



# ANNUAL REPORT

2023



# Vision

Resilient landscapes and land managers.

# Mission

To improve farm grazing systems.

## 2023 Snapshot

70 attendees at BIGG Conference *From the Ground Up*

Seven face-to-face pasture and livestock events

New projects:

- *Building local capacity to support drought preparedness across the generations and community*
- *On-Farm water technology*
- *Continuing mixed species pastures*
- *Beef snapshot and producer events*
- *National containment ewe and pasture monitoring for drought preparedness project*

Fact sheets and video resources on topics including:

- *Groundwater desalination*
- *Tank level monitor case study*
- *Methods of feeding ewes in containment*
- *Climate webinar*
- *Water runoff into dams*
- *Farm revegetation*
- *Preventing calcium deficiency in ewes technical note*

New faces: Executive Officer and Communications Officer

Monthly BIGG Bulletin e-news reaching over 400 producers

30 dedicated sponsors supporting BIGG to achieve on the ground outcomes

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# ABOUT US

## Board

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Peter Mitchell (Angaston)	Chair
Stephan Anesbury (Mt Pleasant)	Vice Chair
Sarah Weaver (Tanunda)	Treasurer
Vic Patrick (Flaxmans Valley)	Board Member
Ian Koch (Moculta)	Board Member
Lisa Nietschke (Freeling)	Board Member
Craig John (Mt Pleasant)	Board Member
Taryn Mangelsdorf (Gawler)	Board Member

## Staff

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Georgie Keynes	Executive Officer/ Administration
Diane Stewart	Executive Officer
Alice Tilley	Communications Officer
Brett Nietschke	Technical Facilitator
Deb Scammell	Technical Facilitator
Jane Evans	Technical Facilitator: Water and Wellbeing

## Communications

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# SPONSORS

## Gold

**Agricultural Bureau**  
of South Australia Inc.  
**PATHWAY TO IMPROVEMENT**



## Commercial

### Commercial Sponsors:





# SPONSORS

## Project Sponsors



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment



Future  
Drought  
Fund



SA  
DROUGHT  
HUB

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund



## Thank you

Angaston Ag Bureau for supporting and working together with the annual wood cut fundraiser

All the **producers, businesses and industry personnel** for generously supporting BIGG with your time, knowledge and expertise. BIGG has been grown by producers for producers and will continue to work from the 'ground up' in 2024 and beyond!

# From the Ground Up 2023 BIGG Conference

Over 70 producers attended the highly successful 2023 BIGG Conference *From the Ground Up*. Targeted toward producers, the afternoon session provided up-to-date information on a diverse range of practical topics including:

- carbon accounting
- water security
- red meat supply chain
- banking - to name a few!

Other highlights included:

- Updates on BIGG's mixed species pasture and ewe containment projects.
- Sponsor displays showcasing products and innovations relevant for today's farmers.



# 2023 Project Highlights

BIGG has maintained a busy schedule of farm visits and pasture walks in 2023, increasing the networking and social opportunities for our producers.

## On-farm Water Strategies Bus Trip

In March, 21 attendees enjoyed a bus trip in the Lower Mid-North region to showcase various on-farm water strategies successfully implemented by farmers, including:

- Rainwater harvesting using a poly-lined catchment.
- Improving the palatability of bore water using a Hydrosmart water conditioning unit.
- Increased pasture production and groundcover through the use of rotational grazing and installation of various water infrastructure.



## Water Innovations Farm Tour

Three properties in the Flaxman and Eden Valley districts were visited by 28 attendees in June to view and discuss the use of:

- A desalination plant.
- Electronic device to monitor tank water levels.
- Hydrosmart technology to manage water quality.
- Installation of bore and reticulated water infrastructure to improve farm water security.

*For more information including case studies and a water innovation matrix please visit [www.bigggroup.org.au](http://www.bigggroup.org.au)*

## Winter Beef Snapshot and Pregnancy Scanning Sticky Beak

The Winter Beef Snapshot evening in July provided more than 70 attendees with 'hear today - use tomorrow' decisional support tools and economics on seasonal health and production issues.

Enthusiasm from this evening led to an impromptu 'sticky beak' opportunity at Mt Crawford shortly after. 11 producers took the opportunity to observe ultrasound and manual pregnancy testing, and the use of a RFID wand to electronically capture an animal's identity.





# 2023 Project Highlights



## Trigger Point workshop and Pasture Walk

The September workshop provided strategies to monitor and assess current season risks to improve decision making. 15 attended the workshop followed by lunch and pasture walks at three sites to view multi species pastures and the Croc Trough Pumping System.

## Pasture Walks

Coopers agronomists and Barenbrug seed representatives conducted a guided walk of the Coopers Farm pasture plots at Mount Pleasant in October. Forty attendees were provided with the opportunity to view and discuss perennial, annual and clover pasture blends to increase pasture production and quality.

Also in October, BIGG coordinated a pasture walk for the Barossa Mid-North Dairy Discussion group and SA Drought Hub representatives. The ten attendees visited The University of Adelaide serradella trial sites at Mt Crawford and Springton and Coopers Mount Pleasant site.



# LOOKING AHEAD

## COMING UP

- MLA BredWell FedWell workshop 17 November 23
- BIGG conference (location TBA) 8 February 24

## NEW PROJECTS & OPPORTUNITIES

- Beef events- looking for a new beef related project
- Mixed Species pastures- long term trials being developed
- Containment ewe statewide project
- BIGG intern opportunity
- Water innovation project continuing with case studies being developed
- Pilates for farmers sessions being developed
- Upgrading BIGG's four weather stations so they operate on the 4G network (thanks to funding from the Northern & Yorke Landscape Board)
- Ewe health in containment

