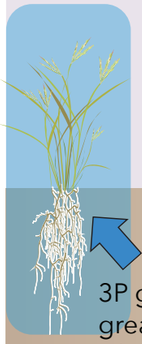
6. COST-EFFECTIVE EROSION CONTROL

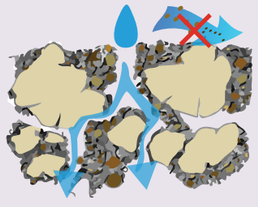
3P grasses

3P grasses are perennial, palatable and productive. Good coverage of 3P pastures maximises the land's ability to respond to rain and produce useful forage. Examples of 3P grasses are black speargrass and desert bluegrass.

3P Grass **Indian couch (not a 3P grass)**



3P grasses have greater root systems which help to bind and stabilise soil better.

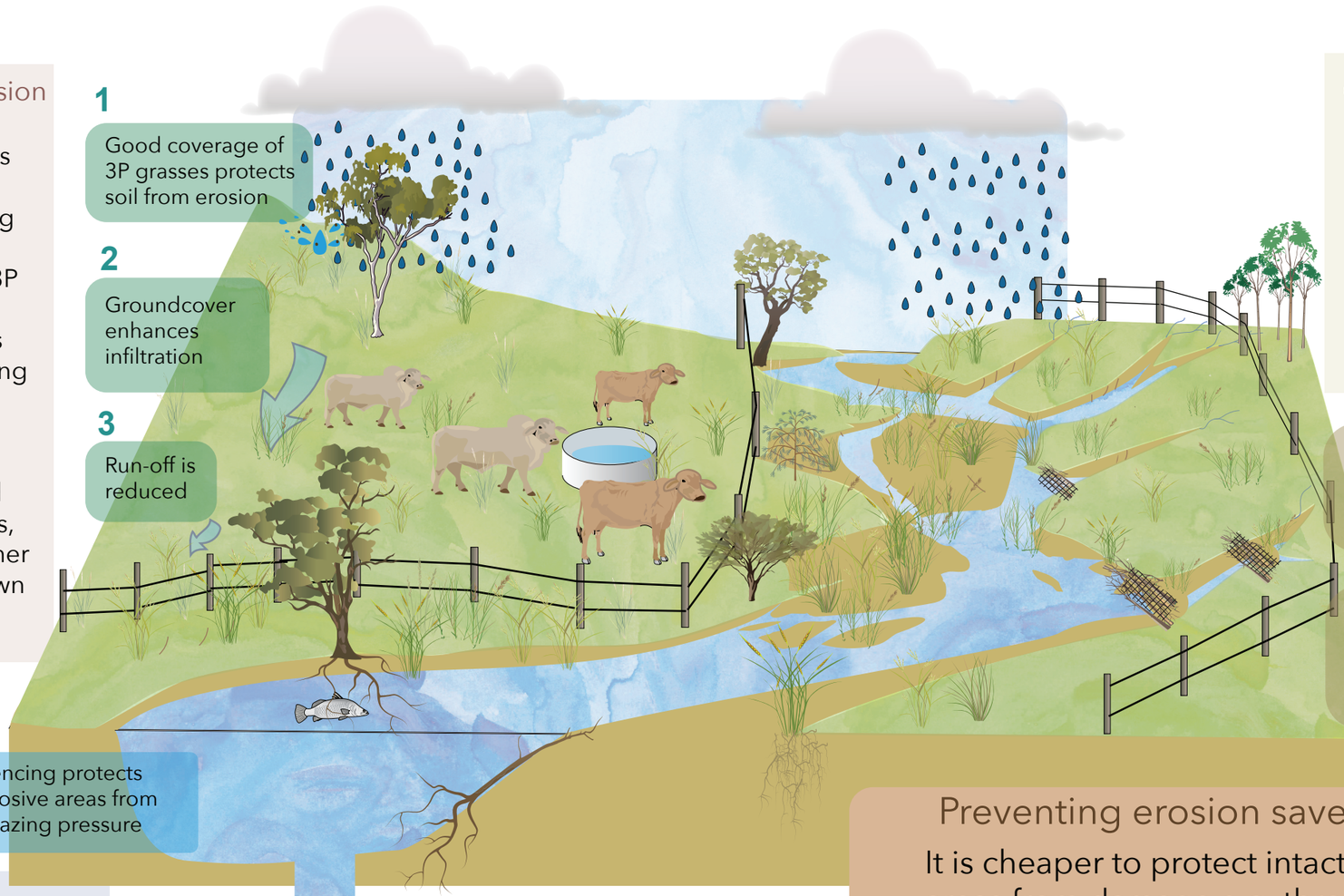


Plant roots create pore spaces in the soil allowing more water to soak in. This in turn reduces run-off and erosion.

Control Hillslope Erosion

- Base stocking rates on forage budgets.
- Rest pasture during the wet season to promote growth of 3P grasses.
- Maintain evenness of grazing with fencing and water points.

These actions also minimise run-off and erosion risk to gullies, streambanks and other vulnerable areas down slope.



Control Gully Erosion

- Reduce run-off entering gullied areas by managing hillslope erosion.
- Fence off gullies where possible and consider revegetating.

Encouraging vegetation growth in gullies slows water and reduces erosion.

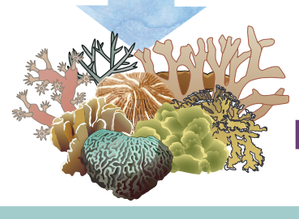
For example, stick bundles can be used in small gullies to trap litter, seeds and soil and encourage vegetation growth.

Control streambank erosion

- Maintain, protect and restore stream bank vegetation.
- Fence around stream banks and provide off stream water points.

Preventing erosion saves you money

It is cheaper to protect intact yet vulnerable areas from damage e.g. through fencing, than to rehabilitate them.



Benefits to the reef

Reducing hillslope, gully and streambank erosion will reduce the fine sediments reaching the reef. These fine sediments form organic rich flocs that can cause extensive damage. Research suggests these flocs have a short life span in the ocean, degrading after about a year.

This is good news, because if we work together to manage erosion, we will soon see a positive impact on the reef in terms of improved water clarity.

$ Economic benefits

Enacting the management strategies shown above initiates a recovery cycle leading to long-term sustainability and profitability. Case studies like the Wambiana grazing trial show that moderate stocking around the long-term carrying capacity can more than double gross margin returns in the long-term (within 10 years). These benefits result from higher live-weight gain and product quality, lower operating costs, and a more stable income including during drought.