



# 2006 Rural Landholder Survey Results



July 2007

Fitzroy Basin Association | Empowered communities for a sustainable CQ |

## Key results

- Over 400 landholders completed survey



- Range of property and rural values
- Landholder priorities for NRM practices
- Ways to support natural resources management



Find out more about the Fitzroy Basin Association

[www.fba.org.au](http://www.fba.org.au)

### Contact Us

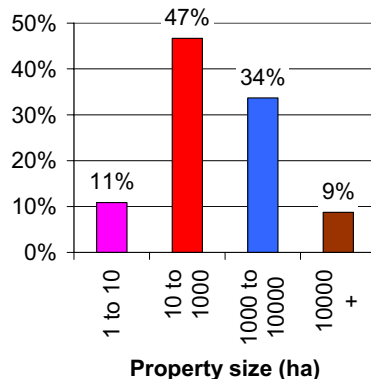
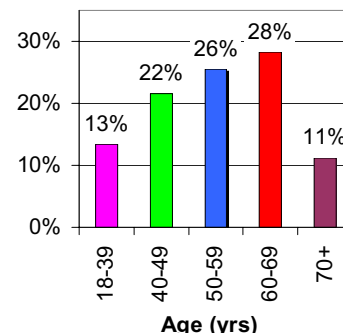
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## Over 400 Landholders completed survey

In October 2006 a comprehensive 16 page survey was distributed to a random sample of landholders in eastern, central and southern parts of the Fitzroy Basin Association Region.

People of all ages, from different types of properties completed the survey.

Data from 412 surveys has now been analyzed by a team of consultants working closely with the Fitzroy Basin Association.

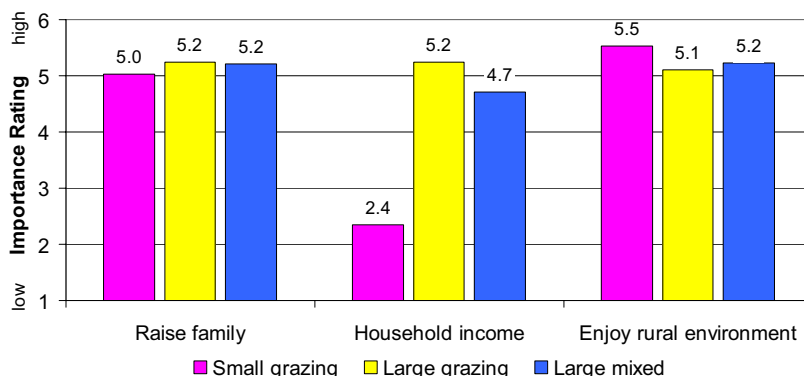


About 13% of people who completed the survey were between 10 and 39 years of age. More respondents were from the 60-69 age group than other groups. About 11% of people who completed the survey were 70 years or older.

About 11% of survey respondents were from properties under 10 hectares, 47% were from properties between 10 and 1,000 hectares, 34% were from properties between 1,000 and 10,000 ha, and 9% of were from properties over 10,000 ha.

## Range of property and rural values

People from small grazing properties through to large mixed enterprise properties gave a consistent and high rating to the importance of their property as a place for raising a family. Landholders on large grazing properties and large mixed enterprise properties rated their property as a more important source of household income than people on small grazing properties did. The habitat value of enjoying a peaceful rural environment was rated as slightly more important to landholders on small grazing properties than it was to people on large grazing properties.



**The Fitzroy Basin Association is a regional community based organisation that exists to facilitate sustainable development in Central Queensland. It is one of 14 regional bodies in Queensland and 54 Australia wide.**

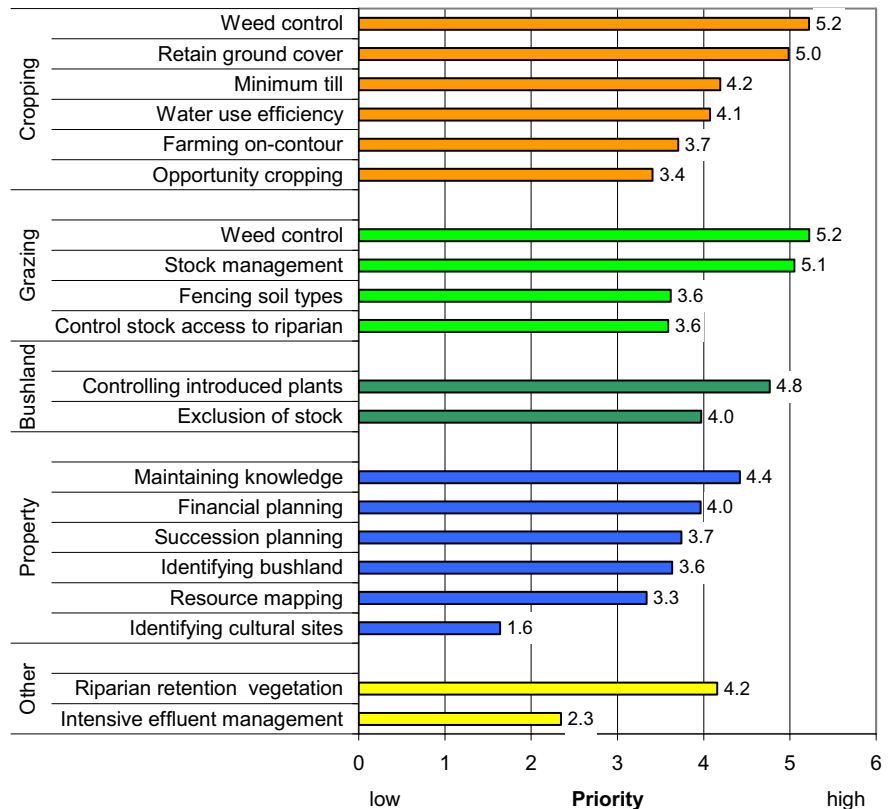
**The Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) region has a population of about 200, 000 and covers more than 156, 000 km<sup>2</sup> of land area in Central Queensland, including the catchments of the Fitzroy River, adjacent coastal waterways, and the Boyne and Calliope rivers.**

*" ... landholders highest priorities in grazing systems were for weed control and stock monitoring and management to maintain pasture condition and ground cover (e.g. rotational grazing) ..."*

*"... neighbours or other farmers were the most useful group of people for learning about new land management practices ..."*

## Landholder priorities for NRM practices

The highest priorities for implementation of key land management practices in the next 5-10 years in cropping systems were weed control and practices which retain ground cover. In grazing systems, landholders' highest priorities were for weed control and stock monitoring and management to maintain pasture condition and ground cover (e.g. rotational grazing).



In remnant bushland, landholders also identified controlling of introduced plants as a high priority. Maintaining an up-to-date knowledge of land management techniques and land processes and financial planning are high priority property planning practices. The retention of vegetation in riparian, wetland and erosion-prone areas was also identified as a high priority.

## Ways to support natural resources management

The survey identified four factors which consistently influenced landholder priorities for the adoption of new practices.

- Time and effort required to acquire knowledge of new practices
- Access to reliable information and advice about new practices
- Climate variability, and
- The need to reorganise property layout to accommodate new practices

While all four factors are relevant to decision-making about new practices, recognising landholders constraints in time and effort and improving access to reliable information and advice are probably more feasible to address than other values and constraints. The survey also showed that financial and social factors were closely related to the implementation of new practices in certain situations.

Landholders reported that neighbours or other farmers were the most useful group of people for learning about new land management practices and the most useful sources of information were books, rural magazines & field days.

### Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey!

A full report of survey results can be obtained from the Fitzroy Basin Association (see contact details overleaf) or the FBA web site [www.fba.org.au](http://www.fba.org.au) - just search for '2006 Rural Landholder Survey Results'.