

RESTORING GRASSLANDS

in Southwest Queensland



LANDSCAPE FUNCTION LOST

There is concern among land managers for the state of some areas of southwest Queensland, particularly wetlands and grasslands, that have been depleted by historical land use practices. Loss of diverse and productive pastures, erosion, increased runoff, reduced infiltration and scalding of large tracts has altered the landscape of SW QLD. Some of these landscapes are no longer able to heal themselves and require interventions to promote ecological function and restoration of species. The techniques used include improving hydrological function and soil health, rehabilitating bore drain features, re-introducing appropriate fire and complimentary grazing practices that support the conditions for establishment and maintenance of wetlands and native grasslands.

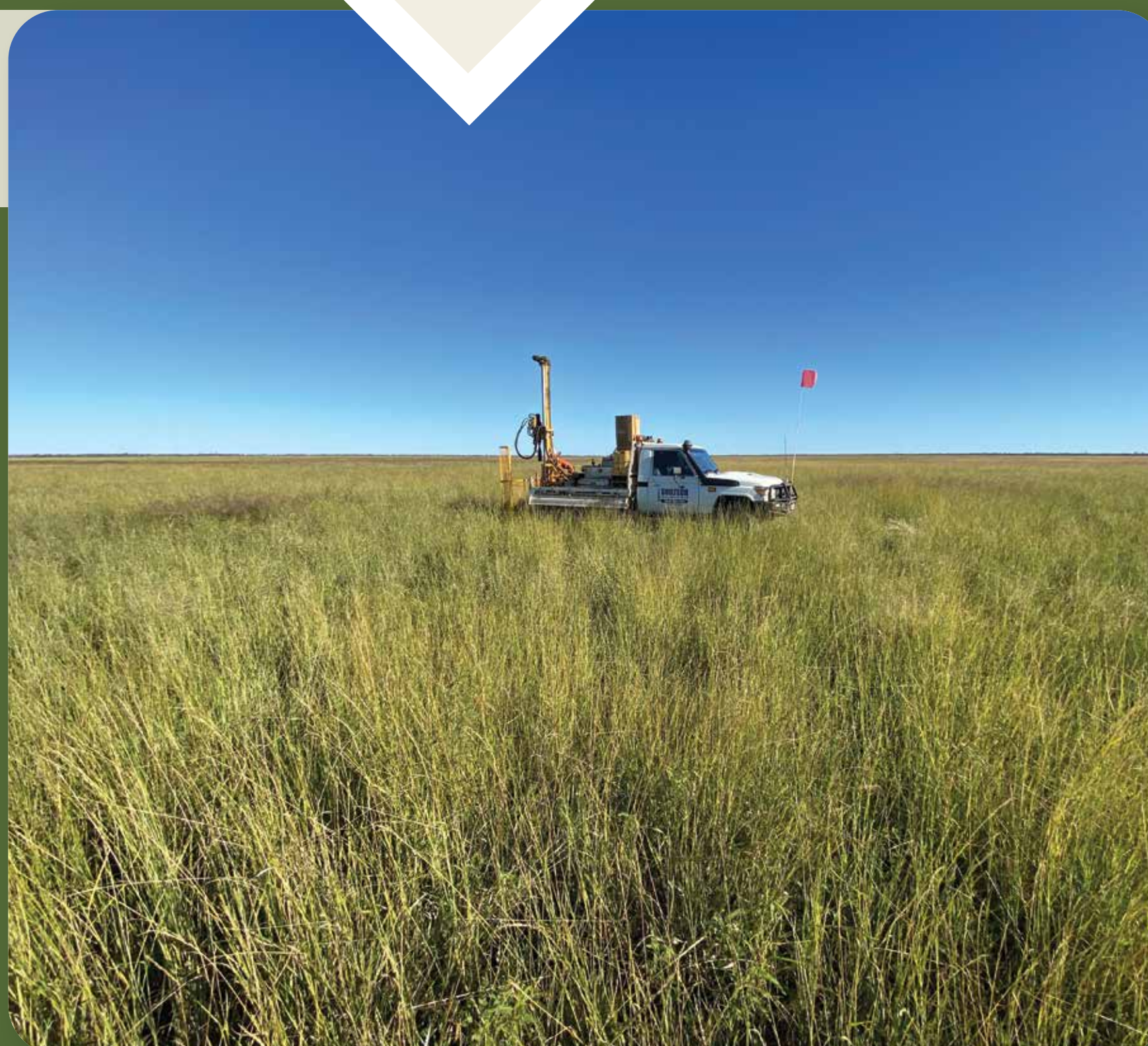


INTERVENTION

Southern Queensland Landscapes is working with the landholders, technical advisors, first nations and community to restore these areas to functioning landscapes through cost effective and efficient rehydration, erosion control, 'slow the flow' works with spreader banks and bore drain rehabilitation, change in land use practices and reintroduction of ecological fire and seasonal spelling. Land managers across southwest Queensland are changing practices in recognition of the value of ecological services in reestablishing and maintaining healthy landscapes through appropriate and holistic active management. Recovery of landscape function will take time and ongoing commitment with the resulting healthy landscapes benefiting the whole community.

RESTORING LANDSCAPE FUNCTION

Restoration has been initiated for around 500,000 ha, aiming to improve the condition of wetlands and grasslands across the region. There is strong potential for this work to rehabilitate areas on a larger scale across the western Queensland Rangelands and contribute to the conservation of native wetland and grassland flora. The results to date have been remarkable. Assisted Aided by the recent run of good seasons across 20210 to 2024, the works have been instrumental in the recovery process of extensive areas of floodplain grassland and wetlands.



Species including Mitchell Grasses, native Millets, and native Sorghum, some not seen for over 50 years are re-establishing, Highly palatable species that have almost disappeared from many areas are making a return with improved grazing practices to allow sustainable use and enhance grassland species and habitats.

There would be no success without the dedication, commitment and innovation of landholders and we are grateful for their active participation.

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