

# Land, Water & Wool

Land, water and wool are three parts of the delicate balance for maintaining profitable, sustainable agriculture.

It's also the name of Australian Wool Innovation Limited and Land & Water Australia's largest research co-investment that is providing the know-how for woolgrowers to minimise their impact on the natural environment, while improving their profitability and productivity.

For woolgrowers such as Rob and Lucy Adams from the NSW Northern Tablelands region, their involvement in one component of Land, Water & Wool – the Native Vegetation and Biodiversity sub-program – is proving rewarding in more ways than one.

The Adams family have two farms, 'Swallowfield' and nearby 'Tulloch', about 25 kilometres north-east of Armidale, which jointly cover 1,295 hectares. They run a self-replacing superfine Merino flock of 1,200 ewes as well as 1,200 wethers.

Within their business, the Adams family manage a 243-hectare wildlife reserve, as well as 810 hectares of native pastures, 162 hectares of improved pasture and 81 hectares of scattered forest.

"When we hand it on, we want our country to be in as good or better shape as when we took it over, and in the meantime we want to have a reasonable lifestyle," said Rob.

"In the short term, we hope to get some answers to some outstanding questions, like which pastures give us the best return and the most sustainability, and what's the best way to graze our stock?"

"Other questions we are interested in are whether to work with high input improved pastures or to cut back on inputs and just put a bit of superphosphate on our native pastures. The impact, if any, of native birds on pasture grubs is something else we don't have measurements on. The Land, Water & Wool project looks like getting some of those answers down on paper for us."

The Land, Water & Wool initiative is the most significant research endeavour ever undertaken into the relationship between Australia's natural resources and its world famous wool industry.

The program provides the wool industry with detailed research outcomes on key aspects of natural resource management such as:

- rivers and water quality;
- native vegetation and biodiversity;
- managing climate variability;
- sustainable grazing on saline lands; and
- managing pastoral country.

The initiative is also undertaking a future scenario planning exercise for the wool industry.



*NSW Northern Tablelands woolgrower Rob Adams:*

*"When we hand it on, we want our country to be in as good or better shape as when we took it over."*

## For more information

Call AWI tollfree on 1800 070 099, visit [www.wool.com.au](http://www.wool.com.au) or get in touch with:

### Lu Hogan

Australian Wool Innovation Limited  
Program Manager Sustainable Production Systems

t 61 2 9299 5155

f 61 2 9299 9880

e [luhogan@woolinnovation.com.au](mailto:luhogan@woolinnovation.com.au)

### Australian Wool Innovation Limited

ABN 12 095 165 558  
Level 5, 16-20 Barrack Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
GPO Box 4177 Sydney NSW 2001

Disclaimer: The information provided in this Innovators is general information only and readers should confirm information from an appropriate and relevant source before making business or commercial decisions based on this information. Australian Wool Innovation Limited will not be liable for any loss or damage suffered by a reader arising from the reader's reliance upon the contents of this publication.

