

COORUMBURRA

Website: <http://www.coorumburra.com/>

Issue 2

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COORUMBURRA CATTLE ENTERPRISE

The Coorumburra cattle enterprise on Coorumburra Station continues to progressively grow and expand with recent work on building new stock yards, upgrade and maintenance to fencing, water supply, housing and other infrastructure, purchase of equipment, and expansion of the herd.

The property is run jointly by Barada-Barna –Kabalbara-Yetimarala (BBKY), Jetimarala and Darumbal Aboriginal peoples. Coorumburra Rural Enterprises Pty Ltd (CRE) was established in 2001 to administer the joint venture. It currently has a Board of eight Directors, made up of three BBKY people, two Jetimarala, and three Darumbal people.

Coorumburra is 11,030 hectares in area and is around 135 kilometres by road from Rockhampton – 25km south of Marlborough.

A lease on the property was part of the



CRE Cattle—Coorumburra Station. The property is progressively establishing its own herd.

Marlborough Nickel Project Native Title Agreement. Freehold ownership will be transferred to the traditional owner groups after mining is completed.

Approximately 6,770 hectares has been set aside for cattle production purposes. Until

mining related activities commence CRE is able to use most of the property for cattle operations (11,030 hectares).

The property has higher than average annual rainfall for the region at 655mm, and is good for breeding and fattening with a carrying capacity of 2,000 plus. It has 5 sub-artesian bores, dams and natural water from a number of creeks and the Fitzroy River. A section of the Fitzroy River forms part of its southern boundary.

The property has a combination of Brahman and Brangus cattle. Brangus are a cross between Brahman and Angus cattle. Coorumburra will have nearly 1,100 of its own cattle following the current weaning. Numbers vary throughout the year due to sales and purchase of cattle. Funds derived through cattle sales are directed back into the business for operational activities, repairs and maintenance, purchase of plant and equipment, additional breeding cattle and so on. CRE will eventually have the property fully stocked with its own cattle.



Brangus bull in the new yards on Coorumburra Station (October 2008).

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Special points of interest:

- A twenty year lease on the property was registered on 29 July 2003 and is held by Coorumburra Rural Charitable Trust.
- It has operated successfully for over 8 years.
- Coorumburra operates entirely independently. It did not receive financial or other assistance from government or other sources in its setting up.
- Board of Directors consists of three Darumbal, three BBKY, and two Jetimarala people.

The cattle production enterprise is administered by:

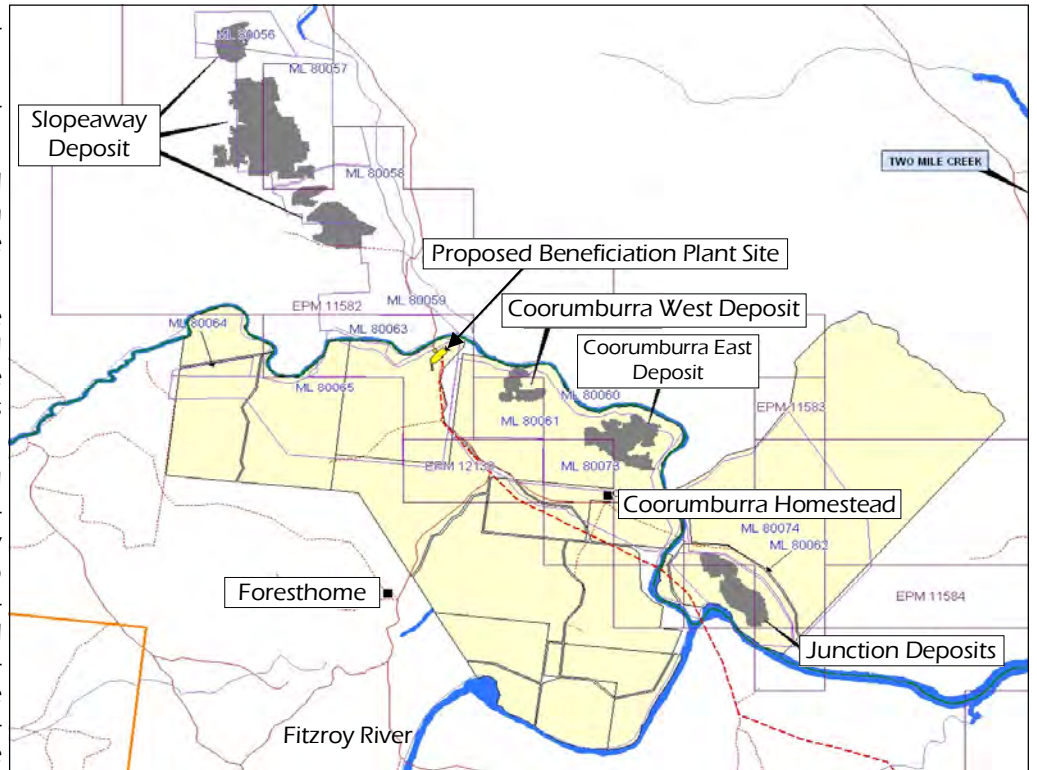
- Coorumburra Rural Enterprises Pty Ltd (CRE);
- Coorumburra Rural Charitable Trust, which holds the lease on the property.

Freehold ownership of the property will be transferred to the Trust when the lease expires and/or mining is completed.

To date CRE has conducted business with barely adequate resources — initially commencing work with no financial resources. It acquired some operational funds from advance agistment payments during the first year. A number of agistment agreements since have provided funds for operational capital. Income has mainly been directed back into cattle operations—e.g. employing staff, purchase of plant and equipment, property maintenance, etc. This will allow the enterprise to grow and for profitability to increase as CRE progressively develops its own herd.

In effect cattle production will occur on areas of the property which are unaffected by mining activities. At the present time a minimal amount of mining activity is taking place. Mining has not commenced as yet, hence, most of the property can be used for cattle production. Furthermore, proposed future mining activities will focus mostly on the hilly terrain, along with areas set aside for the production plant (or Beneficiation Plant) and associated infrastructure. Much of the flat country can be used for cattle farming. The property is 11,030 hectares in area, and mining operations are expected to use 4,260 hectares, with 6,770 hectares set aside for cattle production when mining related activities begin.

The map above shows the general layout of the property. It also indicates areas where the main ore bodies are lo-



Map outlining Coorumburra Station and the location of the main nickel and cobalt ore deposits.

ated, along with the site set aside for the production plant. It is anticipated that mining and cattle farming can and will be conducted in parallel.

The long-term objective of the Aboriginal groups is to develop the cattle enterprise to the point where it is successful enough, and financially able, to purchase other land in the region. It is envisaged that this will allow for the groups involved to reconnect with their traditional homelands, while also using the lands acquired for economic purposes — e.g. cattle production, farming, cultural tourism, and so on. Income derived from these types of economic activities can also be used to work towards achieving economic independence. The individual Aboriginal groups have other business interests as well, so the Coorumburra cattle enterprise combined with their other business interests should enable each group to advance towards that long-term goal. This may well take a number of generations to achieve, but having progressed to this point we remain firmly focused on the job ahead.

INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION IN BEEF EXPOS

Coorumburra has participated in the past three Beef Expos held in Rockhampton, along with two other Aboriginal owned pastoral companies — Woorabinda Pastoral Company and Palmtree Wutaru Pastoral Company. Each company operates its own independently owned and operated cattle enterprise. The companies were involved in Beef 2003 and Beef 2006, and are currently involved in Beef 2009. The response to date has been very positive.

The Palmtree Wutaru people own three cattle properties — Tiamby, Somerset and Mindinao — while Woorabinda Pastoral Company owns Foleyvale and Stoney Creek.

The companies look to create awareness and raise the profile of Aboriginal people's participation in pastoral industries, while also working to develop business relationships and support networks with other cattle producers.



Representatives from Indigenous pastoral companies presenting information to the public during Beef 2003 (May 2003).