

Paddock Power

Unlocking the secrets to sustainable and profitable intensification in northern Australia



Many breeder paddocks in northern Australia are too big and underwatered to achieve optimum productivity.

Impacts on reproduction and profitability include:

- over-and under-utilised feed (depending on distance from water)
- incomplete musters
- limited opportunities to implement herd segregation, controlled mating or tactical pasture management

Walking long distances out to feed erodes live weight gain and body condition. The negative impact of poor body condition on re-conception and calf survival rates further reduces productivity

Some producers speculate that high rates of calf wastage (>20%) in large poorly-watered paddocks may be caused by cows leaving newborn calves to return several kilometres back to water, thus increasing the risk of predation or dehydration.



Dramatic differences in feed availability in relation to distance from water have an impact on productivity and sustainable resource use.



Key questions of the Paddock Power project

How much impact is paddock area and distance to water having on production?

Use existing data and new paddock trials to measure:

- calf wastage
- mortality rates
- steer growth rates
- how many kilograms of beef are produced in a paddock, and how many kilograms of beef could potentially be produced?

Where should we put new infrastructure to get best bang for buck?

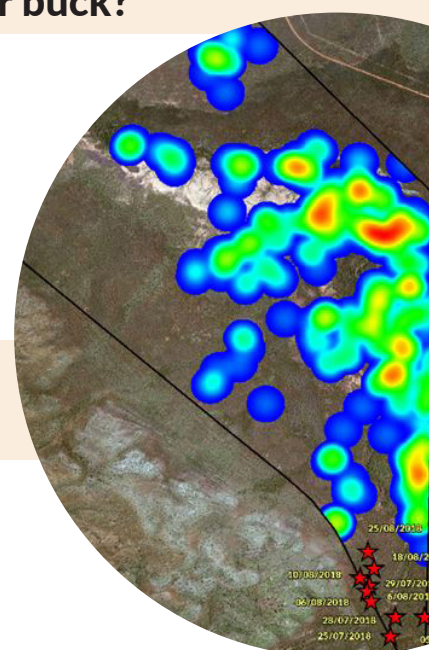
Use GPS tracking to measure:

- how far cattle are walking - with and without calves
- how far from water calves are being born
- how cattle utilise paddocks of different sizes and watered area
- how paddock usage patterns change throughout the year

What infrastructure development option will deliver the best return on investment for me?

Roll out the Paddock Power calculator

- compare development options identified by the producer
- work out return on investment and payback period on the basis of your specific cost base, land types and productivity.



Get involved!

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or search 'Paddock Power' on Facebook for regular updates!