



## Better productivity just a click away for producers

### Media release: 18 June 2012

Local landholders packed out property computer mapping workshops in Kingaroy and Toogoolawah last week, keen to get behind a computer and learn how to improve farm management and planning.

These workshops were delivered by AgForce Projects through funding from the Queensland Government to help landholders develop an electronic property map and plan to improve productivity and for better electronic recording of on-farm activity.

AgForce Projects officer Joel Rickuss said it was great to see landholders enthusiastic about using technology to improve their property management and as a tool for dealing with resource companies.

“It is encouraging to have such a great turnout at our mapping workshops and to see landholders embracing computer mapping and GPS technology,” Mr Rickuss said.

“These technologies are vital tools for property managers who want to be running the most efficient property as they give you the ability to accurately map farm infrastructure like fences and yards, create buffer zones around watering points to reduce grazing pressure and manage vegetation.”

Mr Rickuss said the technology also allows landholders to conduct photo monitoring for pest and weed eradication and to meet regulative requirements.

Kandanga graziers Leslie and Craig Hanson, “Perseverance”, said it was great to get the chance to trial a property computer mapping program and learn how to use the program to improve productivity.

“We had heard a bit about the mapping program and came along to find out whether it would actually be useful to us,” Mrs Hanson said at the Toogoolawah workshop on Friday.

“But after seeing how the program will be able to help us make property management easier we will definitely start using this technology. It is a great tool for managing vegetation, and allows us to easily see where we can and can’t clear.

“We would also like to construct some new watering points for rotational grazing and the mapping program will make it easy for us to plan this out and maximise productivity.”

Mr Rickuss said a number of landholders at the workshops also wanted to learn about how a property map and plan can help if a landholder is approached by a CSG company.

“A property computer map and plan is a great tool to have during any dealings with resource companies as it allows you to demonstrate to the CSG company how their planned activity will impact your farming operations.”

These workshops were delivered free to all landholders through AgForce Projects, funded by the Queensland Government. To request a workshop in a town near you visit [www.agforceprojects.org.au](http://www.agforceprojects.org.au) and complete an expression of interest form.

**Image Caption: Leslie Hanson, Upper Kandanga and AgForce Projects officer Joel Rickuss at the property computer mapping workshop in Toogoolawah on Friday.**

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