Queensland **the Smart State**

CQ BEEF

Better Economic and Environmental Futures

CQ Issue 2

futurebeef

CQ beef results issues and themes

Mark Best, Agricultural Economist, Rockhampton

For this section, I'd like to share with you selected data from across the *CQ BEEF* team members. The review includes all *CQ BEEF* groups for the 2005/06 financial year, some 20 businesses across four groups.

All groups- Bajool, Biloela, Mackenzie River and Moura- have been through the same process: formation, an 'economics' day which set the beef industry in context and covered **Profit**Probe™ input requirements. Sometimes it has been a challenge getting all of the required information required, however, valuable reports have been generated.

Results days have been conducted and these have enabled detailed interpretation of results. Most group members have found these very motivating. Current activities includes development of action plans, based on evidence from your financial and production results, in order to look for areas of improvement. This will enable the implementation of plans to achieve ongoing improved business performance.

Bear in mind that the figures should be viewed in context of the stage of the development of your business and season. Many are inter-related. A quick reminder that the ratios contained in your reports work off gross product (GP), the amount of kilograms of beef produced across the year.

There are MANY avenues available for you to discuss your results, scenario options and strategic plans in further detail. Analysis and utilisation of this data will enable you to better set the strategic direction of the business and plan operational tasks.

In viewing the data, some items are particularly outstanding and require further examination. Themes for your consideration include, but are not limited to the following;

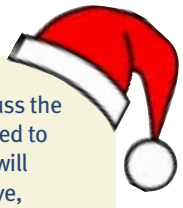
'Low' return on assets. Across the groups, typical return on assets (ROA) values ranged from minus two to four percent. Highest ROA was 10%, from a trading-based operation using leased land. As a comparison against Australian stock market performance, the ASX 200 achieved returns across the same period of almost 19%. (http://www.asx.com.au/resources/newsletters/listed_at_asx/20060816_2005_2006_market_performance.htm). It should be noted that high rates of land appreciation imply a difficulty in obtaining a satisfactory rate of return on assets invested compared to other asset classes.

High expense ratios. Expense ratio reflects your expense outlays (including interest and leases) as a proportion of gross product.

cont. page 2

Queensland Government
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

Editorial



Welcome to the second edition of the *CQ BEEF* newsletter.

The articles in this issue have been selected to cover the range of issues being addressed in the project. Mark Best has provided an update on the key factors being identified by the ProfitProbe™ analyses. *CQ BEEF* is one of the many projects being funded by The Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA). The scale and diversity of their activities in the region is described in an article by Gavin Peck FBA Technical Manager. FBA and DPI&F staff contacts have been included in this edition.

Because the Research to Reality project has many similarities to *CQ BEEF*, an update has been included.

Lindy Symes has provided a report on the Biloela group's very successful AgForward mapping workshop held in November. A profile of the Biloela group members is also included in this edition.

A meeting was held with FBA in late November to discuss the project and a project steering committee is being formed to provide ongoing review of the project. The committee will comprise a FBA board member, producer representative, AgForce representative and FBA and DPI&F staff. It is planned to hold the first meeting in February 2008.

As the year draws to a close I would like to thank everyone involved in the project for their enthusiasm and commitment. Our thanks to the specialist speakers who have contributed to project activities and the many DPI&F staff who provide ongoing support.

The project team would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for a wet New Year.

Mick Sullivan Project Leader, *CQ BEEF*

- Major areas of expense include carrying non productive assets, for example infrastructure. Where you are holding an unproductive asset that is costing you money, why not either use it to generate income or sell the asset all together? Your expense ratio could well be an indicator of unsustainable practices if it is continually high or in excess of 100%.

High feeding costs. It is very apparent from reviewing the data, that continual drought feeding shows up in high production costs and is therefore a major factor in high breakeven costs of production. For example, a number of results indicated a breakeven cost of production (direct costs plus cattle overheads) in excess of $3/kg. Compare this to the meat price received of between $1.76/kg and $2.17/kg.

- Economically, the retention or sale of stock has to balanced against the costs of continuing to carry such stock. Do other options exist? For example, forage budgeting and the use of critical dates to enable timely management and marketing decisions. Additionally, there are number of tools available for minimising the impact of destocking on long run profitability. The thrust of such techniques includes adjustment of animal numbers and classes to match grazing pressure to forage available and basing selling decisions on the current and future profitability of different classes of animals i.e. sell those with the lowest future profit margin.

Production benchmarks. Considering that the reported benchmarks are generated from similar land types, we could reasonably expect that similar levels of inputs would be used and production levels would be similar. If you fall far outside particular production benchmarks i.e. very high supplement costs, low branding rates you may need to take a look the production side of your business and whether there is a technical impediment to improved performance. Support from specialists as required is all part of the *CQ BEEF* project.

Enterprise break-up. On the topic of productive enterprises, it is quite difficult to look inside a beef production business if it not broken down into as much detail as possible. As an example, splitting out breeding versus fattening versus stud operations allows a detailed review of your business. Highly detailed planning could be conducted with a view to expanding areas achieving higher levels of profitability. This is a conscious decision in need of continual review in order to maximise business potential.

High levels of equity. On a very positive note, equity ratios throughout the groups are strong overall. High levels of equity routinely open up development possibilities including use of credit for further acquisition (thereby potentially diluting overheads), consolidation of debt levels and avenues for diversification into other investment categories.

Further information is available from:

- Within the information folders provided to you, including notes and handouts from your meetings
- RCS (free-call on 1800 190 011)
- Group facilitators, as well as myself
- Group members

Merry Christmas!

What condition were your breeders in at the end of the dry season?

With a promising start to the summer in many areas and calves on the ground, it is a good time to review what can be done to improve breeder performance. One of the most critical factors affecting conception rates is breeder body condition at the end of the dry season (Table 1).

If lactating breeders have a Body Condition Score (BCS) of 3 or better at the end of the dry season they have a good chance of conceiving during the subsequent mating. Better conditioned cows conceive sooner and subsequently wean better calves.

Body condition is the cow's and enterprise's reserve if the season breaks late. Cows with good condition scores can afford to loose more weight and are less likely to suffer if the season breaks with very heavy rain. Expensive crisis feeding can be avoided if cows have good body reserves.

Managing body condition

The diagram below shows the factors affecting breeder body condition. Management of these factors can ensure that cows maintain a Body Condition Score of 3 or better. Good grazing management over the wet season enables cows to build up reserves for the dry season. Weaning cows when the feed quality is still reasonable i.e. March-June enables them to rapidly put on weight before the feed quality slips to maintenance or below maintenance. Weaning is typically twice as effective in reducing dry season weight loss as urea supplements. While crisis supplements can keep cows alive it is very expensive and in many cases there is relatively little improvement in body condition.

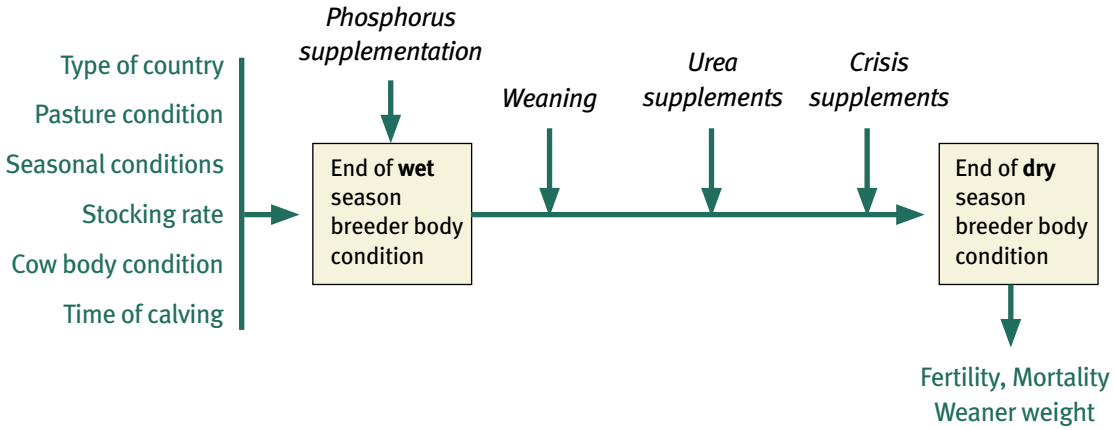
Breeder body condition	Body condition score	Pregnancy rate (%)
Poor	1	0-40
Backward store	2	20-50
Store	3	40-80
Forward store	4	60-90
Prime	5	80-95

Table 1. End of dry season lactating breeder body condition and subsequent pregnancy rates

Key practices

1. Manage stocking rates and grazing over the summer so cows have the best opportunity to put on condition.
2. Having a couple of decision points i.e. early summer and late summer enables stocking rate, weaning and selling decisions to be made in a timely manner.
3. Monitor seasonal conditions and cow condition and time weaning so cows have the opportunity to gain weight after weaning.
4. Adjust stocking rates at the end of summer to ensure there is adequate feed to carry cows through to the seasonal break.
5. Use dry season urea supplements strategically to help maintain cow condition.
6. Manage the grass and cattle to minimise high cost crisis supplementation.

Mick Sullivan
Industry Development Officer, Rockhampton



Factors influencing breeder productivity (Dixon, 1998)

A brief history of buffel grass pasture lands in Queensland

Adapted from papers by Trevor Hall, DPI&F Roma and Peter Muller, NRW, Mackay presented to the Buffel Grass Symposium held in 2000 at Theodore.

Buffel is now well established over millions of hectares in Queensland and is regarded as a naturalised pasture grass that is highly productive for livestock, drought resistant and valuable for protecting soil surface.

Introduction of buffel grass

To Australia

Buffel grasses are native to Africa and southern Asia. The three 'buffel' grass species introduced to Australia are *Cenchrus ciliaris* (the common buffel grass cultivars, West Australian, American, Gayndah, Biloela, Molopo, etc), *C. pennisetiformis* (Cloncurry buffel) and *C. setiger* (formerly *C. setigerus*, birdwood grass).

Buffel grass was first recorded in Australia on the north-west coast of Western Australia about 1870 and is thought to have come in Afghan camel harnesses or in feed used during transport. In 1910, seed was spread at Port Headland and local sowing was encouraged. After WWI, the Western Australian Department of Agriculture distributed Cenchrus lines sent by General Birdwood from Afghanistan. This is the source of the first buffel in Queensland. The first report of aerial seeding was from Mundabullagana Station in Western Australia in 1926.

To north-west Queensland

The first record of buffel in north-west Queensland is in 1926, when a few seeds were obtained from the Roebourne district of Western Australia and sown near Cloncurry. Several interested graziers spread small amounts of seed from these plants by hand, on creek banks and under eucalypt trees. By 1928, Cloncurry buffel had become established on fertile frontage soils near Cloncurry.

Buffel, and to a lesser degree Birdwood grass, also spread from the Afghan camel camp on Coppermine creek near Cloncurry. Later grazier sowings produced small patches of buffel around eucalypt trees and along some water courses on fertile, high phosphorus, alluvial and loamy red earth soils. Most spread occurred naturally down rivers in a series of above average rainfall years, in both the 1950s and 1970s.

Marriott and Everist surveyed the spread of buffel in NW Queensland in 1954 after grazier reports of its spread along the Cloncurry and other local rivers. By this time buffel had spread and was well adapted to the red brown clay loams and alluvials and had displaced spinifex on some local hills. Good rainfall years in the early 1950s assisted this spread. The role of higher phosphorus fertility and higher soil pH in contributing to the spread of buffel was recognised at this time.

The few wetter years of the 1960s and the wet decade of the 1970s saw an explosion in the natural spread of Cloncurry buffel, along most rivers, creeks and water courses in the eastern Isa Uplands and it now covers thousands of hectares. Buffel density and growth is much greater under the box and bloodwood eucalypt trees in the arid north-west Queensland environment.

To central Queensland

The first sowing of buffel in central coastal Queensland was at Archer, Rockhampton in 1928. This seed came from Western Australia.

In the central west, buffel was first grown in the desert country near Yalleroi-Blackall in 1937. With the introduction of larger tractors, gidyea was cleared in this district and buffel was the most successful introduced grass. Cultivar Boorara was developed in this process from seed originally sent to Boorara by Stan Marriott (DPI) in 1954. Cv. Biloela was released after trials at the Biloela Research Station by Bert Grof in the mid 1950s.

The development of the brigalow belt in Queensland from the late 1950s and 1960s saw the rapid spread of buffel grass and its dominance over native and other introduced grasses such as green panic and Rhodes grass. The cattle carrying capacity of these pastures and their liveweight production capability achieved new levels

of production for semi-arid and sub-coastal tropical pastures. The development of leucaena and buffel pastures has been an important recent development in the cattle industry.

To southern Queensland

Experimental sowings of buffel by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Stock were evaluated at sites including St Lucia, Gatton and Inglewood in the early 1930s. Most early reports were favourable except one reporter spoke of 'a low yielding species that might easily become a very undesirable weed of pastures'.

In 1934, buffel grass was sown in school hobby plots. Cv. Gayndah still a major sown grass in the drier inland of southern Queensland, originated from this exercise. School pasture plots were sown into the 1950s.

Cv. Nunbank was commercialised after trials near Taroom by Les Edye. Cv. Lawes and Cv. Tarewinnabar were introduced from South Africa in grass collections.

Buffel accession introductions to Australia

There have been 580 direct official introductions of *Cenchrus* accessions into the genetic resource centres of Australia. Of these, 450 accessions have been grown for seed increase, the step prior to field evaluation. These numbers do not include the early accidental or direct introductions.

The country of origin and some collection site data are recorded for most of these official introductions. Accessions have been collected from some 35 countries.

Soil types and properties

Buffel grass grows on a wide range of soil types provided soil fertility is adequate and soil surface properties are not limiting. However, it prefers soils with a loose friable surface and a well structured, freely draining subsoil with a soil depth of at least 0.3 m.

Phosphorus and nitrogen are the main limiting nutrients for buffel grass. Nutrients such as potassium, calcium and sulphur are generally well supplied by most soils.

A soil bicarbonate extractable phosphorus level of 10 mg/kg is generally accepted as the minimum level for sustainable buffel pastures. Soils supporting buffel pastures typically have total nitrogen levels above 0.1%.

Buffel establishment is difficult on soils with hard setting topsoils or on open downs soils with very coarse self mulching topsoils. Hard setting topsoils have dispersive, surface sealing topsoils that set hard and provide a very poor seedbed. Coarse self mulching downs soils have poor soil-seed contact and the surface dries quickly.

Plant growth is determined by how much water a soil can hold i.e. the plant available water capacity (PAWC). PAWC is determined by soil depth to a physical or chemical barrier such as bedrock, tough sodic subsoil or high subsoil salinity. Although reasonably tolerant of subsoil salinity, root depth is restricted by salinity in excess of 1.0 dS/m.

Property and area	Business partners	Location	Average annual rainfall	Land types	Enterprise
Biloela group					
Youlambie (324 ha) & Lone Star (5, 858 ha)	Ian & Janice Creed in partnership with son James	Old Coal Road, 24 km east of Biloela	700 mm	Creek flats rising back to undulating ridges to steeper country on the boundary. Narrow/ broadleaf & bloodwood.	Breeding & selling weaners, fattening cull cows. Brahman breeders & using Charolais & Angus bulls. In future selling steers MSA & plant more Leuceana and improved pasture.
Stoneleigh (567 ha)	David & Bridget Corr	14 km SE of Biloela	700 mm	Softwood/bottle tree scrub in the hills, coming down to brigalow country and alluvial flats.	Buying and finishing cattle for the EU market with some breeders also.
Sundale & 4 other blocks (1,692 ha)	Tom Carige in partnership with parents John & Barbara and John's mother Glad	20 km north of Biloela	650 mm	Brigalow/blackbutt, softwood scrub, blue gum and a bit of box country.	Have a small breeding herd but mainly buy and fatten cattle selling direct to meatworks for the EU, Jap Ox and trade markets.
Boyne-Lea (1,014 ha)	Ron & Anne Carige	23 km south Mundubbera, on the Boyne River	650 mm	Mainly brigalow/belah black soils running down onto some river flats and sandy loam.	Backgrounding for feedlot and leucaena.
Biella (1,120 ha)	Col Burnett	Red Hill Road, south of Thangool	685 mm	Some Ironbark country, some softwood scrub and also some alluvial flats with gum and box.	Buying and selling into Jap Ox market, with fattening on leucaena.
Mrs Smiths (1,821 ha) Pindari/Conor-Mor (526 ha)	Wayne & Judy Moxham-Price	Mrs Smiths - Situated on Cattle Creek in the Monto Shire. Pindari/Conor-Mor - Situated on North and South Kariboe Creeks, 26 km from Biloela.	650 mm	Mrs Smiths consists of granite soil with Black Spear and Burnett Bluegrass. Half is improved to Katambora Rhodes grass & USA buffel with Fine Stem and Seca stylos as the legumes. Pindar/Conor-Mor is a combination of hilly softwood and briglow scrub and loamy creek flats. USA & Biloela buffel and Green Panic are the predominate grasses. Leucaena is established on 48 ha with another 89 ha prepared for planting on the next rain.	Currently run a composite herd of breeders comprising of Belmont Red, Charbrays and Brangus. Steers are targeted at the 4 tooth Jap Ox market. Cull heifers are targeted towards the 0-2 tooth domestic trade. Cull and non pregnant cows are sold into the US cow market.
Drumburle (7,000 ha) and Lawgi (800 ha)	Stuart Barrett parents Tex & Vicky Barrett	30 km south of Thangool	600 mm	Open eucalypt forest, plus a small amount of richer scrub country on Lawgi.	Mostly Droughtmaster breeding cows. Selling stores to private buyers.
Dellmor (445 ha), Gavynya (420 ha), Nova (243 ha), Cooinda (3,156 ha)	Gavin & Megan Muller (Dellmor Grazing Co)	Dellmor, Gavynya & Nova - 25 km NW Biloela Cooinda - 20 km west of Ubobo	700 mm at Biloela & 900 mm at Ubobo	Brigalow/Blackbutt scrub on Biloela properties and spotted gum/ironbark hilly country at Ubobo	Breeding, growing & fattening with direct selling to meatworks for the EU market. Brahman cross breeding herd using Brahman bulls

Glenlivit (2,532 ha), Rocky Valley (770 ha), Prospect Valley (220 ha)	Scott & Judy Smith	Glenlivet - 26 km east of Thangool Rocky Valley - 25 km south of Thangool Prospect Valley - 25 km south of Biloela	600 mm	Undulating to steep brigalow scrub soils. Undulating to steep narrow and broad leaf ironbark and bloodwood forest country.	Trading and fattening operation of mainly store cows. With prime cows going straight to the works and cows that calve out sold as cows and calves.

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Property mapping and planning with AgForward

On the 20 November 2007 the Biloela Group participated in an AgForward Computer Mapping Workshop at the Biloela Bowls Club.

The workshop was initiated after AgForward staff attended the August meeting of the Biloela group and gave a brief demonstration of the content of their workshops. Also attending the meeting in August, to provide a producer's insight into the world of computer mapping and planning, were Cameron and Kristy Gibson of 'Coonabar' near Rolleston. Combined with the producer feedback and AgForward's demonstration, the Biloela group decided to attend a full mapping workshop and one was organised for November.

Lyndal Rolfe and Perry Langberg from AgForward guided the Biloela group though the workshop on November 20. It was a great learning day, with each of the producers provided with landsat images (satellite imagery) of four years, Regional Ecosystem (RE) maps, property data and also drainage information. Many producers also opted to purchase from FBA the higher resolution Spot 5 satellite imagery. Armed with these tools and coinciding with the recent purchase of FarmKeeper each business was able to start mapping their properties.

Lyndal and Perry guided the group through the principles of mapping, data types, map projections and map datum. They showed the group how to load data in a layering format i.e. property boundaries, regional ecosystem maps, drainage lines and of course satellite images. Following the basics the group was then shown how to generate new data, use a GPS (uploading and downloading) and finally how to print the map you want. Information was also provided on other mapping software and different types of imagery.

As a result of the day, many producers went home feeling excited about the new skills they had developed and eager to practice. Many of the producers commented that they would like to attend a follow-up mapping workshop in the New Year after they have mapped their properties and require more training in the finer details of using FarmKeeper. As a software package, FarmKeeper can offer a lot more to the producer than just mapping and many producers were interested in following this up.

As Kev McCosker said in the *CQ BEEF Newsletter* (Issue 1), the AgForward team are very keen to work with *CQ BEEF*, so if you are interested, then please inform your group facilitator and have a chat to them. AgForward have a suite of workshops to offer including GPS training and Vegetation Management. Lyndall and Perry tailored the day to the needs of the Biloela group and everyone thought it was an excellent workshop and very informative.

Lindy Symes
Beef Industry Development Officer, Biloela

Dear Tech Support

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a slow down in the overall performance, particularly in the flower and jewellery applications which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 un-installed many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5 and then installed undesirable programs such as Football 5.0, Rugby 4.3 and Cricket 3.0. Conversation 8.0 no longer runs; it simply crashes the system. I've tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, to no avail.

What can I do? *Desperate*

Dear Desperate

First keep in mind Boyfriend 5.0 is an entertainment package, while Husband 1.0 is an Operating System. Try entering the command C:/I Thought You Loved Me to download Tears 6.2, which should automatically install Guilt 3.0. If that application works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewellery 2.0 and Flowers 3.5. But remember overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0 or Beer 6.1.

Warning Beer 6.1 is a very nasty program that will create Snoring Loudly.

Caution Whatever you do, DO NOT install Mother In Law. This is not a supported application and will crash Husband 1.0.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. I personally recommend Hot Food 3.0 and Lingerie 7.7.

Good luck, *Tech Support*

An update from the north Queensland Research to Reality project

The Burdekin Catchments Research to Reality project is well underway with the three grazier teams recently undertaking property tours to explore with key specialists a range of animal nutrition, land management and land condition issues.

The project, which follows the Continuous Improvement and Innovation Cycle aims to support small teams of graziers to achieve a 5% improvement in business profit (EBIT) by finding practical, on-property solutions to issues that directly impact on their enterprises.

Commencing in November 2006, the project is principally funded through a partnership between the Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. Additional project partners include the Beef CRC for Genetic Technologies and the graziers directly involved in the project.

The three grazier teams represent seventeen enterprises from Greenvale, Collinsville and the Belyando area. Collectively, these enterprises manage an area of 650,000 ha and 160,000 livestock units. A parallel project called *CQ BEEF* is being run in central Queensland with grazier teams established in Moura, Biloela, Bajool and the Mackenzie River area.

The process so far has involved grazier teams undertaking a range of activities to assess land condition and their animal husbandry and land management practices. This has included applying the Resource Consulting Services economic benchmarking software **Profit**Probe and DPI&F's Breedcow and Dynama program to assess a range of enterprise options. Options assessed include developing irrigated sown pasture to rest breeder country, achieving land condition improvement by varying carrying capacity, strategies for improving branding rates and maximising profit via the age and class of cattle sold.

After completing this assessment process graziers shared their findings and prioritised some key ideas and issues requiring further research. This process has led the grazier teams to holding this first series of property tours which has enabled them to get first hand specialist advice on these priority issues and provide insight into the potential for some on property research activities.

The Belyando Research to Reality team held a property tour with soil specialists George Bourne from the Department of Natural Resources and Water, Emerald and John Chamberlain from the DPI&F, Clermont. The day included visits to three Belyando properties where discussions focused on the potential for establishing leucaena, techniques for repairing scalded country, options for managing woodland thickening and the use of Floren bluegrass as an option for heavy clay soil affected by flooding.

At Greenvale the Research to Reality team met with Nutrition Consultant Sandi Jephcott and Geoffrey Fordyce from the DPI&F. Discussions centred on nutrition management strategies including the value of spike feeding first calf heifers, splitting up mixed sized weaners to target their feed intake and general commentary on the nutrition requirements of different classes of stock.

Terry McCosker, from RCS and John McIvor from the CSIRO were the guest specialists at the Collinsville Research to Reality team property tour. The day which included visits to two properties focused on discussing the profitability of improving land condition through a range of grazing ecology and land condition principles such as wet season rest, splitting paddocks to land type and how to speed up the land recovery process. The value of time controlled grazing and the added potential for soil carbon trading were also discussed.

The next step in the process is to commence on property research activities. Each grazier team will have a different focus based on the issues relevant to their enterprises. At this stage projects may include the testing of a range of techniques for repairing land condition, maximising animal production via nutrition and innovative options for property development. Grazier teams will track and test research progress with regular on site activities to discuss and review findings. Further benchmarking and enterprise analysis will also be undertaken to determine the impact on enterprise profitability. Project results will be shared between the grazier teams with broader industry invited to attend future field days and other project activities.

The Research to Reality Project team includes Brigid Nelson, Karl McKellar, Dave Smith, Marnie McCullough, Evan Burt, Bill Holmes and Emma Robinson.

Brigid Nelson
Project Leader, DPI&F, Charters Towers

Getting things done: Landholders managing natural resources

The Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) helped central Queensland landholders undertake more than 200 projects on their properties in the 2006-07 financial year. These projects have helped a number of CQ graziers to:

- Manage stock access to rivers, creeks and wetlands
- Manage grazing to land types
- Develop property management plans
- Control weeds
- Manage salt affected areas
- Manage native vegetation
- Improve sustainability of farming systems.

Between 2004 to 2007, field and technical staff have collaborated on projects with landholders on 706 properties, covering 2,914,587 ha land, which amounts to 19% of the Fitzroy Basin region (see map next page).

CQSS 2 region and sub-regions

FBA understands that many graziers want to improve land condition, reduce erosion and maintain environmental values, but may not always have the information or funds required. Through practical and financial support, FBA helps landholders to improve their grazing systems to increase the sustainability and productivity of their enterprises.

But who is the FBA?

The FBA is a community based group working across central Queensland (CQ) to provide leadership in natural resource management (NRM), support research and development, and coordinate the delivery of on-ground activities that result in a healthy natural environment. We are committed to developing *'Empowered communities for a sustainable CQ'.*

As an umbrella organisation, we work in collaboration with five sub-regional groups based within the Fitzroy Basin (See map left). These five sub-regional groups are:

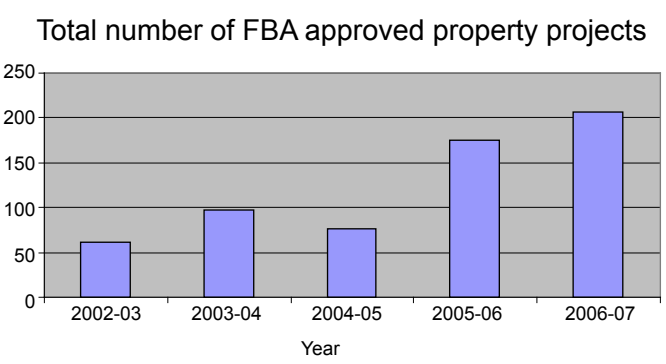
- Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments (FRCC)
- Boyne Calliope
- Three Rivers
- Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association (DCCA)
- Central Highlands Regional Resource Use Planning Cooperative (CHRRUP)

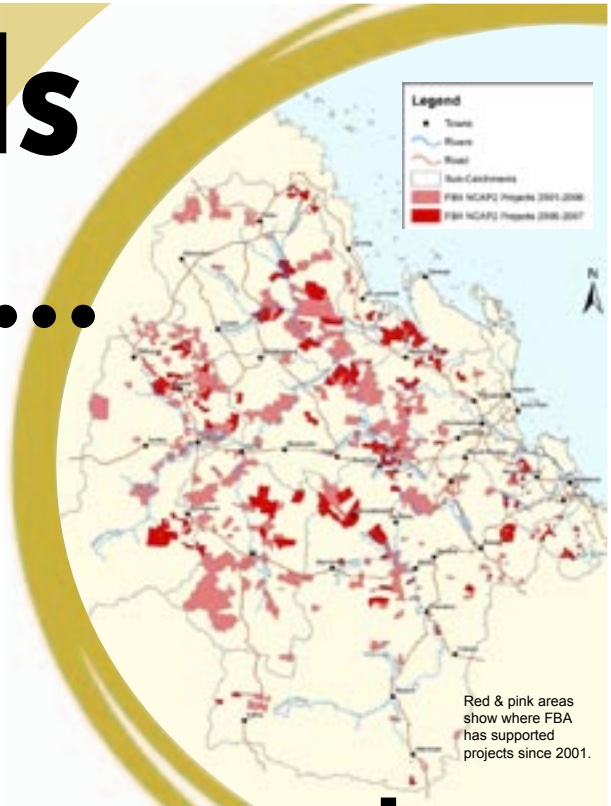
Australian and State Government funding enables FBA to assist sub-regional groups to implement a diverse range of projects. Field staff from FBA and sub-regional groups provide on-ground assistance for people involved in projects. This grassroots approach produces real, lasting results.

Want more information?

You can look on our website at www.fba.org.au for more information and fact sheets. You can also contact FBA Technical Manager Gavin Peck, Ph: 4999 2805, E-mail: gavin.peck@fba.org.au, or contact your nearest sub-regional group directly.

Bucketloads of activity...





Red & pink areas show where FBA has supported projects since 2001.

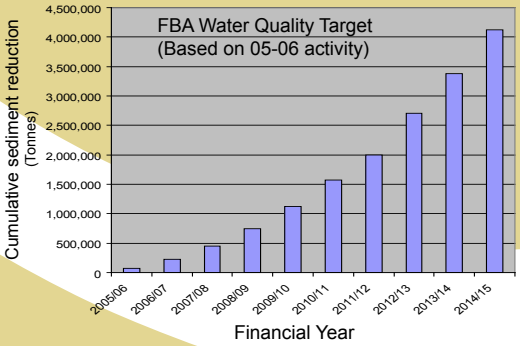
truckloads of outcomes!

Outcome	06/07	2004 to 2007
Managing to grazing land type	36,575 Ha	68,525 Ha
Improved cropping land management	35,425 Ha	48,739 Ha
Strategic Weed Control	11,653 Ha	30,893 Ha
Saline land management	6,752 Ha	69,497 Ha
Riparian areas protected	288 Km	714 Km
Wetlands protected	601 Ha	2,632 Ha
Management of biodiversity	9,514 Ha	129,065 Ha
Biodiversity stewardships	8,362 Ha	130,512 Ha
Coastal areas protected	1,637 Ha	1,637 Ha
Satellite property images (maps)	No. of maps (06/07)	Area mapped (06/07)
	172 maps	861,606 Ha

OnTarget

to prevent 4.1 million ute loads of sediment entering our waterways!

FBA has helped reduce annual average sediment loads delivered to waterways by an estimated **75,000 tonnes**. With continued investment at current levels, over ten years the reduction in sediment is predicted to be **4.1 million tonnes**.



FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION

Queensland Government

Australian Government

Mick Sullivan,
Beef Industry Development Officer

Family: Partner to Fran

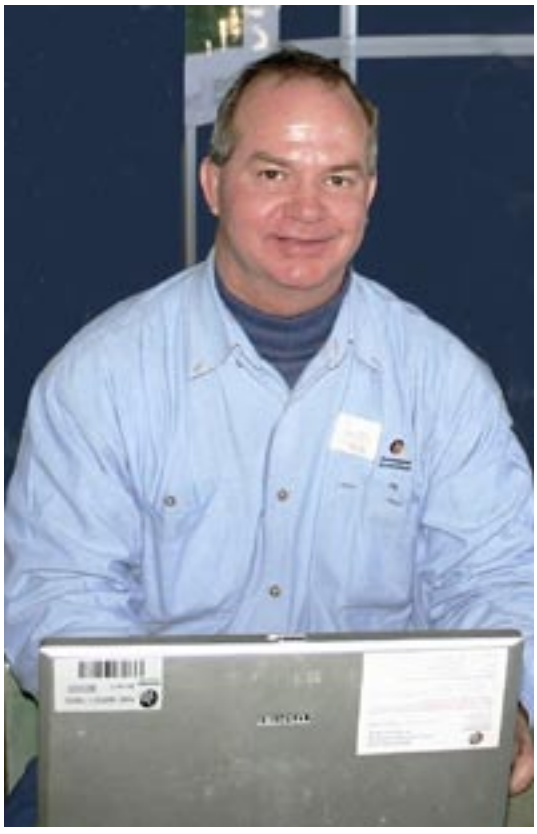
Childhood: Brought up at Crows Nest

Career: Studied Agricultural Science at University of Queensland. Fire and grazing management projects DPI&F Charleville 1983-87. Beef Cattle Husbandry Officer Mount Isa 1994-97. Research Officer QLD Livestock and Meat Authority South Burnett Meatworks 1994-95. DPI&F Western Queensland Sheep Program Manager Charleville 1995-97. Beef Cattle Husbandry Officer Mount Isa 1997-2007. As well as beef extension work in north-west Queensland, responsible for operational management of CRC project herds at Toorak, Swans Lagoon, Brigalow and Brian Pastures Research Stations. Professional interests are breeder herd management, cattle nutrition and grazing management.

Brag sheet: Caught a Barramundi on first attempt. Unfortunately the strike rate has not been maintained. Designed best set of yards in the DPI&F at Toorak.

Holiday: Barramundi and crocodile infested rivers or somewhere cool.

Dave Hickey,
Extension Officer



Family: Married to Jacqui ... two boys, Nicholas, 16, and Ben, 15.

Childhood: A Mitchell Grass and Gidgee boy ... brought up on a daily diet of good Mitchell grass mutton and veg at Longreach.

Career: After graduating from QAC, I went fencing for 18 months; I then scored a job at the Longreach Pastoral College as the Farm Management Instructor and seconded as the Fencing Instructor. I contracted for about 2 years, then worked as a trainer for a Work & Labour Market program, training long term unemployed youth, on Curraw-inya National Park at Hungerford, a 350,000 acre sand pit, with a swimming pool. I then came to work for the DPI&F in 1997, based in Charleville in the Futureprofit project. My family and I transfered to Rockhampton at the end of 2002. Since commencing in Rocky I have lead several projects, includ-ing the Styx/Herbert, Ponded Pasture and Reeflink projects. I am currently very hap-pily working as part of the team in this the *CQ BEEF* project.

Holiday: Family, sun, surf and fishing anywhere, anytime!