This project will develop a Toolkit that will assist wool producers meet national and regional resource management and biodiversity objectives. By using the Toolkit, wool producers will be able to reliably monitor and assess native habitats and identify biodiversity values while maintaining profitable and productive farming enterprises. Specifically, the Toolkit will include management principles, monitoring procedures and guidelines, and protocols for data reporting and management.

Through Land, Water & Wool, the Traprock Wool Association (TWA) in association with the Land Use Research Centre at the University of Southern Queensland is playing a key role in this project.

Based in the high altitude ‘traprock’ soil region of southern Queensland, the Traprock Wool Association (TWA) has a national and international reputation for producing consistently high quality fine wool.

The proactive and innovative association, which is made up of 70 wool producing families, established its own wool quality scheme in 1994 and commands premium market prices for its products.

As part of its culture of continuous improvement, one of the priorities of the Traprock Wool Association is to meet national and regional resource management and biodiversity objectives.

The Toolkit will ultimately enable wool producers to reliably monitor and assess native habitats and identify biodiversity values while maintaining profitable and productive farming enterprises. Specifically, the Toolkit will include management principles, monitoring procedures and guidelines and protocols for data reporting and management.

The Toolkit, to be developed under the project Integrating paddock and catchment planning: a wool producer driven approach to sustainable landscape management, is intended for widespread use by other producer and regional groups across Australia.
The approach
Integrating paddock and catchment planning: a wool producer driven approach to sustainable landscape management, which started in May 2004, will have three phases:

Phase 1
To strengthen wool producer capacity to assess land use and use of integrated scientific information from individual property into sub-catchment and whole catchment level.

Phase 2
To ensure more effective wool industry input into regional planning objectives.

Phase 3
To create a Toolkit for wool producers across Australia which will enable monitoring and reporting productivity and biodiversity for profitable and ecologically sustainable wool production.

Key outcomes for wool producers
- Property-based training to strengthen wool producer capacity in biodiversity monitoring with participatory ecological research into habitat condition assessment and management.
- A monitoring and reporting Toolkit that will have wide application for wool producers in Australia.
- A way of reliably monitoring and assessing native habitats to help ensure that biodiversity values are identified and retained while maintaining profitable and sustainable productive enterprises.
- Procedures and guidelines that support the integration of biodiversity planning and management into grazing systems for wool production.

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The study area
The shaded area indicates the Traprock region in southern Queensland. The region comprises 12 sub-catchments of varying sizes and land uses, which are part of the QLD Murray Darling catchment. The project includes wool producers from the area bounded by the towns of Stanthorpe, Warwick, Texas and Inglewood.

fast facts
on the Traprock region, southern Qld
The region supports about 300,000 hectares sheep grazing country of about 1–2 DSE per hectare
Average annual rainfall: 650mm
Soil types: traprock granit, gammie, karangi, glenntanna

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