

# Infrastructure to improve beef business outcomes in the Gulf



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## Background

Greenhills Station, owned and run by the Ryan family, lies 25km west of Georgetown in the Queensland Gulf. It is a typical family-run beef enterprise covering approximately 26 000 hectares (ha) and running nearly 1600 breeders. In order to improve pasture utilisation, land condition and long-term carrying capacity, the Ryan's undertook a 5 year water and fencing infrastructure program on the property.



Greg and Carol Ryan



Installing new water infrastructure on Greenhills

## Infrastructure Development

Single strand electric fencing and reticulated water infrastructure developments have meant paddocks are no longer continuously grazed and one paddock is now spelled each year.

In 2009, 10 monitoring sites were established on various land types. Early results indicate that 3P (perennial, palatable, productive) pasture species are returning in the spelled/rotated paddocks.



Single strand electric fencing on Greenhills

## Business Performance

BreedCow modelling results show an increase in gross margin over the 5 years. Increased turnoff (male and female) and higher liveweight gain was the main driver of improved profitability, resulting from increased carrying capacity and overall breeders mated. Greenhouse gas modelling showed an overall increase in carbon emissions (due to higher numbers of cattle in 2011, compared to 2007). However, overall efficiency (t CO<sub>2</sub>e/t LW sold) improved, showing that young animals have greater liveweight gains and lower age of turnoff in 2011 compared to 2007.



Greg Ryan in a spelled paddock, May 2011



Cows and calves, May 2011

	2007	2011
Total Adult Equivalents (AE)	2400	2750
Calves Weaned	806	953
Breeder Deaths	8.7%	3.6%
Steers and Bullocks Sold	360	452
Gross Margin	14% increase	
Total Livestock Emissions (t CO <sub>2</sub> e)	3836	4381
Emissions per AE (t CO <sub>2</sub> e/AE)	1.60	1.59
Emissions per kg liveweight sold (t CO <sub>2</sub> e/ t LW sold)	17.14	14.22

Table 1: Business performance over 5 years

## More information

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