

2023

# GRAZING FORUM



**Cape York**  
Natural Resource Management

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**16-17 MAY 2023**  
CROCODILE STATION

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## Welcome

On behalf of the team at Cape York NRM, I would like to welcome you to the 2023 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 great program again this year with an exceptional lineup of speakers discussing everything from fire management to trapping feral animals and the latest innovations in cattle breeding. We have also adjusted the forum this year with a later start and earlier finish to allow people to travel during daylight hours.

With a change of venue this year, we thank hosts Roy and Karlene Shephard who have opened their station for us all just two weeks out from the event following the news the Laura Rodeo grounds camp kitchen has been closed. Cape York hospitality is alive and well.

I would also like to thank the Cape York NRM team for getting this great show on the road, the presenters for giving their time, and most importantly, all of you who have taken 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.

**Sally Gray**

*Executive Chair, Cape York NRM*

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## Master of Ceremonies



### **Michael Goddard**

 [michael.goddard@capeyorknrm.com.au](mailto:michael.goddard@capeyorknrm.com.au)

*Cape York NRM 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 was 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 and property risk assessments. He works closely with local farmers to support them in making informed decisions regarding best management practices for their properties.

## 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 Queensland’s broadacre industries. 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.



## 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 conditions 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.



### **Dr Thomas Couston**

*Biosecurity FNQ District Veterinarian  
Qld Department of Agriculture and Fisheries*

Thomas Couston is from James Cook University in Townsville with a degree in Veterinary Science. He worked for a number of years as a mixed practice dairy vet in Victoria before traveling Australia and working as a locum vet. Recently he started with QDAF as the District Veterinarian for FNQ. He is part of the operations team working with private vets and producers conducting disease surveillance in FNQ.

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## Speakers



### **Graham Schoorl**

*GPS Tracking*

*Boar Buster Representative*

GPS Trapping is the business name of Graham Schoorl and his wife Pattie Jeffers. They first became interested in feral pig control when staying on the Atherton Tablelands and seeing 16 feral pigs grazing on a cow pasture. After trying several variations of homemade traps with trail cameras to capture the results, Graham found the BoarBuster on the internet. He traveled to the United States to secure two. In the past three years, GPS Trapping has caught 356 feral pigs in FNQ, where they cluster in small sounders. Of these, 265 have been with the BoarBuster. They have also done a project tracking feral pigs with GPS ear tags and have amassed a wealth of knowledge about feral pig control.



### **Roy and Karlene Shephard**

*Managers*

*Crocodile Station*

Roy and Karlene have been managing Crocodile-Welcome Station for over 16 years. During this time, Roy and Karlene have been developing the business to be efficient, sustainable and professionally run, including ongoing implementation of best practice cattle and pasture management.



### **Darryn Higgins**

*Biosecurity and Local Laws Manager*

*Cook Shire Council*

Darryn Higgins is well known for his work around the Cape supporting landholders to carry out weed control and feral animal control programs.

He started working for Cook Shire 15 years ago carrying out feral animal management. In 2014 he commenced Biosecurity and Local Laws. Darryn has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Animal and Plant Biosecurity with Honours).





## Speakers



### **Chris Wegger**

*Bushfire Safety Officer, Bushfire Mitigation |  
Rural Fire Service*

Chris Wegger is passionate about protecting the environment and the passing down of traditional ecological knowledge.

His role in QFES involves working within all sectors of communities to build greater community resilience through education and engagement initiatives.

Chris has previously worked in TAFE teaching Natural and Cultural Resource Management, QPWS as both Terrestrial and Marine Park Ranger and in the Wet Tropics Management Authority.



### **Dr Heather Channon**

*Coordinator  
National Feral Pig Action Plan*

Dr Heather Channon is Australia's first National Feral Pig Management Coordinator. Prior to her appointment as National Feral Pig Management Coordinator, Dr. Channon was General Manager of Research & Innovation at Australian Pork Limited. Dr. Channon has a PhD and Masters in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Melbourne and has a strong background in leading research and development programs to benefit the Australian pork and lamb industries.



### **Patrick Webster**

*Artemis Nature Fund*

Pat is currently working on Artemis Station with the Shephard family in conjunction with Steve Murphy, Gay Crowley and Stephen Garnett to develop novel methods of combatting woody thickening. These solutions are broad and constantly evolving. It is anticipated this work will produce positive outcomes for both the natural values of the property aligned with cattle grazing.

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## Speakers



### **Simon Hunt**

*Soil Conservation Officer  
Qld Department of Agriculture and Fisheries*

Simon was the first soil conservation officer appointed by the Qld Public Service since the Resource Management Division of the old DPI was combined with the Lands Dept to make the first iteration of the Dept of Natural Resources in 1996. Simon's passion is to improve northern Australian landscapes with a particular focus on grazing land management principles and reclaiming degraded land. He believes soil is the foundation of our grazing industry's productivity and environmental sustainability. Simon grew up on the Atherton Tablelands and has experience working on cattle stations, natural resource management bodies and now with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.



### **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. He is the 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 and is the leader of the Northern Beef Genomics Project.



### **Bernadette Nicotra**

*Management Officer  
Qld Department of Resources*

Bernadette Nicotra is a Natural Resource Management Officer with the Department of Resources working out of the Townsville office. She will be sharing her knowledge about vegetation management laws in relation to woody thickening.





## Speakers



### **Peter Jacklyn**

*Manager*

*Northern Australian Fire Information*

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

He has a background in science, communication and in 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](http://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.



### **Deanna Vandenburg**

*Landscape Monitoring Team Member*

*Qld Department of Environment and Sciences*

The Landscape Monitoring Team has worked extensively on mapping and monitoring Queensland's landscapes. They assess ground cover, fire, riparian vegetation and land condition to inform other scientists, industry and the public, and support programs and policy, including Great Barrier Reef protection. The team is also passionate about engaging with others, learning from different people across different environments.



### **Matt Brien**

*Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service*

*Department*

Matt Brien is the Regional Director for Qld Parks and Wildlife Services and Partnerships, Northern Parks and Forests, and will be joined by Steve Coulson, Assistant Principal Ranger NRM, Technical Support, and Cameron Jackson, Senior Ranger, Cattle and Technical Support.





# 2023 GRAZING FORUM

DAY 1

Tuesday 16 May 2023

12.00	<b>ARRIVAL AND LUNCH</b>	
12.50	Official Welcome	<i>Michael Goddard</i>
12.55	Welcome to Country	<i>Laura Rangers</i>
<b>SESSION ONE: ORGANISATION UPDATES</b>		
1.00	Cape York NRM Updates	<i>Sustainable Agriculture, Biodiversity and Fire Management</i>
1.20	NAFI	<i>Peter Jacklyn</i>
1.30	AgForce	<i>Mike Gurien</i>
1.40	Rural Financial Counsellors	<i>Lynette McGuffie</i>
1.50	Rural Fire Service	<i>Chris Wegger</i>
2.00	QPWS	<i>Matt Brien</i>
<b>SESSION TWO: FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT</b>		
2.30	Baiting and support for landholders	<i>Darryn Higgins - Cook Shire Council</i>
2:45	BoarBuster Demonstration	<i>Graham School - GPS Trapping</i>
3.00	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>	
3.45	Biosecurity, Foot and Mouth Disease and African Swine Fever	<i>Dr Thomas Couston Biosecurity Queensland</i>
4.15	National Feral Pig Action Plan	<i>Dr Heather Channon - National Feral Pig Management Coordinator</i>
6.00	<b>DINNER &amp; ENTERTAINMENT</b>	



**DAY 2**

**Wednesday 17 May 2023**

6:30

**BREAKFAST**

8:00

Welcome Day Two

*Michael Goddard*

**SESSION THREE: CRUSHSIDE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, EROSION CONTROL**

8:30

Demonstration of crush set up

*Roy and Karlene Shephard - Crocodile Station*

9:00

Crushside genomics technology

*Ben Hayes - QAAFI*

9:30

Adoption and innovation of technology

*Keerah Steele - TNQ Drought Hub*

10:00

Low-cost erosion control at from Crocodile Station

*Simon Hunt - Department of Agriculture and Fisheries*

11:00

**MORNING TEA**

**SESSION FOUR: WOODY THICKENING AND VEG MANAGEMENT**

11:30

Controlling woody thickening in Cape York: lessons from Artemis Station

*Patrick Webster - Artemis Nature Fund*

11:15

Setting the scene—thickening on the Cape

*Michael Goddard - Cape York NRM*

12:00

Remote sensing, thickening and fire

*Deanna Vandenberg and Dan Tindall - Qld Dept Environment and Sciences, Remote Sensing Sciences*

12:30

Vegetation management laws — when, what and how do I clear?

*Bernadette Nicotra  
Qld Dept of Resources*

1:00

**LUNCH and CLOSE**



# Thank you to our Sponsors

The 2023 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

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