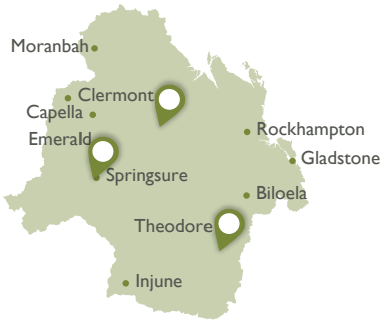
FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Innovative agriculture

Trialling Remote Livestock Management Systems for grazing enterprises in the Fitzroy

Pictured: one of the three Walk Over Weigh (WOW) units installed for this trial. WOW units identify and record the liveweight of cattle each time they pass through. This data combined with satellite pasture data make up the Remote Livestock Management System (RLMS).



"Out of the box, the RLMS has worked quite well. It has been easy to implement and it is useful. The technology has enabled us to monitor our cattle daily for weight gain and loss giving us the ability to act quickly."

Project participant

Oct 2017 – Jul 2020

AIM

The aim of the project was to enhance productivity while reducing soil loss, sediment and particulate nutrient delivery to the Great Barrier Reef through the use of innovative technologies.

THE PROBLEM

The Fitzroy Basin contributes an estimated 1.5 million tonnes of extra sediment to the Great Barrier Reef lagoon as a result of human and industry activities. The Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan identifies that 23% of the total sediment comes from erosion from soils on hillslopes, gullies and streambanks with most coming from grazing lands. Particulate nutrients are attached to sediments and are therefore transported in the same manner as sediments.

METHODOLOGY

The Remote Livestock Management Systems (RLMS) was trialled over three years on three different properties, which all differed in production systems and land types. That data provided by the RLMS gave landholders real-time information on the condition of their pasture and livestock. The information provided allowed landholders to make informed management decisions for the season ahead by enabling them to predict when cattle condition would likely decline following the wet season.

OUTCOMES

- Landholders believe that RLMS improved their profitability as they could identify market-ready livestock sooner and make better genetic selections.
- All three project participants agreed that information from the system has assisted them to predict when cattle should start a nutritional supplement program.
- Three field days which shared the landholders' learning were run on each of the three grazing properties with over 70 people in attendance.
- Two out of the three participants agree that information from the system has assisted them to match stocking rate to carrying capacity.
- All project participants reported benefits with using RLMS.
- Landholders enjoyed using the technology and plan to use it moving forward.

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Queensland Government

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For more information visit fba.org.au
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