



Media release

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FBA Finds New Uses for GPS Technology

Innovative use of GPS and computer mapping is helping Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA) improve natural resource management in central Queensland.

FBA Geographic Information Systems Coordinator Kristian Smith said staff had been proactive in applying GPS and computer mapping to their day-to-day work.

“FBA field officers use GPS and computer mapping in the property planning process to help landholders get an accurate picture of their paddocks and landscape features so they can plan improvements,” Mr Smith said.

“Property planning continues to be an important application of GPS, but staff are also applying these skills to new and exciting areas.”

FBA Biodiversity Field Officer Rhys Kellow, based in Emerald, was using GPS and GIS to calculate and map vegetation of high biodiversity value.

He then incorporates information from the Vegetation Management Act to help property owners understand how they can better manage and protect areas with significant plant and animal species.

Trainee Field Officer Shannon Van Nunen used GPS to map areas of littoral rainforest on the Capricorn Coast, which is feeding into a project that aims to improve management of beach scrub.

He also used computer mapping software to compare a range of information about coastal catchments to help FBA prioritise areas where the organisation will focus its work over the next three years.

Water Quality Field Officer Nick Kirby has used data from the Bureau of Meteorology, satellite imagery and his computer mapping skills to determine suitable locations for water monitoring stations.

This provided essential background information that helps ensure the success of FBA’s Water Quality Monitoring Program, where landholders collect water samples during flooding events to help inform local water quality targets.

Mr Smith said FBA staff were able to advance their mapping skills through subsidised training provided by the Regional Groups Collective (RGC) Satellite Imagery Project Team in 2007.

“Two workshops were held and around 40 people participated, including staff from FBA, its sub regional groups, and other partner organisations.”

“Our field staff have embraced this technology as a tool to enhance the other work they are already doing with landholders and planning for better resource use across the Fitzroy Basin,” Mr Smith said.

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