Drought and climate adaptation program

GrazingFutures Narrative

Mapping a plan with *Queensland Globe* and *FORAGE* in Quilpie

Summary of the event

A mapping workshop was hosted by Southern Queensland Landscapes (SQL) Project Officer Lucas Mackie for a Quilpie landholder group on 15 May 2021. The aim of the workshop was to introduce landholders to the Queensland Government's planning and mapping programs [Queensland Globe](#) and [FORAGE](#).

Representing six properties, nine Quilpie landholders were in attendance. This landholder group had shown consistent interest in developing their knowledge and skills and approached SQL to host this event. SQL Project Officer Lucas Mackie presented the workshop, which included practical demonstrations using both *Queensland Globe* and *FORAGE*. The aim of the workshop was to introduce landholders to the mapping and planning programs and encourage landholders to produce and print a basic map of their property's boundaries on *Queensland Globe*. After the workshop landholders were invited to provide their PDF map file to SQL to produce a detailed larger map, which would be mailed to the landholders free of charge.

Queensland Globe is a free online mapping program run and maintained by the Queensland Government (see Figure 1). The program has editing tools similar to Google Earth and various layers that can be applied, such as land types, lot and plan boundary, and watercourses.
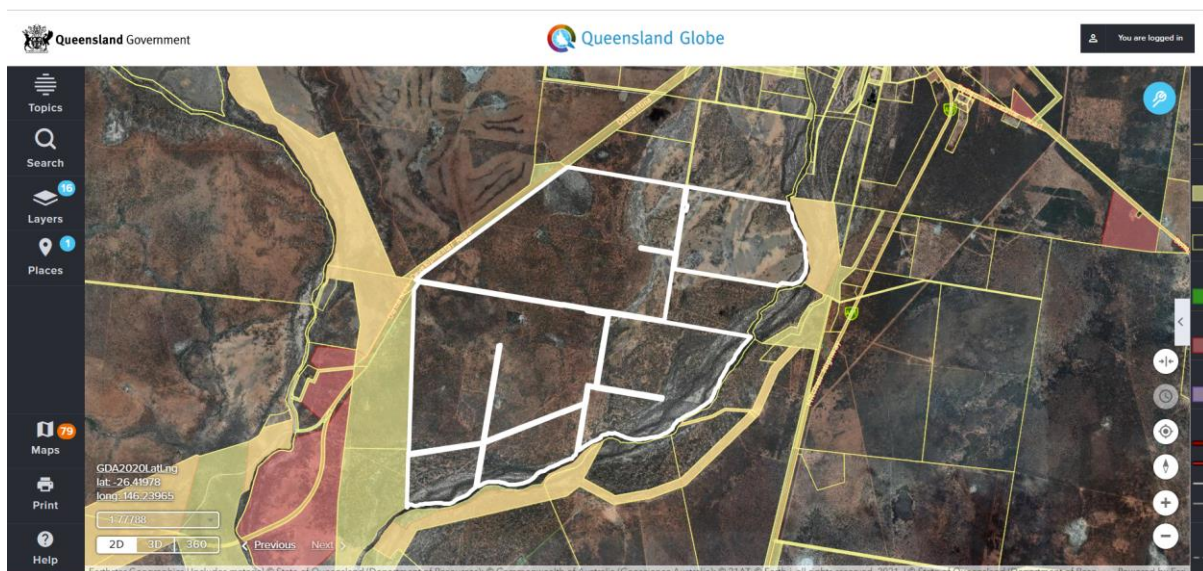

Figure 1: Example of property mapping using the program *Queensland Globe*.

This portion of the workshop involved Project Officer Lucas Mackie demonstrating the creation of a simple property boundary map on *Queensland Globe*, covering:

- How to sign in with Gmail, allowing you to save maps for future editing.
- How to use the *Search* function.
- How to search by lot and plan.
- How to use the Layers menu for stock routes and commons.
- How to use the draw tools to add in property boundaries and points of interest.
- How to use the Places menu (a list of the additions drawn/added to the map).
- How to make changes and redraw additions.
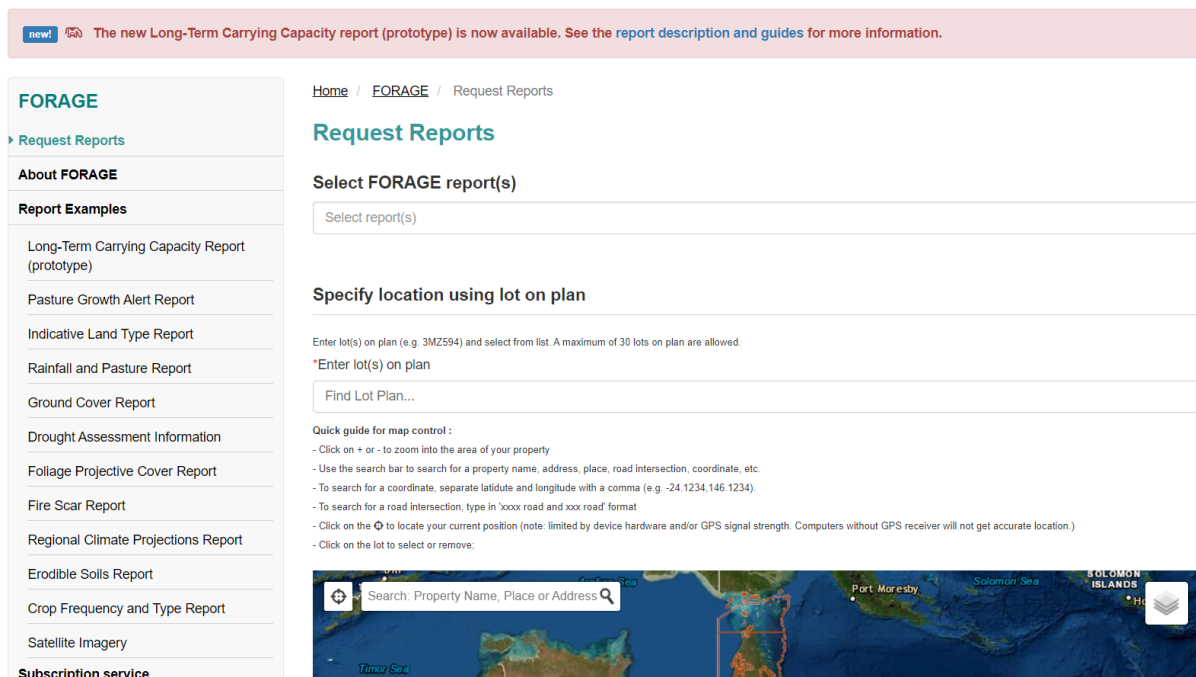- How to print the map as a PDF.

The landholders in attendance were encouraged to follow along with the tutorial and create their own basic property boundary map. The landholders had the opportunity to request a printed and laminated copy of their maps before the workshop was finished. Two attendees requested a laminated map. The remaining landholders instead wished to experiment with the program further before generating a final property map. All landholders in attendance were eligible for a free printed SQL A1 and A3 property map.

Many of the landholders mentioned that they were surprised at the versatility of *Queensland Globe*. Examples of the program's use for planning included:

- Infrastructure planning and maintenance.
- Erosion management.
- Weed management and mapping of spraying sites.
- Mapping water points and coverage.
- Creating maps for visitors and workers.
- Creating maps for grant applications.
- Demonstrating land types and vegetation regulation layers on land.

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The next segment in the workshop focused on *FORAGE*; a Queensland Government managed website that can generate various reports for any Queensland property (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: An example of requesting a report on *FORAGE*.

Project Officer Lucas Mackie demonstrated how to use FORAGE and covered:
- How to enter lot and plan number/s.
- How to choose report/s.
- How to request an auto-generated report via email.

Lucas Mackie also conducted a practical demonstration on *FORAGE* and showed landholders how to request a Regional Ground Cover Comparison Report using an example property in the Charleville area. Feedback from the demonstration was that the language in the reports was "too technical" but that the graphs were simple and easily understandable.

Queensland Globe and *FORAGE* were found to be useful for landholders as they equip them with the tools and resources to produce accurate maps and reports, which assists in making better land management decisions based on accurate data.

Previous interactions with GrazingFutures

- 100% of landholders in attendance had attended similar events presented by the Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and Leading Sheep in the past.
- Only some of the landholders had attended previous GrazingFutures events.

Feedback from the workshop:

The average satisfaction and value ratings of this workshop were 7.4/10 and 6.6/10, respectively. From the feedback provided 33% (2) of attendees indicated that they would be implementing changes in their business from attending the workshop. Most landholders agreed the technology was useful and 66% (4) of the properties were keen to start testing Queensland Globe on their property.

Feedback from conversations in the workshop demonstrated the landholders' interest in the technology. The most common feedback was:

- They were surprised and delighted that the *Queensland Globe* mapping technology was freely available to use.
- They were surprised *Queensland Globe* and *FORAGE* aren't more widely known.
- Both programs' capability was versatile and robust.
- They were keen to "mess around" with the technology and trial the programs on their own land.

Some constructive feedback received from producers after the event included:

- Ensuring a stable internet connection was provided to attendees during the workshop. As producers were required to hotspot from their devices, they experienced connectivity issues resulting in the programs crashing occasionally.
- Ensuring power boards and extension leads were available for attendees to plug their devices into so that power supply didn't become an issue.
- Improve communication before the event with attendees to ensure they are aware of any equipment they are required to bring.

As the *Queensland Globe* mapping technology is dependent on a steady internet connection, some landholders had concerns about its practicality on areas of their land with poor reception. Interruptions to the technology due to poor reception was forecasted as a significant limitation for some landholders. Landholders also mentioned that they had not heard of *Queensland Globe* or *FORAGE*. Increasing the awareness of these programs among landholders in south west Queensland region will increase the accuracy of the services and provide more rich and practical data about issues affecting the landholders.

Overall the Mapping workshop hosted by SQL equipped landholders in the Quilpie region with the knowledge and skills to generate accurate reports and maps using *FORAGE* and *Queensland Globe*.

Created by: Lucas Mackie, SQL
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