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The BIGG Bulletin

September 2021

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BIGG Regional Water Survey



Are you a producer who relies on water for your agricultural enterprises (well who doesn't!)? If so we are after your feedback.

BIGG has initiated a short survey to verify the current water needs and issues of regional (Barossa, Eden Valley and Northern Mt Lofty Ranges) producers.

The survey will only take 5 minutes to fill out, so please click the link!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3993R6P>

Please Take the 5 Minute Water Survey- Click Here!

Becoming 'Water Secure'



catchment. A lined catchment is a poly lined catchment area that runs into a dam, with rainwater being captured in any rainfall (or dew) event. The workshop featured representatives from the Coorong who have been at the forefront of this innovation.

Coorong Community Engagement Officer, Tracey Strugnell initially gave an overview of the water security issues faced by farmers in the Coorong (poor quality/saline groundwater, high mains water costs) and the solutions they are implementing to manage them. These include leak detection units, groundwater desalination, shandyng water and the construction of lined catchments.

Coorong grazier, Mark Scobie was one of the first in the Coorong region to construct a lined catchment and he outlined the 'how-to' of constructing a lined catchment. Mark emphasised the importance of selecting a catchment site that is free of rocks and not too steep (or else the tyres that hold down the poly liner slide off the catchment!). Marks lined catchment runs into an 11 megalitre lined dam, which provides enough water to service his property. Marks presentation was a great endorsement for lined catchments and becoming 'water secure' as he has since turned the SA water meter on his property off.

Finally local PIRSA soils expert Brian Hughes, shared his knowledge on numerous water harvesting options (including lined catchments) that have been employed around the state.

The workshop was overwhelmingly well received by those who attended. The speaker presentations from the workshop can be found at the following links:

- [The Coorong Water Security Story](#) - Tracey Strugnell
- [Lined Catchment Construction](#) - Mark Scobie
- [Lined Catchment Learnings](#) - Tracey Strugnell & Mark Scobie
- [Innovative Water Harvest and Storage Solutions](#) - Brian Hughes

This workshop was supported through funding from the Australian Governments Smart Farms Small Grants including the Coorong and Tatiara District Councils and the Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan.

BIGG Workshop- Remote Monitoring



Wednesday 22nd September
Wanera wine bar - Angaston
12:30pm (lunch provided) Session 1:30pm – 4:00pm

Hear about a range of remote monitoring options which can improve on-farm efficiency, production and turnover.

The workshop will include the following sessions:

- Mike Hayes – In2IT; Mike will cover remote water monitoring systems, other remote monitoring – he is an expert on communication and connections in the country so happy to cover any queries you have and can discuss most brands of telemetry equipment and what will suit your needs.
- Phil Tickle – Cibo Labs; Remote sensing and pasture biomass measurement, correlated with pasture cuts and how this technology can be used on your farm

Contact & RSVP by Friday 17th September: [Deb Scammell](#) / 0407790622

The Red Meat and Wool Growth Program is an initiative of Primary Industries and Regions SA and supported by Meat & Livestock Australia, SA Sheep and Cattle Industry Funds, and Sheep Connect SA

Drought Management Plans Available!



Primary Producers looking to tackle climate change and build more resilience into their farm business can now apply to have a Drought Management Plan created, facilitated by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.

The individualised program will consider different areas of property management, with a focus on drought mitigation to provide best practice and environmental management advice. The plan will consider land systems and condition, grazing management, fencing requirements, water and stock handling infrastructure, weed and pest control, and biodiversity.

Once a Drought Management Plan is complete, further financial support is offered to implement some of the priority on-ground works listed within the plan.

There are limited positions available for this program and it is essential that the applicant understands the time commitments to enable successful delivery, as the plans require completion by late January 2022.

Further Info and EOI form:

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Containment Areas Workshop

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Register for a half-day containment areas workshop and access up to **\$1,000** to improve a containment area on your farm!

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board is hosting two half-day sessions to support producers in making sheep feeding decisions during summer. Presenter Deb Scammell from Talking Livestock will help you work out if you have the resources (funds, labour, equipment, mental resilience) available to feed sheep for a required amount of time.

Topics include;

- set up and design of containment areas,
- feeding types and quantities,
- which animals to feed,
- the importance of monitoring, and
- common sheep health problems in containment.

The sessions will start with a presentation by Deb Scammell, followed by a trip to two local properties, where you'll hear how containment

areas have benefited their businesses. Zoetis will host a social wrap-up session. Lunch will be provided.

Join us at **Eudunda OR Jamestown**
(Location details provided on registration)

Eudunda

Wednesday, 15 Sep 2021, 12pm – 5pm

Jamestown

Thursday, 23 Sep 2021, 9am – 1pm

This project is supported by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

Register now

Libby Duncan

Landscape Project Officer

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A note from our Sponsors Bunyara Merino and Poll Merino

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From the Inbox

- Celebrate Women in Wool- AWI/Sheep Connect Event- Thursday 14th Oct; [More Information](#)
- SA Regional Drought Hub Workshop- Thursday Sept 16th, Roseworthy Campus- [See Full Details](#)
- Carbon Neutral 2030 Grazier Workshop- [See More Information](#)
- [On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme](#) - Round 3 (2021-22)

Your BIGG Contacts

Executive Officer:

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Technical Facilitators:

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