



Brigalow Nandewar Biolinks

connecting communities, cattle, crops and creatures

Project Vision

How often do we see in today's media the debate between agricultural production and conservation? Imagine a day when this debate doesn't exist, when agriculture and the phenomenal complexity of nature co-exist. The Brigalow Nandewar Biolinks is a bold ecological initiative designed to promote this co-existence. The project goal is to protect, restore and manage the connections that link species and spaces together, while providing beneficial ecological services to agriculture.



What's at stake?

We live in a beautiful part of the world. Compared to other parts of Australia we still retain a reasonable amount of native vegetation, which is home to a diversity of plants and animals. Our region is also one of the most productive agricultural areas in Australia.

Natural ecosystems and the plants and animals they contain, support agriculture in many ways. For example, micro bats and beneficial insects eat millions of crop pests each year. Pollination by insects enables crops such as cotton, grains and sunflowers to be grown. Blocks of native vegetation modify the climate by enabling cloud building and slowing hot winds. Riparian vegetation filters the water entering our streams and rivers providing better quality water for livestock.

What's it all about?

Funded by the Commonwealth Government's Biodiversity Fund, the Brigalow Nandewar Biolinks brings many regional organisations, community groups, researchers, landholders and individuals together to improve the region's natural assets.

The Brigalow Nandewar Biolinks will attempt to connect the plains and the tablelands, spanning the catchment and strengthening the links between biodiversity and agriculture. It connects communities, livestock, crops and creatures.

What needs to be done?

Weeds, feral animals, loss of species and decline of many ecosystems threatens these assets. Vegetation patches need to be connected so birds and animals can move between them when times get tough; such as droughts, floods and fire.



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Catchment Management
Authority
Border Rivers-Gwydir



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Where will the project focus?

The Brigalow Nandewar Biolinks will focus its efforts around:

- 1. A focus landscape area** approximately bounded by Moree, Edgeroi, Bingara and Gravesend - refer to shaded area on above map.
- 2. Rivers, creeks and floodplains** throughout the whole Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchments.



The project will also consider supporting related activities in the catchment if they are strategic and meet the objectives of the Brigalow Nandewar Biolinks project.

What's in it for the landholder?

We can retain our birds, animals and plants by controlling weeds and ferals, building connections within the landscape through vegetation and increasing the size and diversity of important bushland patches. The best part is we can do this in such a way that it will fit into the landscape

of existing farms, increasing the benefits to be gained from nature's services. Participating landholders will be supported in the plan layout and design of any works to take place on their property. The intent of any works will be to improve the functions and productivity of the land.

How can the project help?

Join the many landholders and regional organisations already planning and building the Brigalow Nandewar Biolinks. The project may be able to assist you with the following:

- Control of pigs and foxes in bushland,
- Control of key environmental weeds: Coolatai Grass, African Love Grass, Green Panic, Buffel Grass and Boxthorn.



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The types of activities the project will support are:

- Shade and shelter plantings,
- Managing grazing in bushland,
- Revegetation to increase bushland patch size,
- Revegetation to increase connections between bushland patches,
- Revegetation and increased natural regeneration to improve river health.



What are the wider benefits?

Many birds and animals in our region are decreasing in number due to a decrease in habitat and connectivity. By building new habitats and increasing connectivity between them, we can turn this around. By re-establishing habitat and vegetation corridors the long-term vision of the Nandewar Brigalow Biolinks project will be to assist many native species of flora and fauna to move back into the landscape. Beneficial ecosystem services such as water / sediment and nutrient cycling, predator-prey relationships and population dynamics will support healthy natural systems and agricultural production. By improving conditions for iconic species like Painted honeyeaters, Stripe-faced dunnarts, Grey-crowned babbler and Five-clawed worm skinks, we will also improve the chances of survival of many other species.

There will be a strong emphasis on protecting and enhancing Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) such as:

- Coolibah Black Box Woodland,
- Box Gum Grassy Woodlands,
- Weeping Myall Woodlands,
- Brigalow,
- Upland Wetlands,
- New England Peppermint Woodlands,
- Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket and
- Natural Grasslands.

Each of these communities are recognised because specific threats have increased their risk of extinction. For most of these vegetation communities, threats include:

- fragmentation,
- climate change,
- degradation of remnants,
- loss of species diversity and
- threats from weeds and feral animals.

Revegetation projects can reduce or mitigate these threats by increasing connectivity between patches of remnant vegetation, enlarging remnant patches, increasing species diversity and buffering remnants from the effects of extreme weather, weeds and feral animals.

Getting Involved

Interested people are encouraged to visit the Agbiolinks website: www.agbiolinks.com.au or contact:

- **Martin Dillon 02 6773 5268** at the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA .

Alternatively, complete the following 'Expression of Interest' providing as much detail as possible and fax, email, post or deliver to the Inverell office.



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Expression of Interest

If you are interested in participating, complete this page and return to the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA Inverell Office:

15 Vivian Street, Inverell NSW 2360

PO Box 411, Inverell NSW 2360

Fax - 02 6728 8098

Email: drew.mccudden@cma.nsw.gov.au



Keeping in touch

Check out the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA website: www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au for updates and information about to the Brigalow Nandewar Biolinks project as well as other activities and projects being planned for the region.

Name of Individual / Organisation / Group:	Contact Person:
Residential Address:	Lot & DPs of property / location for proposed works:
Postal Address:	Email:
Phone (BH):	Mobile:
Give a brief description of your proposal, or provide information on how you would like to be involved in the Brigalow Nandewar Biolinks project.	

Upon receipt of this form a Project Officer will be in contact to provide you with additional information and to discuss your proposal further.



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