*0223* (Tamanick Station)

In a wet year, Tamanick Station houses about 3,000 cows, but this year it has about half as many. Owner Jeffrey Blackett has another ranch, named Marlee Downs, that is even drier, so he moved much of that herd to Tamanick. Just 300 cows, a tenth as many as normal, remain at Marlee Downs.

*0549* (Tamanick Station)

Owner Jeffrey Blackett fills up barrels with fuel to power his bulldozer, which he uses to push down Mulga trees for cattle to eat.

*1427* (Halton Station)

When there’s not enough grass for grazing, ranchers use bulldozers to drag 100-meter chains along the ground to tear down trees for the cows to eat.

*NOTE: These next ones are all part of the same sequence of moving cows from Southampton Downs to New South Whales. You could almost mix and match some of the captions, depending on layout.*

*1788* and *1797* (Southampton Downs)

A cattleman, Tom *(photographer didn’t have his last name)*, prepares to move a thousand cows that he bought to his ranch near Coonamble in New South Whales, roughly 900 kilometers south.

*1831* (Southampton Downs)

Ranchers sort through the herd in a process known as “drafting” to determine which cattle are healthy enough to make the long drive.

*1836* (Southampton Downs)

Livestock agent David Orr helped broker the sale. *(CK THIS WITH PHOTOGRAPHER)*

*1864* (Southampton Downs)

The herd’s transported by a caravan of ten double-decker trucks, known as “road trains.”

*1910* (Southampton Downs)

A driver takes a break sitting on the ramp where cows load on to the truck.

*1988* (Halton Station)

Mitch Sorgood (on the right) fixes a leaky pipe on his parent’s ranch, named Halton Station.

*2151* (Halton Station)

Scott Sorgood, Halton Station’s owner, stands on his bulldozer that he’ll soon use to pull down trees.

*2357* and *2408* (Halton Station)

Scott Sorgood readies a gyrocopter that he flies low to the ground as he rounds up the cattle. A rancher (named Greg) from father north, near Longreach, pays Sorgood $5 to $10 AUD per cow per day to house the cattle at Halton Station because his land doesn’t have any greenery left. The cattle aren’t used to eating leaves, so the ranchers moved them to a paddock to keep watch.

*3820* (Cannington Station)

Ranch manager David Lyttle sorts the cattle to determine which can make a 1,000 kilometer journey south to a property near Augathella.

*4154* (Alderly Station)

Owner Franker Blackett fuels up his helicopter to survey the water sources on his 1.4 million-acre ranch named Alderly Station. He wants to see if any cows have gotten stuck in mud or if the pumps are properly running.

*4154* (Alderly Station)  
Blackett pulls the helicopter out of the shed so he can survey his land.

*4193* (Alderly Station)

Blackett checks a broken pump that pulls groundwater from the Great Artesian Basin, the largest aquifer of its type in the world.

*4481* (Alderly Station)

Ranchers build “dams,” essentially big pits, on their land that fill with rainwater. This dam will run dry within weeks.

*4585* (Cannington Station)

Termite mounds. *(Photog said this wasn’t necessarily tied to the drought)*

*4719* (Charters Towers auction)

Ranchers buy cattle at an auction in Charters Towers. Prices are up because ranchers have culled their herds so much that there’s tight supply.