refreshing rivers
Healthy water, healthy land.

CASE STUDY

"Woodpark" Jerilderie Value Beyond Production

Woodpark is a 7,400-hectare property in the mid Murray region of New South Wales, managed by the Huggins family. The property focuses on beef cattle and merino wool production, integrating regenerative and nature-positive farming practices. Woodpark features significant natural assets, including extensive remnant native vegetation, diverse water assets like Yanco Creek, and habitats supporting threatened species.

The Huggins have implemented conservation agreements, biodiversity stewardship, and sustainable grazing to enhance ecological health. Their commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability certifications enables them to access premium markets and financial opportunities, while aiming to restore biodiversity and maintain a profitable, resilient agricultural business.

Property Summary

Name: Owen and Helen Huggins
Location: Woodpark, Jerilderie
Area: 7,400 hectares
Enterprise: Merino stud, beef production (55%), and wool production (45%).
Pastures: Pastures are all native with a mix of annuals and perennials. Species composition comprises native grasses and shrubs, including Saltbush and Nitre Goosefoot, which provides protein and other minerals to stock.
Soils: Chromosols (149ha), Rudosols (413ha), Vertosols (6410ha)

Woodpark achieves premium pricing for its ecological services through a combination of best-practice land management, participation in environmental markets, sustainability certification programs, and access to financial products that reward ecological stewardship.

The approach integrates on-ground ecological improvements with market mechanisms that allow Woodpark to generate additional value from biodiversity, carbon, sustainable production, and regenerative agriculture practices.

Practical On-Ground Actions Supporting Premium Pricing

The ability to participate in premium markets depends on measurable ecological improvements occurring on the property.

Woodpark implements practices including:

- Rotational grazing systems
- Native vegetation planting
- Habitat restoration
- Landscape regeneration

These practices improve ecosystem health and support eligibility for sustainability certifications and environmental markets.

Monitoring and Reporting

Woodpark uses baseline assessments and ongoing monitoring to measure improvements in:

- Carbon emissions
- Biodiversity outcomes
- Soil health
- Ecosystem condition

This information provides evidence required by certification programs and environmental markets.

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The Refreshing Rivers Program is a collaboration between government, industry, research, and Community organisations, led by Local Land Services. This Program has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.

Biodiversity and Carbon Credit Schemes

Woodpark generates additional value from ecological services by participating in biodiversity and carbon markets.

Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements

Woodpark has placed 10% of its land under a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement, allowing the property to generate biodiversity credits.

These credits can be sold to:

- Developers seeking environmental offsets
- Government programs
- Conservation organisations and buyers

Demand is created through the presence of threatened species and important ecological communities that require protection and restoration.

Conservation Agreements

Approximately 23% of Woodpark is protected under Conservation Agreements.

These agreements provide:

- Long-term protection of important ecological assets
- Potential ongoing annual payments
- Increased eligibility for participation in biodiversity markets

Carbon Credits

Woodpark has implemented environmental plantings and soil carbon projects registered with the Clean Energy Regulator.

These projects generate Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs), which can be:

- Sold through carbon markets
- Used to demonstrate carbon neutrality
- Used to enhance the sustainability credentials of Woodpark's products

Sustainability Certifications and Accreditation Programs

Woodpark participates in internationally recognised sustainability certification and accreditation programs that verify high standards in environmental management, animal welfare, traceability, and responsible production.

Responsible Wool Standard (RWS), ZQRX, and Greenhams Beef Never Ever Programs

Participation in programs such as the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS), ZQRX, and Greenhams Beef Never Ever Program allows Woodpark to market wool and beef as premium, ethically produced products.

These programs provide assurance to buyers that products are produced under verified sustainability, animal welfare, and environmental management standards. This creates access to premium markets where customers are willing to pay higher prices for traceable and responsibly produced goods.

Land to Market Verification

Land to Market verification enables Woodpark to demonstrate the value of regenerative agricultural practices. Through verified improvements in soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem function, Woodpark can differentiate its products and strengthen its ability to command premium pricing.

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