

The Power of Planting: a catalyst for change

Local climate action group, Zero Emissions Byron, has just launched the Replant Byron Alliance. A bold undertaking, its aim is to encourage landowners to drawdown carbon via biodiverse and productive land uses, and to quantify the collective impact of tree plantings.



Wren McLean and Lindsay Murray Photo: Christobel Munson

At Dingo Lane Farms mid-March, Zero Emissions Byron invited landowners, bush revegetation groups and regen professionals, to view for themselves how it is possible to take tangible climate change action on rural land.

Lindsay Murray, manager of the 100-hectare family-owned Dingo Lane Farms, put it like this: "Management has focused on environmental restoration of degraded pastures and woody weed infestations by a combination of regenerative grazing techniques, tree planting and natural regeneration of native forest." Over 15 per cent of the farm is now dedicated to native vegetation, while production of 100 per cent grass-fed beef has increased.

Replant Byron Alliance coordinator, Wren McLean, explains: "What we were able to easily demonstrate at Dingo Lane Farms is the viability of transitioning a property from mowing, slashing and intensive stocking - which emits carbon - to biodiverse and productive land uses - which draw down carbon." In other words, it all comes down to drawing-down carbon emissions though native revegetation,

and regenerative agriculture.

The Replant Byron Alliance has put out an open invitation to all revegetation organisations, regen professionals and landholders to join the Alliance in order to quantify their impact "to meet Byron's carbon drawdown challenge". Through sharing Alliance members' success stories, ZEB intends to promote native revegetation as a tangible climate change action, and to increase the demand for bush restoration services across the region, Wren added.

"We support all initiatives, and stakeholders across Byron Shire, to increase, account for, and clarify the significance of atmospheric carbon removal though native tree planting, vegetation management, and regenerative agriculture", she said. "We intend to quantify our collective impact by tallying Alliance members' tree plantings to generate general carbon drawdown figures to gain a big picture overview of what can be achieved to transition to net-zero, whilst also increasing bio-diversity, water quality and soil stability."

At the launch, after an introduction by Byron Shire Mayor, Simon Richardson, and landowner Lindsay Murray, attendees went on a walking tour of the farm, guided by reveg professional, Dave Rawlins and Council's regenerative agriculture officer, Andrew Cameron. This allowed participants to examine environmental plantings at various stages, restored remnant vegetation, and natural regeneration of camphor stands, along with the fencing and watering systems needed to support regenerative grazing techniques.

So, whether you plant natives on your quarter-acre block or 10-acre lot, or in the nearest park, or plant hundreds or thousands of trees for koalas in your neighbourhood or support the regeneration of Big Scrub or other similar organisations, you'll be helping reduce the Shire's carbon emissions while increasing biodiversity, water quality and soil stability. It's a win all round.

For more information about the Alliance, contact Wren McLean at replant@zero Byron.org.au

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