

Crowd expected at 2021 Sustainable Grazing Forum

MACKAY // MONDAY 19th April 2021

EVENT DATE: Thursday 22 April

TIME: 9:30am to 3:15pm

VENUE: The Windmill Events Centre, 5 Highway Plaza, Mackay

MEDIA: Media are welcome to attend to this event. Please find program attached for your information of presentation and break times.

Available for interview – key speakers, and graziers from our own and surrounding regions.

On Thursday April 22, graziers and mixed operators (cane and cattle) will gather in Mackay for the always-popular Reef Catchments Sustainable Grazing Forum.

The full-day event, funded by the Australian and Queensland governments, attracts 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.”

Soil Conservation experts Geoff Titmarsh and John Day will be explaining why soil health is sexy and soil erosion isn't. Methods of control and soil conservation prevention and rehabilitation techniques are of interest in a region where we deal with severe weather events and ancient soils.

Grazing expert Jim Fletcher will provide a local and practical approach to identify, adapt and apply grazing land management strategies in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region. Jim will highlight the fundamental principles that underpin a successful grazing enterprise focusing on optimizing soil and pasture conditions.

A highlight on the day will be hearing from local producers themselves and their take on increasing the productivity of their enterprise and their recent exploration of the innovative practice of “virtual fencing” to assist with the rotational grazing practices and the protection of erosion prone areas like gullies and riparian zones.

The forum will be followed by an interactive field day on Friday 23 April in the Bloomsbury area, featuring several demonstrations by this year’s presenters. Including a land condition assessment including a yield cut to determine carrying capacity of paddocks (forage budgeting). The soil



conservation team will be demonstrating the significant different ground cover makes with regards to water infiltration and showcase erosion control options like armour rocks and revegetating areas of concern, Furthermore, a demonstration of how to install a whoa boy to divert channelling water on access roads will be explored.

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.

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