

Drought and climate adaptation program

GrazingFutures Project Narrative

Going the distance: using technology to get connected.

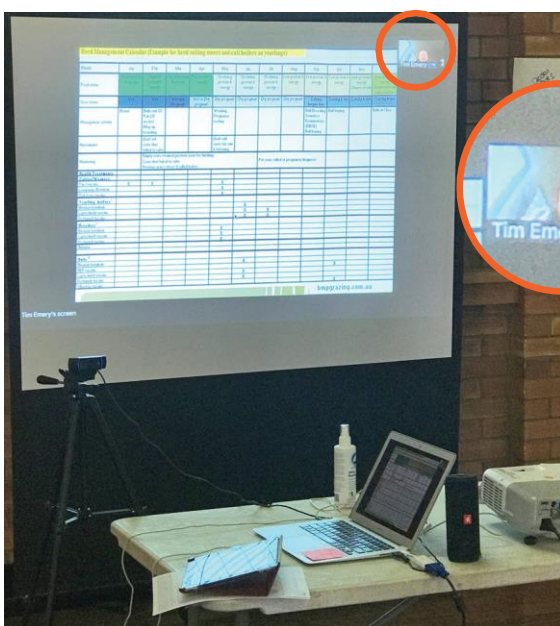
Mobile ZOOM ROOM technology has helped overcome distance, break down barriers and reduce project costs by enabling key industry presenters to join workshops in remote communities - even presenting from their car!

The GrazingFutures project supports livestock businesses across western Queensland by assisting graziers to prepare for, respond to, and recover from drought.

Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Officer, Jane Tincknell has experienced how successful using technology, such as mobile Zoom Room, can be in tackling the problems of workshop delivery across the vast central west region of Queensland.

Jane's first experience of using Mobile Zoom Room technology was during two "Cattle - Feeding and Breeding" workshops held at Aramac and Jundah over two consecutive days.

While travelling to Aramac and Jundah was not the issue, one of the presenters, Tim Emery, was unable to make the meetings in-person. However, with Zoom Room technology set up, Tim was able to deliver the presentation to the workshop participants. In fact, Tim gave his first presentation while parked in his car safely on the side of the road (see photo below).



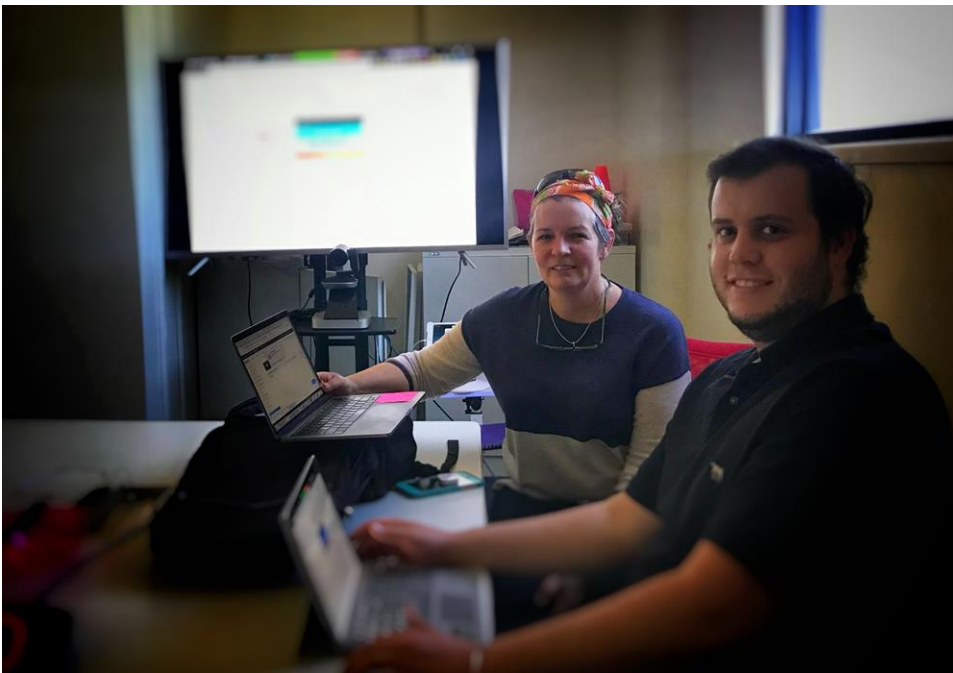
"Zoom and the Zoom room reduces workshop costs and makes it possible to deliver events that in the past would have been postponed."

Drought and climate adaptation program

Having access to Zoom Room technology now allows presenters to share information and knowledge, regardless of where they are, to people in any location.

In addition to the time and cost-saving benefits, the technology is helping to keep people safe. In 2019, Jane engaged Amy Cosby from Central Queensland University (CQU) to present a series of workshops in Charleville, Tambo, Barcaldine and Longreach. However, Cyclone Trevor decided to take a turn and bring rain across the region. At short notice Amy rescheduled one of the workshops into a one hour zoom call so 'rained-in' producers were still able to hear part of Amy's presentation.

The new Zoom Room platform has revolutionised the delivery of workshops by the Longreach DAF team, giving attendees greater access to country-wide presenters and their knowledge.



DAF Extension Officer, Jane Tincknell working with Harri Arnold from Outbackhubs to plan GrazingFutures workshop delivery across central west Queensland.

Drought and climate adaptation program



Outbackhubs is an initiative of the Remote Area Planning and Development Board.

Utilising a service provider to assist with this technology has also been hugely successful. “The biggest benefit of using a service provider such as Outbackhubs is the technical support. Another is that their equipment is up to date. As our use of the Zoom Room has been only a handful of times to date, there would have been a considerable capital outlay on equipment that could quickly become obsolete. Being able to hire the equipment from Outbackhubs was a win-win solution” Jane explained.

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