

Bird's eye view makes property planning easy

Central Queensland producers are ready to revolutionise their property management thanks to hands-on property computer mapping workshops held in Bauhinia, Moura and Biloela last week.

Attendees at the AgForce Projects workshops said they were eager to get their hands on satellite imagery of their property and start using the technology to improve property monitoring, infrastructure planning and to negotiate Reef Rescue grants.

The Moura workshop was held at "Bears Lagoon", the 7000 hectare property of AgForce CQ regional president Michael Mactaggart and his wife Kylie.

Mrs Mactaggart attended the workshop and said property computer mapping had been an invaluable tool on the family's grazing property west of Moura.

"We have been using property computer mapping for many years and find it an essential tool to help with property management," Mrs Mactaggart said.

"Having a property map and using computer mapping software has helped us improve efficiencies and planning. We use it to make decisions when planning infrastructure such as fencing, water lines; and the ability to be able to see where everything is on our property is just excellent.

Mrs Mactaggart said the technology is also useful for meeting legislation requirements.

"When it comes to having a Property Map of Assessable Vegetation the maps help you work out what you can and can't do on your property and where you can and can't do it. It just gives us so much more security when undertaking property planning."

AgForce Projects officer Natalie Schick showed landholders how to use the software to map out new and existing property infrastructure and landscape information to help manage land condition monitoring and explained how these maps can help negotiate Reef Rescue grants, bank business cases, QRAA loans or in the event of wildfire management.

"Property computer mapping provides a bird's eye view of your property and which helps with planning infrastructure, grazing strategies, property recovery, monitoring, improving productivity and succession planning," Ms Schick said.

Ms Schick also said the technology is a vital tool for landholders affected by the booming CSG industry.

"With the CSG industry expanding in the region, having a property computer map that identifies infrastructure, business activities, natural resources and future developments can help you demonstrate the impacts of CSG activities on your operations and give you greater power to negotiate an effective conduct and compensation agreement."

All attendees received their property's latest digital data including, Spot5 and 11 years of Landsat satellite images ranging from 1988 to 2010.

These workshops were delivered by AgForce Projects in partnership with Fitzroy Basin Association Inc and Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association through the support of the Australian Government Caring for our Country Reef Rescue initiative or the Australian Government's FarmReady program.

For more information or to request a workshop in your area visit www.agforceprojects.org.au or call 07 3238 6048. **For comment call Natalie Schick on (07) 4927 6100 0428 154 803. Media contact: AgForce Projects communication officer Madeline Cooper (07) 3238 6060 or 0488 002 091.**

Photo caption: AgForce Projects officer Natalie Schick demonstrates how landholders can map their property with a computer to help improve property management, planning and productivity at workshops in Bauhinia, Moura and Biloela last week.