



Graziers show strong support for Grazing BMP

Media release: 15 April 2013

More than 100 graziers from across the state have thrown their support behind a grazing Best Management Practice (BMP) program at AgForce's Cattle Policy forum in Charters Towers, calling on all graziers to get on board and help shape the future of Queensland's beef industry.

After gaining the support of the Queensland Government earlier this year, Grazing BMP is now receiving strong support from graziers who say it's the 'best way to move the industry forward'.

AgForce BMP project manager Sue Dillon said the Queensland grazing industry needs to stand together and use this program as a way to correct community misconceptions about the industry.

"Grazing BMP will allow us to demonstrate that we are an exceptional and ever evolving, world class industry," Ms Dillon said.

"With ever increasing pressure to validate the industry's high achievements, we need to start proving our outstanding environmental and animal welfare stewardship."

Ms Dillon said a window currently exists to deliver an industry wide tool that helps graziers identify the most profitable and sustainable practices for their own businesses.

"Now is the time for the grazing industry to get on board and drive their BMP to meet their needs. Without it we can only expect more of the same constraints and pressures previously experienced," she said.

"Other industries are either already engaging with, or in the process of developing an industry specific BMP program. This is not a new concept; it is essentially industry highlighting the consistently high standards and quality of its products to the broader community as consumers become more selective as to how they spend their money.

"With good uptake in coastal areas of Queensland, Grazing BMP may help graziers move from reef-regulation to an industry designed and led system using industry derived information that will help demonstrate the high adoption rates of sustainable practices that are important for monitoring reef health."

Representatives from the joint Grazing BMP partnership between AgForce, Fitzroy Basin Association and Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (QDAFF) were on hand at the Cattle forum last month to provide an overview of the BMP process and a practical demonstration of the modules.

Queensland grazier Peter Anderson gave a producer perspective of the program and said it was the best way to move the industry forward and be recognised for its good environmental stewardship and environmental practices. He said the success of the program relies on the industry getting behind it to demonstrate the ongoing development and progressive nature of grazing in Queensland.

The web-based program, in development since 2009, uses the same framework as the successful myBMP Cotton and Grains BMP. Each of the 156 benchmark questions across five modules have been developed and piloted by a panel of producers, after technical input from QDAFF grazing extension staff.

For more information visit www.bmpgrazing.com.au or call AgForce Grazing BMP officer Mick Taylor on 0438 363 001

For comment call Sue Dillon on 3238 6011.

Media contact: AgForce Projects communications officer Madeline Cooper (07) 3238 6060 or 0488 002 091