

# Crowd expected at 2019 Sustainable Grazing Forum

**MACKAY // 26-03-19**

**EVENT DATE:** Thursday 28th March

**TIME:** 9:30am to 5:15pm

**VENUE:** Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC)

**MEDIA:** Media are welcome to attend to this event. Best time for interviews is during forum breaks, morning tea 10.45am - 11.15am or lunch 1.10pm - 2.10pm.

*Available for interview – key speakers, and 135 graziers from our own and surrounding regions. If you are not based locally and would like to arrange an interview, phone 07 4968 4213.*

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This Thursday March 28, 135 graziers and mixed operators (cane and cattle) will gather in Mackay for the Reef Catchments Sustainable Grazing Forum 2019.

The full-day event, funded by the Australian and Queensland governments, will attract graziers from as far north as Collinsville and Bowen, south to Clairview and west to Nebo and Eungella.

“The forum is a must for graziers interested in improving sustainable grazing systems in our diverse cattle-to-coast region,” said Reef Catchments coordinator Juliane Kasiske.

“It’s become incredibly popular over the years, with a focus on cattle production for the future.”

“The event offers an opportunity for graziers to meet and hear from high calibre speakers, to be inspired by real life stories and latest industry knowledge. Each year farmers leave with a new outlook on their land.”

This year the forum welcomes farmer, ecologist and author Dr Charles Massy to the Mackay region.

A drawcard at Beef Australia last year, this is a chance for those who missed him to learn more.

Dr Massey will discuss how regenerative agriculture can benefit both graziers and cane farmers.

“Charles will set the scene with his personal and inspirational story about regenerating a 2000-hectare property, restoring it from ‘dead soils’ to a state of productive, natural health,” Ms Kasiske said.

Dr Massy said farm practices could potentially help both crop and human health.

“New cropping and grazing techniques are now proven to eliminate nutrient runoff. These are the best techniques to address catchment runoff, these solutions lie right under our nose if we are prepared to explore and implement them, and that is incredibly exciting,” Dr Massy said.



“When we regenerate our soils, and deliver healthy food and water, we also have some of the best solutions to the rising incidence of human ill health. Regenerative agriculture can very profitably help eliminate the need for industrial chemicals which gets into our food.”

**The line-up for 2019 includes:**

Grazier & author DR CHARLES MASSY - Charles will set the scene of the day with his personal and inspirational story about how he learned to re-connect and better understand his country while embracing practice change.

DAVID MCLEAN from RCS - will highlight regenerative agriculture principles for real-life scenarios.

FELICITY HAMLIN-HILL from Beef Enterprise Advisory Services - will focus on cattle nutrition and performance.

REBECCA CLAPPERTON, together with landholders DAVID & LYNETTE KEENE - will share the achievements of the Fitzroy and Mackay-Whitsunday Grassroots project that aims to reduce sediment runoff into the Great Barrier Reef.

*The Mackay Sustainable Grazing Forum is proudly run by Reef Catchments, thanks to co-funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the Queensland Government Reef Water Quality program.*

**ENDS**

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