



Resilient Pastures Project

Why was this project designed?

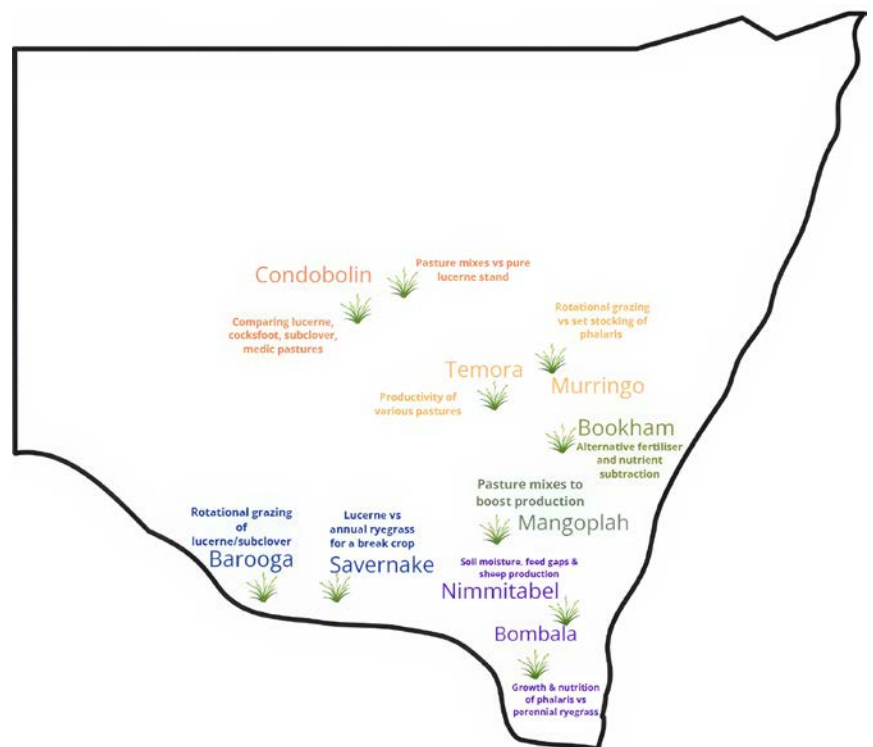
Central and Southern NSW are lacking pasture demonstration sites. Over time there has been a shift to highly annualised systems; degrading perennial pasture systems, causing grazing systems to be exposed to harsh weather conditions. Skills in perennial pasture management is a key focus of this project.

Livestock producers are often challenged with managing feed resources to protect soils, whilst also managing the health and welfare of livestock. This industry is faced with challenges in pasture decline and the loss of valuable species from pastures. Withstanding drought conditions is a key measure of resilient in a pasture system.

How?

Building greater resilience across landscapes by investigating modern pasture species combinations and management practices across Southern and Central NSW is the aim of this project.

Farmer workshops, publications, case studies, videos and on-farm consultations have been used to deliver the key messages from the project to the industry. These outputs are relevant to farmers across NSW with a keen focus on perennial pasture management.



What are we testing and where?

Demonstration sites and project staff have been supported by NSW DPI, NSW LLS, CSIRO and multiple seed companies such as DLF seeds and Upper Murray Seeds.

Farming group	Trial type	Question	Location
Riverine Plains	Species demonstration site	Does a lucerne pasture increase production and resilience to drought compared with a volunteer annual ryegrass (used as a break between cropping) at Finley?	Savernake
	Practice demonstration site	Does rotational grazing of a lucerne/subterranean clover pasture using a fixed time period increase pasture utilisation and sheep enterprise profitability in a range of seasons at Finley, compared to a set stocked system, using either autumn or winter lambing systems?	Barooga
Holbrook Landcare Network	Species demonstration site	Does use of perennials (phalaris) increase productivity/profit/resilience to drought compared with an annual early grass (i.e. barley grass) pasture at Mangoplah?	Mangoplah
	Practice demonstration site	Does higher growth potential increase productivity/profit/resilience to drought when using a native perennial grass pasture at Bookham?	Bookham
Monaro Farming Systems	Species demonstration site	Do perennial ryegrass and phalaris pasture have different growth patterns and nutritive value which will improve sheep enterprise resilience to drought at Bombala?	Bombala
	Practice demonstration site	What is the impact of lucerne vs phalaris and lucerne/phalaris pastures on soil moisture, feed gaps and sheep production at Nimmitabel?	Nimmitabel
FarmLink	Species demonstration site	How do commercially available pastures differ in productivity over a range of seasonal conditions at Temora?	Temora
	Practice demonstration site	Does rotational grazing, rather than set stocking, of a phalaris pasture impact on production and resilience to drought?	Boorowa
Central West Farming Systems	Species demonstration site	What is the growth pattern of lucerne, cocksfoot, sub-clover and medic pastures long-term and in response to drought, and how does this impact on sheep enterprise resilience to drought at Condobolin?	Condobolin
	Practice demonstration site	Do pasture mixtures (lucerne vs lucerne/subterranean clover vs lucerne/cocksfoot) increase resilience to drought above pure lucerne stands for sheep enterprises at Condobolin?	Condobolin

We're all working together

Participating landholders in the project have developed skills in perennial pasture management through support from expertise from the NSW DPI and NSW LLS. Skills developed include establishing perennial pastures, maintaining perennial pastures and selecting species that are persistent in their region

For more information

holbrooklandcare.org.au



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