

Starting from scratch: GLM provides information and options

Andrew Clark has recently taken up the manager's position at Numery Station. Attending the GLM course helped him to re-establish his networks in the industry and to develop a long-term plan with the new owner.

Grazing Land Management workshops

Specific to Central Australia, the workshop, an MLA EDGENetwork® training package, provides a process to develop and implement GLM strategies that optimise land condition, production and profit.

The principles and tools presented will assist you to:

- Calculate land type carrying capacity and stocking rates
- Anticipate and respond to variations in rainfall, land type and land condition
- Understand the relationship between pasture, water, soils, woodlands, biodiversity, fire and weeds
- Plan & determine the financial impact of GLM strategies

The workshop includes open discussions, building on the wealth of knowledge and experience already present in the industry.



A 'hands on' approach is used with technical information demonstrated both in and out of the 'classroom'.

Attending a GLM workshop, and using the follow up service, will put in place a process for achieving the outcomes you see possible for your business.

For further information contact:

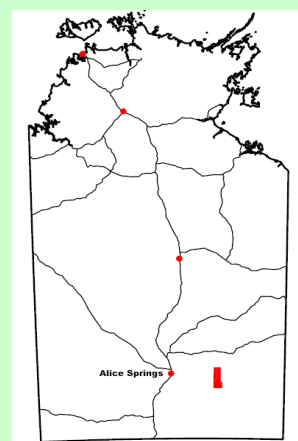
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Producers:

Andrew Clark, Manager Numery Station for TRT Pastoral Group

Location:

180 km east of Alice Springs, Northern Territory



Property area:

2,022 km²

Enterprise:

Breeder operation with male progeny being grown out on southern properties

Goal:

"To improve the water and fencing infrastructure and gain greater control over our herd"

Livestock:

Currently mixed breeds but working towards a Hereford breeder herd with Hereford and Droughtmaster bulls

Annual rainfall:

About 280mm, summer predominant

How can a GLM workshop help your enterprise?

Case Study: Numery Station

Background

Andrew Clark was born and bred in the central Australian cattle industry. After a stint working in northern Australia and in the mining industry, he has returned to the Red Centre and recently took up the manager's position at Numery Station. Andrew was keen to attend the Central Australia GLM (CAGLM) workshop to see what was available in the way of useful tools for management and to re-establish his networks in the industry.

How GLM has changed him

"Since doing GLM I am more aware of things. Instead of just looking at the here and now, I now do more forward planning. My management skills have changed because I am more aware of pasture species, erosion and weeds and I'm viewing the various options more openly."

The issues

Andrew is working with the new owners of Numery, TRT Pastoral Group, to open up more areas of the lease for grazing. However, a lot of the old infrastructure needs recommissioning or replacing before this can happen.

"We don't necessarily want to increase our cattle numbers; we want to lighten the numbers in the current grazing areas so that the country can hold on longer in dry times."

Increasing the amount of fencing and waters will also lead to better herd control.

"With more paddocks and more waters it gives us more options because we can start looking at rotational grazing or spelling. Currently there is very little infrastructure so these aren't even options for us at the moment" says Andrew.

Andrew also notes that Numery has some erosion issues caused by poor road building practises.

"It is difficult to get around the station at the moment due to the condition of the roads. With the roads being so poor (especially for trucks), it is a huge job to put cattle together and shift them quickly when the need arises."

The future

At the moment, the main emphasis at Numery is establishing infrastructure, fixing the roads and improving the herd.

"To me, station development and management is a long-term proposition" says Andrew. "To meet your financial obligations you have to have your country and cattle in a long-term sustainable situation because it really is a long-term investment."

"We want our country to be as good, if not better, than it currently is in ten years' time" he says.

Going to the CAGLM workshop has put him in contact with people who can help him achieve this.

"We are consulting with people who are successfully achieving sustainable production and others (like agency staff) who can help us with information and resources."

One such person is the Grazing Land Management Officer.

"It's great to have that resource in town. She's been able to assist in providing information directly and also pointing us in the right direction to get other information and advice."

Final word

"Going to the CAGLM workshop certainly helped with the planning at Numery. We've got a plan for where we want to go and how we're going to get there and GLM has played a big part in that."