

King Island

BEEF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR A VARIABLE CLIMATE

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Snapshot

In 2016, RMCG and Cradle Coast NRM, with funding from the National Landcare Programme, worked with King Island Producers to undertake Property Management Planning. Ten producers participated in an initial site visit and self-assessment to determine and prioritise their plans. To support their planning, soil and pasture tests were taken, and farm maps were prepared. BizCheck Benchmarking was also offered to the group, which combined with Greenhouse Gas calculations highlighted opportunities for fine-tuning efficiency and profitability. A workshop was held to provide participants with the opportunity to learn as a group, openly discussing issues with their peers and the presenters. The program addressed a need from beef producers who were looking to implement changes on their property.



group, business, soil/fertiliser and pasture management were common issues. Participants represented 10 farms ranging in size from 150 to 1,600 hectares.

Group Learning

One of the main goals of the program was to provide an environment where producers felt they could discuss their results and issues, and learn from their peers in addition to the workshop presenters. The workshop demonstrated that when implementing a program such as this one, it is important to consider the group's demographic. In this case, due to the strong community ties on the island the producers in the group were already familiar with each other. This encouraged robust discussion around each other's results and the impact of production practices on individual's properties.



Encouraging discussion: King Island producers participating in the workshop discussion.

Planning for Efficiency

The King Island producers participated in site visits, farm mapping, pasture and soil testing, RMCG's BizCheck and GHG calculations, and a two-day workshop through the program. These resources provided a foundation for group discussion and development of individual farm plans. During the initial site visits producers were asked to provide their top three topics for the workshop. Their current understanding and needs determined the workshop's structure and content. For the

Soil and Pasture Testing

Two soil tests and two pasture tests were taken from each producer's farm. These tests were collected by both RMCG and a Cradle Coast NRM Extension Officer. The test results provided producers with objective measurements of both soil fertility and pasture quality. This data, combined with workshop learnings and discussion with other local producers, identified opportunities for improving the nutritional management and subsequent productivity of both pastures and livestock.



Measuring to manage: Soil and pasture testing provides objective measurements for decision making on soil and animal nutrition.

Business Benchmarking

Financial Analysis

BizCheck business benchmarking was available to all producers participating in the program, addressing the challenges that increased freight expenses have placed on the island's farm businesses. Financial and production data was collected from all producers during initial farm site visits, before being analysed and discussed at the workshops.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Using production data, a GHG emissions calculation was undertaken for each of the farm businesses. The results provided producers with an indication of their production efficiency, highlighting areas for improvement. The results correlated with financial performance, which reinforced the importance of efficiency on the bottom line.

Measuring Success

Evaluation was undertaken using a post-workshop survey to measure the project's success with producers on King Island. The survey included ratings on topics covered in the workshop, along with qualitative questions on producer learnings and its impact on their future decision making.

We also interviewed the King Island Regional Landcare Facilitator six months after the workshop to obtain feedback on the program as well as any observations of project impact.

Key Messages

- Group learning in Property Management Planning programs provides opportunities for topic and benchmarking discussion.
- Undertaking both financial and GHG emissions calculations highlights the relationship between farm efficiency and profitability.
- Utilising farm physical data including soil and pasture tests provides objective measurements to encourage prioritisation and planning.

Get in Touch

Are you interested in Property Management Planning? RMCG is available to facilitate PMP programs across agricultural industries. Please contact us for further information.

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