCCA projects.



Marisa Young - Extension Officer (B. Science Environmental Studies)

Marisa is based in Mundubbera and has been a member of team since 2013. She has a background in environmental planning and natural resource management. Marisa has exceptional landholder engagement skills which translate into delivering successful on-ground projects. She has overseen numerous projects for the organisation including Floodplain Management Recovery projects, Better Catchments, Natural Resources Improvement Programs, Reef Alliance – Burnett Grazing projects and Natural Resources Recovery Program.



Misty Neilson - Ecologist: 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' and approved Carbon farming advisor. Misty has worked with QLD and NSW based universities on various environmental research projects and is a CASA licensed drone pilot.



Ann McKenzie - Extension Officer (B. Land Resource Science, D. Journalism)

Ann is based at Murgon and as an extension officer she has worked in the sugarcane industry, in land protection (weed and pest management), natural resource management based out of Charters Towers and most recently in the Inland Burnett with a focus on grazing land management, supporting farmers with information and providing them with linkages. Ann is particularly passionate about healthy people and communities, nutritious food production, agriculture, good soil management and biodiversity



Wendy Thorsborne - Extension Officer (B. Agricultural Science - Extension)

Wendy joined the BCCA team to develop partnerships and deliver projects in the South Burnett, specifically building the capacity of agricultural communities impacted by natural disasters and droughts. Wendy has worked in various geographical locations and industries throughout rural New South Wales and Queensland. She has a wealth of knowledge about the Burnett Inland and has successfully delivered projects in the region for a number of NRM, economic development and community leadership groups as well as local and state government.





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