

Omicron – Greening the Outback

Desert Channels Queensland (DCQ) has worked with Omicron station over the last 2 years on a land restoration project targeting improved soil health, land condition, and ultimately pasture growth of native grass species. DCQ has worked with Omicron landholder Fred Osman, to establish ground cover on his property.

Fred Osman commented “ From the field day we learnt how to put brickwork furrows in along the contour. This slows the water up but also lets the excess water get away and gives it a chance to soak in. We have thrown out some Michell grass seed supplied by DCQ. Our main objective is to see if the bare ground can rejuvenate with native flora after grader work putting in “brickwork” and then wet season spelling”

Erosion control specialist and grader driving instructor, Darryl Hill, reinforced importance of soil conservation and how minimizing rainfall runoff was a key part of the solution to restoring landscapes. As part of this project, Fred and the team learnt how to establish brickwork furrows along the contours to catch and slow down rainfall runoff for better infiltration into the soil to establish.



Monitoring sites were established and the landholder used his grader to put in small contour banks and brick work pods on bare and scalded areas (see photos).

Once the ground work was completed, the paddock was spelled (i.e no livestock) for the duration of the wet season (Dec-March).



This program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.

Early results are encouraging. During the wet season, the earth works held up some water, which resulted in vegetation growth in and around the sites.



Fred Osman commented “Although very little Mitchell grass came up this summer the seed should still be there, and we are very happy with the plants that did come up and we are hoping for another good season this summer to keep the plants and ground cover improving“

Overall, the project is looking very promising. The collaboration between Omicron and DCQ has resulted in many hectares on its way improving ground cover and land condition. The change process is relatively slow, however with good grazing management the improvements should continue.

This document prepared by Desert Channels Queensland, November 2024.
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