

2022

GRAZING FORUM



Cape York
Natural Resource Management

17-18 MAY 2022

LAURA RODEO GROUNDS



Welcome

On behalf of the team at Cape York NRM, I would like to welcome you to the 2022 Grazing Forum.

Since the first grazing forum in 2015, the event has quietly grown into one of our most popular stakeholder forums. It's an opportunity for like-minded people to get together to discuss opportunities and challenges we face in the Cape within the grazing industry. I am thrilled that we can continue to provide the space for grazier collaboration and knowledge sharing.



We have a jam-packed program this year with an exceptional lineup of speakers. Day one starts with updates from leading organisations like AgForce and Gulf Savannah NRM. Session two we look at genetics and breeder performance and will hear from experts such as Professor Ben Hayes from Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, who is the co-inventor of genomic prediction.

We'll get out of the classroom for a paddock walk in the afternoon, to gain skills in erosion prevention and remediation with legend Bob Shepherd.

We have taken a new spin on this year's event by adding entertainment to our forum dinner. Hopefully everyone can have a relaxing evening, let their hair down and enjoy a night with great company and music.

Day two kicks off with a session in beef business, discussing business management with Tim Carter from Bush AgriBusiness, followed by financials with Lynette McGuffie. Session five we explore new and emerging markets.

We have tried to mix up the sessions this year, so there will be a round table discussion followed by a Q&A with experts on carbon and environmental markets. Our very own David Preece will then let you in on a handy tool you can start using today.

After lunch, we are running an optional bonus workshop with Tim Carter, where we will dig a little deeper into Beef Management.

As promised, our 2022 Grazing Forum is a fiesta of knowledge. We hope you find value, and a bit of fun, in this event and I look forward to your feedback.

To put together an event like this is no small task, so I would like to thank our Sustainable Industries Officer, Natalie James for her tireless efforts in organising this forum. I would also like to thank our sponsors for their support.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to you all for taking the time out of your busy lives to join us. We hope you carry away new ideas, insights, suggestions and perspectives to manage your grazing properties.

Bob Frazer

*Acting Chief Executive Officer
Cape York NRM*



Master of Ceremonies



Luke Quartermaine

Owner

Watson River Station

Luke Quartermaine is a cattleman and beef producer at Watson River Station, a 2000 acre property south east of Weipa. The Quartermaine family purchased Watson River Station in 1986 and Luke and wife Ally took over the business four years ago when parents Cameron and Doreen retired. Luke will be talking about his experiences breeding high-quality Brahman Cross Cattle using research and development and good herd management practices to ensure the right temperament and resilience of this popular long-living breed.

Luke and Ally also develop their Brahman herd on a block they own at Millaa Millaa on the Atherton Tablelands, as part of the Paddock to Plate program which provides quality control over the entire product and the treatment of the animals.

Speakers



Mike Gurien

Chief Executive Officer

AgForce

Mike Gurien has been CEO of AgForce Queensland Farmers Ltd since 2017. AgForce is an independent, non-government, voluntary organisation designed to “Advance Sustainable Agribusiness” and is the peak organisation representing Queensland’s rural producers. With more than 5,500 members, AgForce exists to ensure the long-term growth and viability of broadacre industries of cattle, grain, cane, sheep and wool in Queensland. Mike grew up on a farm in New Zealand, and drawing on his previous roles as managing director at ANZ, and managing director and chief operating officer at Elders, he is passionate about driving the continued profitability, productivity and sustainability of Queensland’s agricultural sector.



Simon Jackson

Detective

Mareeba Major Organised Crime Squad Rural

Constable Simon Jackson is a plain clothes investigator with the Mareeba Major Organised Crime Squad Rural (MOCSR). The Squad covers an area larger than Victoria, from south of Cardwell, out to Normanton, up to the top of Cape York and everywhere in between.

The squad still use horses when they need to muster cattle, during search and rescues and also while searching for drug crops.



Speakers



Mladen Bosnic

Chairman

FNQ Crime Volunteer Area Committee for Crimestoppers

Mladen Bosnic retired in 2016 from the Australian Federal Police after 34 years of service. Now as chairman of the Far Northern Queensland Volunteer Area Committee - the only committee to be based across multiple towns - he and his team of volunteers from both Mareeba and Atherton, are very active in promoting Crime Stoppers across the Tablelands to Cape York Peninsula, Thursday Island and west to Croydon and Karumba. Crime Stoppers is reliant on volunteers offering their support, passion and dedication to assist the program in achieving its mission of 'A safe empowered and engaged community'. There are presently over 600 volunteers in Queensland who are from Area Committees spread throughout Queensland.



Ben Hayes

Centre Director for Animal Science

Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation

Professor Ben Hayes is a cattle geneticist with extensive research experience in genetic improvement of livestock, focusing on integration of genomic information into breeding programs and leading many large-scale projects which have successfully implemented genomic technologies. He is author of more than 250 journal papers, featured in Nature Genetics, Nature Reviews Genetics, and Science, and in 2018 was named one of the most influential agricultural researchers in the world.

In 2019 he was appointed Centre Director for Animal Science within the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, a University of Queensland research institution. Professor Hayes is a co-inventor of genomic prediction, established the 1000 Bull Genomes Project and is the leader of the Northern Beef Genomics Project which aims to develop a DNA test to predict the value of an animal's genetics for fertility.



Tony Parker

Program Manager Beef Productivity

Meat and Livestock Australia

Program Manager Beef Productivity at Meat & Livestock Australia, Dr Tony Parker's career has led him into animal production research with state government departments of agriculture, leading innovative animal nutrition and feed milling in the private sector and teaching in the university sector. His research has included the role of electrolytes in reducing transport stress in ruminants, the application of novel feed ingredients, ruminant physiology and most recently, meat quality and carcass value from entire bulls finished in the northern Australian production system.





Speakers



Keiren McCosker

Senior Research Fellow

Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation

Kieren has recently been appointed to the position of Senior Research Fellow with QAAFI after working with the Agriculture Department in the NT for approximately 20 years as a Livestock Research Scientist. Kieren's research interests extend across many aspects of the northern Australia beef production system with him currently leading the the MLA funded 'Reducing calf mortality from exposure' study as well as collaborating on several other beef production focused studies, including 'Paddock Power', 'Sweet Spot' and 'CalfAlive'. Embedded within some of these is employing GPS sensors and other remote technology to gain further understanding of animal production and grazing behaviour. He also has been a key collaborator in several Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research funded studies aiming to improve the reproductive performance of cows and performance of fattening cattle in low input systems of Indonesia.



Bob Shepherd

Principal Extension Officer Grazing Land Management

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Bob Shepherd began work in the agricultural extension area in 1976. He is passionate about the management of grazing lands which includes: managing stocking rates, pasture budgeting, use of fire, sown pastures, wet season pasture spelling, location of fences and stock waters to improve land condition; woody weed & feral animal management, reclamation of severely degraded land; preventing and repairing erosion on access tracks and other linear features on grazing properties. He emphasises the importance of getting these basics right before fine-tuning or changing grazing management systems. Bob has provided grazing land management and soil conservation training to many professionals that are new to the northern beef industry.



Emily Corbett

Beef Extension Officer

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Emily Corbett is a Beef Extension Officer from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. She has worked for a number of years as a jillaroo on Northern Queensland cattle stations before starting a Bachelor of Agriculture at the University of New England. Emily is now two years into working as an extension officer, and she is based in Far North Queensland. She works under the GrazingFutures project and the e-Beef project in Cape York and the Northern Gulf regions.



Speakers



Keerah Steele

*Rangelands Project Officer
Gulf Savannah NRM*

Keerah Steele has lived and worked in the Northern Gulf Region for more than 10 years and started with Gulf Savannah NRM in 2020. Keerah has been involved in the E-Beef Smart Farms project that shows how innovative technologies can improve livestock performance and pasture data, leading to better informed management decisions. This improves natural resources condition and boosts the financial viability of regional grazing businesses. Keerah will be giving you an update on the results of this project as well as how to get support in a livestock business resilience plan for your property. These plans are supported by Grazing Futures LBR to support grazing business resilience by assisting recovery from extreme climate events and improving future preparedness.



Lynette McGuffie

*Financial Counsellor
Rural Financial Counselling Service*

Lynette McGuffie works with the Rural Financial Counselling Service North Queensland, which offers free, local financial counselling that helps agribusinesses to plan for the future and pull through adversity. Lynette has over 15 years experience in the banking and finance industry and operating a family farming business. She has worked extensively with rural and provincially based clients in various locations. Lynette holds a Bachelor of Business and Diploma of Financial Counselling (Rural). She has extensive experience in understanding and improving business financial performance and a passion for helping agricultural businesses and families achieve their financial and personal goals.



Jarrad Holmes

*Manager
PEC Consultants (People, Environment, Carbon)*

Jarrad Holmes has over 20 years' experience working in a range of Natural Resource Management sectors across regional Australia including indigenous corporations, conservation NGOs, the Australian Government, the pastoral industry and in environmental education. Jarrad first became involved in the savanna burning carbon industry in 2008 and has been supporting land managers across northern and central Australia to understand and implement carbon projects.





Speakers



Hayley McMillan

*Sustainable Beef and Sheep RD&E
Department of Agriculture & Fisheries*

Hayley McMillan and her team are working on the Method to Market project, which directly involves eight grazing businesses across central and southwest Queensland; as well as environmental scientists, agricultural consultants, agtech developers, social scientists, spatial analysts, method developers, and environmental certification schemes, to understand the world of environmental markets and certification schemes. Join Hayley as she provides some insights-to-date on the opportunities and risks of grazing businesses engaging these evolving markets.



Tim Carter

*Agribusiness Consultant
Bush AgriBusiness*

Tim Carter is an Agribusiness Consultant with Bush AgriBusiness Pty Ltd, which provides business management advice, business analysis, training and safety systems to stations, pastoral companies, industry bodies, NRM groups and government departments across Northern Australia. After growing up on a cattle property north-west of Charters Towers and working on properties in the district, Tim completed a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) & Economics at the University of Queensland. Tim then worked in a large accounting firm in Brisbane for several years, while completing a Graduate Certificate of Agribusiness through Marcus Oldham College. Tim has always had a passion for the beef industry, and through his interest in business performance, he is motivated to understand and assist the people and businesses that make up the industry. Tim has a particular interest in grazing land management in extensive production systems of Northern Australia, and the impact of management decisions on profitability and sustainability of the business.



Dan Wingett

*Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator / NRM Project Officer
Gulf Savannah NRM*





Speakers



Peter Jacklyn

Manager

Northern Australian Fire Information

Peter Jacklyn manages the North Australia and Rangelands Fire Information (NAFI) service, is based in Cairns and works for Charles Darwin University.

He has a background in science, communication and applying research and technology to practical use, particularly the satellite data used for rural and remote fire management. He has overseen the NAFI service www.firenorth.org.au since its inception in 2002 - and will talk about the latest developments such as the NAFI mobile app, and how to get the most out of the service. NAFI sources relevant fire management data, such as hotspots (locations of recently burning fires as detected by satellites) and fire scars (maps of recently burnt Country as detected by satellites) and displays them as maps tailored to north Australian conditions.

Cape York NRM Speakers



Michael Goddard

 michael.goddard@capeyorknrm.com.au

Sustainable Industries and Water Quality Manager

Michael Goddard joined Cape York NRM in 2014. He has extensive experience in the irrigation and water infrastructure industries and in conservation and land management. Prior to joining Cape York NRM he has been a contract conservation and land management trainer and assessor working in remote communities training primarily Indigenous participants. Michael works throughout the Cape with graziers, horticulturists and local residents. His role involves assisting with property mapping, weed control, property risk assessments. He works closely with local farmers to support them with access information to assist with making informed decisions regarding best management practices for their properties.



Cape York NRM Speakers



Natalie James

Sustainable Industries Officer

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Nat James joined Cape York NRM in December 2020 as the Sustainable Industries Officer. She graduated with a Bachelor of Environmental Management from the University of Queensland in 2018. Nat has spent time working in Fiji in fisheries management and, prior to joining the team at Cape York NRM, worked as an irrigation extension officer in Mildura. Nat is passionate about natural resource management, and working with landholders and communities to support improved productivity and sustainability.



Andrew Hartwig

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator

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Andy Hartwig has been the RALF Facilitator for Cape York since 2011. He has worked in remote parts of the Northern Territory and Cape York as a ranger for over 22 years, and was previously involved in the trucking and pastoral industries. He has a good understanding of the complex issues faced by rural land managers. Andrew has qualifications in agriculture, conservation and land management and business management. Andrew loves his work with the people of Cape York and has an integrated approach to achieving sustainable land management outcomes, combining grazing management systems, fire, pest management and soil health to achieve a balance and cooperative landscape scale outcomes.



Harry James

Grazing and Water Quality Project Officer

✉ harry.james@capeyorknrm.com.au

Harry James commenced work with Cape York NRM in May 2019 through QFF's Agricultural Extension Work Placement Program. Harry is based in Cooktown and is working on several projects including Reef Trust Phase IV gully remediation and the Cape York Reef Community Action Plan. Harry graduated from the University of Queensland in 2018 where he was studying Environmental Management (Honours), majoring in natural systems and wildlife.



David Preece

Coastal Ecosystems Coordinator

✉ david.preece@capeyorknrm.com.au

David Preece joined Cape York NRM in 2020 as the Coastal Ecosystems Coordinator. He has 25 years' experience in protected area management and planning in both national parks and Indigenous Protected Areas. David is inspired by wilderness and nature, and is passionate about working with communities to stay connected to the environment through ecosystem protection projects.

2022 GRAZING FORUM



DAY 1

Tuesday 17 May 2022

10:00	ARRIVAL	
10:30	Official Welcome	<i>Luke Quartermaine & Michael Goddard</i>
10:45	Welcome to Country	<i>Laura Rangers</i>
SESSION ONE: ORGANISATION UPDATES		
11:00	Cape York NRM Updates	<i>Natalie James, Harry James, Andrew Hartwig, David Preece</i>
11:15	Gulf Savannah NRM Updates	<i>Dan Wingett & Keerah Steele</i>
11:30	AgForce Updates	<i>Mike Gurien</i>
11:45	FNQ Crime Volunteer Area Committee for Crimestoppers QLD and Mareeba Major Organised Crime Squad Rural	<i>Mladen Bosnic & Simon Jackson</i>
12:00	LUNCH & DEMO FROM TOO EASY FIRESTICK	
SESSION TWO: GENETICS AND BREEDER PERFORMANCE		
13:00	Genomics	<i>Ben Hayes - Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation</i>
13:45	Calf wastage - what's being done about it?	<i>Keiren McCosker - Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation</i>
14:30	MLA's latest research	<i>Tony Parker - Meat & Livestock Australia</i>
15:00	AFTERNOON TEA	
SESSION THREE: Paddock Walk		
15:30	Erosion prevention and remediation	<i>Bob Shepherd - Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</i>
13:45	Managing Cape York pastures	<i>Emily Corbett - Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</i>
18:00	DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT	

2022 GRAZING FORUM



DAY 2

Wednesday 18 May 2022

06:30

ARRIVAL

08:00

Welcome Day Two

Luke Quartermaine

SESSION FOUR: BEEF BUSINESS

08:10

Beef Business Management

Tim Carter - Bush AgriBusiness

09:30

Rural Financials

*Lynette McGuffie - Rural Financial
Counselling Service*

10:00

MORNING TEA

SESSION FIVE: NEW AND EMERGING MARKETS

10:30

Round table and Q&A carbon
and environmental markets

*Hayley McMillan - Department of Agriculture
& Fisheries
Jarrad Holmes - PEC Consultants
Tony Parker - Meat and Livestock Australia
Andrew Hartwig - Cape York NRM
Luke Quartermaine - Watson River Station*

12:00

One tool to take home with
you today

David Preece - Cape York NRM

12:10

Northern Australian Fire
Information Update

Peter Jacklyn

12:30

LUNCH

BONUS WORKSHOP

13:15

Beef Management Workshop

Tim Carter - Bush AgriBusiness

15:00

CLOSE



Thank you to our Sponsors

The 2022 Grazing Forum is funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust, the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and supported by Meat and Livestock Australia and AgForce.



Australian Government

REEF TRUST



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MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA



AGFORCE

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