



^Heather Jonsson

Landcare Coordinator
 Dalrymple Landcare Committee Inc.
 T 07 4761 5170 M 0473 038 127
 heather.jonsson@daf.qld.gov.au
 www.dalrymplelandcare.org.au
 1-5 Prior St, Charters Towers, QLD 4820

^Bob Shepherd

Principal Extension Officer
 Grazing Land Management
 Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
 Charters Towers

Peer to peer forage budgeting in the Upper Burdekin Rangelands

Introduction

Good pasture management involves matching stocking rates with forage supply. Forage budgeting is an effective tool to manage pasture cover, yield and species composition throughout our variable seasons. However, adoption of forage budgeting by industry has been poor. A peer to peer forage budgeting service was developed to address this need.

Method

Four peer graziers were first selected and trained in forage budgeting to deliver the service on property to recipient graziers. DAF beef extension staff provided training, materials and forage budget reviews. The target number of recipient graziers was thirty for 2019 and twenty for 2020. Figure 1 illustrates the steps involved in the peer to peer forage budgeting service. Fundamental to this service is the 'peer-to-peer' process being 'grazier-to-grazier' learning.

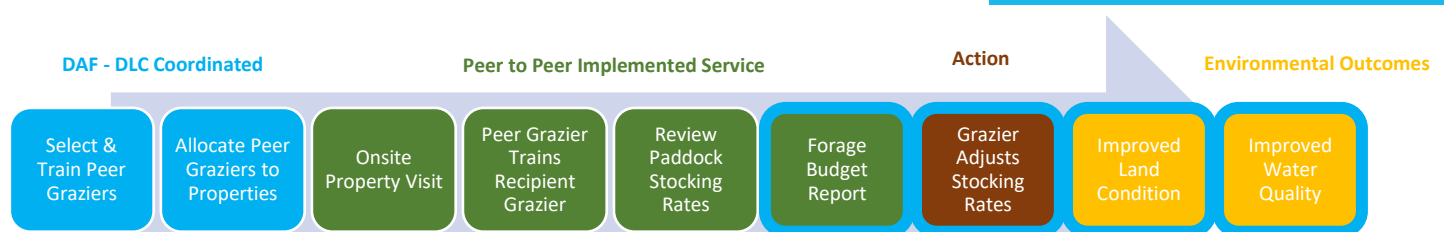


Figure 1. Steps involved in the peer to peer service, actions and outcomes.

Results

To date, twenty-four graziers in 2019 have gone through the peer to peer process; representing 80% of the 2019 target. This forage budgeting service commenced in May 2018 and ends on 30 December 2020. The service has been replicated in the Fitzroy by CHRRUP, with plans to extend into the Burnett Mary.

Take home message

Peer learning is effective as the peer's and learners share similar experiences and that common experience has significant benefits. Graziers understand graziers and the issues they face on a day to day basis. The peer to peer service implemented in the Upper Burdekin Rangelands is proving to be instrumental for boosting industry adoption of forage budgeting.



Upper Burdekin Rangelands