

Elizabeth Farm

CASE STUDY

Property Snapshot

Elizabeth Farm is a beef producing enterprise on the South Coast of NSW. Operating since 1989, Troy and Shelley Hollis run 155 head of Lizzy Valley Fleckvieh cattle. The property includes both low lying areas prone to flooding as well as higher elevation areas suitable for grazing. The presence of feral pests and weeds has impacted areas of the farm and are being actively managed to limit their impacts.

Location: Bodalla
South Coast NSW

Size: 344 hectares

Enterprise: Cattle

“We have been trying to find a way through legislation over the past 6 years to improve our farm with clearing. Now that the new Act is in place I see positive outcomes that promote agriculture while protecting the environment.”

**Troy Hollis,
Elizabeth Farm**



Challenge

Flooding and pests have had a significant impact on the property. In 2016, flooding destroyed most of Elizabeth Farm's feed by killing existing pastures and washing away recently sown pasture.

Some parts of the property are greatly disturbed, particularly from feral pigs which overturn the native grasses and soil. There is also evidence that the invasive Japanese Honeysuckle is impacting the growth of native vegetation at Elizabeth Farm.

Approval to clear is provided through an Equity Code Certificate under the Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code. This part of the code allows the clearing of paddock tree areas and small areas of native vegetation in cultivated land, compromised native groundcover, and regulated rural land.

Works undertaken

Elizabeth Farm will be able to extend their pastures beyond flood-prone flats through gradual clearing of 41 hectares over the next 15 years.

Elizabeth Farm is also commencing a pig eradication program, Japanese Honeysuckle removal and mosaic burning to support native seed germination and grass cover.

The Hollis family will also establish 83 hectares of land in a set aside area including undertaking management activities that limit the impacts from pests and weeds.

Fact file:

- 344 hectares producing 155 head of Lizzy Valley Fleckvieh cattle.
- 41 hectares of land has been cleared to improve productivity in return for the establishment of 83 hectares of set-aside areas.
- Recent works have improved flood proofing, and the safety of workers and livestock.
- Improvement and increased capacity have boosted gross annual turnover of \$100,000 with a net profit of \$30,000 for Elizabeth Farm.

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On-ground Achievements

As pasture area increases into areas of higher elevation over the next 15 years, Elizabeth Farm will become flood proof and improve fodder security. The property will be able to increase its herd by 100 head thanks to the additional capacity. As a result Elizabeth Farm is anticipating a profit return increase of \$30,000 per annum.

Improvements to the set aside area will reduce pests and weeds and encourage native vegetation regeneration, through additional weed control, baiting and sustainable grazing.

Set aside areas and environmental management on the property will benefit future biodiversity in the region as 83 hectares will be actively managed for conservation outcomes, and in perpetuity.

Benefits

Expanding the productivity and financial sustainability of Elizabeth Farm ensures the continued success of farming operations in the coastal zone where competing land use pressures are increasing. The improved financial outcomes will be shared with the local rural communities.

Elizabeth Farm estimate an annual increase of 35,000kg live weight of beef as a result of increasing herd by 100 head, which will deliver an additional \$100,000 gross annual turnover.

More productive land allows the Hollis family to balance the use of paddocks during wet and dry seasons, allowing for more consistent stock movement and regeneration of paddocks.

The removal of Japanese Honeysuckle and eradication of feral pigs along with cool mosaic burning on the 84 hectare set aside area will encourage native plant and tree generation.



Local Land Services