Lifestyle farming and natural resource management on ‘Mala’, Dubbo

Dan and Erlina Compton live on a 450 acre ‘lifestyle’ property near Dubbo and represent a growing community of landholders committed to improving our natural resources.

The Comptons main income is from off-farm work; however they also manage cattle and want to improve their property’s natural features.

They have worked with the Central West Catchment Management Authority (CMA) to improve their grazing knowledge and develop the infrastructure needed to protect and enhance their natural resources.

This partnership has helped the Comptons work towards their environmental and production goals, according to Dan.

“We predominately bought the property for lifestyle, however we also run some cattle,” said Dan.

“We are trying to build the native pastures back up and look after the features of the property like the landscape and trees.”

This work will reduce soil erosion, improve the health of local waterways, protect threatened woodland areas and build their farm’s resilience

“The CMA have encouraged us to attend several good courses. These have taught us a lot about our soils, the species we have on our property and how to better manage our grazing,” said Dan.

“The CMA helped with the funding of these courses and also by pointing out what courses might help us.”

Since attending training, the Comptons have built the infrastructure needed to better manage their groundcover and protect threatened woodlands on ‘Mala’.

“We’ve divided the property into smaller paddocks – mainly through electric fencing,” said Dan.

“We can now move our cattle around and not overgraze a particular area.

“One great thing about tapping into something like the CMA is that there is a knowledge base available to answer a lot of your questions.

“It is very encouraging.”

The work happening on ‘Mala’ is representative of what can be achieved through knowledge and on-ground work according to Central West CMA Officer Andrew Knop.

“This is a very good example of what can be achieved and fairly typical of the type of projects we receive from landholders,” said Andrew.

“The Comptons have some grazing areas they want to sustainably regenerate native grasses on and areas they want to conserve for their conservation value.

“This is great example of what can be done.”

Caption: Andrew Knop (Left) and Dan Compton on ‘Mala’.

Further information: Rod Campbell, T: 0447 430 160 or E: rodney.campbell@cma.nsw.gov.au